

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1980
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER 2025
AVAILABILITY OF INDIGENOUS CATTLES

1980. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the availability of indigenous cattle at farm level is minimal, which is hindering the adoption of natural farming practices by farmers;
- (b) if so, steps taken by Government to conserve, promote and increase the population of indigenous cattle breeds;
- (c) whether there is any dedicated scheme for farmers to rear indigenous cattle for agricultural purposes;
- (d) if so, the details of such schemes and number of beneficiaries during the last three years; and
- (e) whether Government has any plans to launch any new initiatives to strengthen the role of indigenous bovine breeds in sustainable and natural farming systems?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) As per 20th Livestock Census, 2019, country has 193.46 million cattle population and out of this 142.11 million are indigenous and nondescript cattle, which is 73.45% of the total cattle population in the country.

In order to supplement the efforts made by the States and Union Territories, to conserve, promote and increase the population of indigenous bovine breeds, Government of India is implementing Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) for development and conservation of indigenous breeds, genetic upgradation of bovine population and enhancement of milk production and productivity of bovines. All indigenous bovine breeds as recognised by National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources are covered under the scheme. Following steps are being taken under the scheme:

- (i) Implementation of Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme (NAIP) using semen of high merit bulls including bulls of indigenous breeds. Under the component Artificial Insemination (AI) services is delivered free of cost at farmers' doorstep in the districts with less than 50% AI coverage. During the last 3 years 5.12 crore animals covered, 8.99 crore AI performed and 2.85 crore farmers benefitted. The details of beneficiaries benefitted during the last three years state wise is given at Annexure-I.
- (ii) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India has established sex sorted semen production facilities and implementing Accelerated Breed Improvement Programme using sex sorted semen with the aim to produce female calves up to 90% accuracy thereby enhancing milch cattle population, breed improvement and farmers' income. Government has launched indigenously developed sex sorted semen technology to deliver sex sorted semen at reasonable rates to farmers including sex sorted semen of indigenous breeds.
- (iii) Implementation of progeny testing and pedigree selection for production of high genetic merit bulls including bulls of indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Tharparkar,

Kankrej, Hariana, Rathi, Gaolao breeds of cattle and Murrah, Mehsana, Jaffarabadi, Pandharpuri, Nili Ravi, Banni breeds of buffalo. High genetic merit bulls of indigenous breeds produced under the programme are being made available to semen stations for semen production.

(iv) Implementation of In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Technology: To propagate elite animals of indigenous breeds, the Department has established 24 IVF laboratories. The technology has important role in genetic upgradation of bovine population in single generation. Further, to deliver technology at reasonable rates to farmers Government has launched indigenous IVF media.

(v) Genomic Selection: To select High Genetic Merit (HGM) animals and to accelerate genetic improvement of cattle and buffaloes, the Department has developed unified genomic chips—Gau Chip for indigenous cattle and Mahish Chip for indigenous buffaloes—specifically designed for initiating genomic selection of high genetic merit animals in the country.

(vi) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India is implementing National Milk Recording Programme and Surabhi Chayan Shrankhla for identification, location of donors and propagation of elitist of elite animals including indigenous breeds.

(vii) Community resource persons /Multi-purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians in Rural India (MAITRIs) are trained and equipped to deliver quality Artificial Insemination services at farmers' doorstep and so far 39,810 Community resource persons /MAITRIs are trained and equipped in the country.

(viii) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India is implementing Central herd Registration scheme for identification, location and propagation of elite animals of indigenous breeds.

Further, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme- National Mission on Natural Farming which aims to promote Natural Farming based on the understanding of local agro-ecological systems derived from Indian traditional local knowledge, livestock (preferably local breed of cow) based agriculture-animal husbandry models and farmer to farmer extension. Natural farming is integrated with livestock (preferably local breed of cow) and involves use of on-farm inputs like Beejamrut, Jeevamrut, GhanJeevamrut, Neemastra, Dashparni, etc., multi-cropping systems, pre-monsoon dry sowing, biomass based mulching, use of traditional varieties of seeds, integration of trees on buffer zones of farm, etc. In addition to other components/ activities the scheme envisages:

- (i) Popularization livestock (preferably local breed of cow) through integrated agriculture-animal husbandry models and developing linkages with Goshalas for ensuring the availability of inputs, enhancing local livestock (preferably local breed of cow) population through breed improvement, development of Natural Farming model demonstration farms at Central Cattle Breeding Farms/ Regional Fodder Stations, etc.
- (ii) For the successful adoption of Natural Farming, access to livestock and plants for preparing animal and plant based Natural Farming inputs, the scheme envisages to establish 10,000 need-based Bio-Input Resource Centers (BRCs) for production and supply of Natural Farming inputs at local levels.
- (iii) Output Based incentive is available under the scheme to trained willing farmers to practice Natural Farming, train more farmers, upkeep of livestock (preferably local breed of cow)/ preparation of Natural Farming inputs (including purchase of mixing & storage containers, etc.)/ purchase of Natural Farming inputs from Bio-Input Resource Centre.

Annexure-I

The details of beneficiaries benefitted during the last three years state wise

State/UT	Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme		
	Total Animals Inseminated	Total AI Done	Total Farmers Benefitted
Andhra Pradesh	4687703	9745473	1885806
Arunachal Pradesh	1071	1467	507
Assam	860145	1210568	727879
Bihar	2481117	3769442	1520412
Chhattisgarh	944735	1475093	545291
Goa	9954	18470	2582
Gujarat	2814593	5236599	1439938
Haryana	139874	284203	99485
Himachal Pradesh	878021	1726673	597264
Jammu & Kashmir	1050903	2419415	736624
Jharkhand	1608418	2460882	994890
Karnataka	5182907	11833807	2873197
Ladakh	3619	5161	2941
Madhya Pradesh	4120467	5690373	2290778
Maharashtra	2965507	4580095	1798937
Manipur	8900	12627	6465
Meghalaya	17900	37901	5932
Mizoram	2379	3942	1015
Nagaland	14332	24976	6223
Odisha	1797027	2739086	1085976
Rajasthan	2933412	4239593	1861635
Sikkim	22419	30305	18669
Tamil Nadu	2625789	4776584	1091297
Telangana	1454718	2368784	704336
Tripura	125929	182636	106071
Uttar Pradesh	9956283	16970440	5393068
Uttarakhand	669445	1294265	456501
West Bengal	3889369	6814729	2340623
Total	51266936	89953589	28594342