

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2766**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

**POLICIES ON USE OF ANIMALS IN MILITARY**

2766 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) actions which have been implemented on the representation submitted to develop thorough policies on the use of animals in military;
- (b) the measures that have been taken to train animals for military and security operations;
- (c) currently, the number of animals which are in military, and which species are they, the steps that have been taken to ensure they receive safe food and proper healthcare; and
- (d) whether any research is being conducted in collaboration with other stakeholders regarding animals used in military?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

(a) to (d) The health and welfare of animals is supervised by Military veterinarians and trained support staff. Detailed policies regarding the management of these animals while in service and post retirement are promulgated and ensured. Animals such as dogs and mules are trained by specialized army trainers in military and security operations. Currently approx 12,600 animals comprising horses, mules, camels, dogs etc. are held with the military.

All animals are authorized to have rations that are scientifically designed to cater to their respective needs. All animals mandatorily undergo special/periodic medical examination and routine screening against various ailments. Research projects are routinely undertaken by the Army in collaboration with various Government organizations/institutes and departments of eminence to safeguard and enhance the health of these animals.

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