

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1976
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH AUGUST, 2025

LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMME

1976: SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the revised Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) has effectively reduced the spread of major livestock diseases like Lumpy Skin disease (LSD), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of disease outbreaks reported during last three years in Sikkim despite Implementation of the programme;
- (c) the steps taken to ensure quality and availability of veterinary vaccines under this programme;
- (d) whether there is a shortage of veterinary officers, veterinary hospitals, dispensaries and mobile veterinary units in State of Sikkim especially in rural areas; and
- (e) the current veterinarian-to-livestock ratio in the country and whether it meets the recommended standards?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING

(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)

- (a) The implementation of vaccination programme under Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) has effectively reduced the spread of livestock diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Brucellosis and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). The protective titres indicated by sero-monitoring are showing an increasing trend. The sero-surveillance values are also showing a decreasing trend indicating the effectiveness of the vaccination programme. The number of outbreaks of FMD have reduced from 132 in 2019 to 93 in 2024. During 2025, till June only 6 outbreaks of FMD has been reported. Similarly, the outbreaks of brucellosis decreased from 20 in 2019 to 5 in 2024. The incidences of LSD are currently reported active only in Maharashtra. Overall the occurrence of the disease is sporadic nature.
- (b) The details of disease outbreaks reported during the last three years in Sikkim are placed as Annexure-1.

(c) The steps taken to ensure quality and availability of veterinary vaccines under LHDCP are outlined as under;

- i. Under LHDCP scheme, 100% central assistance is provided to States/UTs for vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Brucellosis, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF).
- ii. Procurement of Quality vaccines is done centrally and strengthening of cold chain infrastructure is done using the funding from LHDCP scheme.
- iii. Supply and usage of vaccines is monitored regularly to ensure that there is no shortage of vaccine.
- iv. Under Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease (ASCAD) support is provided to State/UT for strengthening of Disease Diagnostic Laboratories and Biological Production Units (BPUs) for diagnosis and supplementing production of diagnostic kits/vaccines respectively.
- v. Financial support is also provided to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- National Institute of Foot and Mouth Disease (NIFMD)-Bhubaneswar, ICAR- Indian Veterinary Research Institutes (IVRI)-Bareilly, ICAR-IVRI-Bengaluru, ICAR- National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI)-Bengaluru and Chaudhary Charan Singh National Institute of Animal Health-Baghat for vaccine related activities including quality testing of vaccines as per set protocols /Indian Pharmacopoeia 2018.

(d) & (e) Animal Husbandry is a State subject, and the establishment of veterinary facilities and recruitment of manpower falls under the purview of the respective State. As per the information received from the State of Sikkim, 50 Veterinary Officers are serving against sanctioned strength of 84 posts. Recently, State has notified 55 posts of Veterinary Officer for filling up against the vacant post. Six MVUs are operational in Sikkim under LHDCP to cater Veterinary care at farmers' doorstep. Further, as per the report of National Commission on Agriculture there should be at least one veterinarian for every 5000 cattle units. The number of Veterinarians as per the Indian Veterinary Practitioners' Register (31.02.2024) is 87914. The livestock population in country is around 53.7 crore as per last census (20th Livestock Census). Therefore, the ratio of livestock-to-veterinarian comes to around 6108:1.

Annexure-1

The details of disease outbreaks reported during the last three years in Sikkim				
Sl. No.	Disease	Number of Outbreak		
		2022	2023	2024
1	FMD	0	0	3
2	HS	1	0	0
3	LSD	0	20	10