

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING  
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 383  
ANSWERED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2026

**ADDRESSING CHALLENGES OF STRAY DOG POPULATION**

**383. SHRI CONSTANDINE RAVINDRAN:**

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated a strategy for addressing the challenge of stray dog populations and their implications for public safety, animal welfare and disease control across the country;
- (b) if so, the mechanisms put in place by Government to support sterilization, anti-rabies vaccination and scientific management of stray dogs and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the extent of dog-bite cases, rabies-related concerns and public health risks associated with increasing stray dog populations across the country; and
- (d) the initiatives proposed to be taken by Government to strengthen humane population management and improve public safety?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (d):** The Central Government has notified the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023 under the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which provides the statutory framework for humane and scientific management of street dogs through sterilization, anti-rabies vaccination.

The dog population management is the mandate of the local bodies. However, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India is implementing Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) during 2026-27. The State Government can avail incentives under the scheme after taking various reform measures. Sterilisation and vaccination of dogs are included as an important reform measures under SASCI. The State Governments can establish dog shelter, animal shelter and animal birth control centres under the Scheme.

The Government has also launched the National Action Plan for Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination (NAPRE) programme in collaboration with the Stakeholders like Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Panchayat Raj and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The objective of NAPRE is to eliminate dog-mediated rabies by 2030 through a One Health approach. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare deals with the human health aspect of rabies prevention and control through National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP). The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India has provision to support the States/Union Territories for Rabies vaccination and accessories under Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease (ASCAD) component of Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP).

Dog Population management through Capture, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (CNVR) is the international standard for humane method of dog population management. To implement the CNVR method, the Central Government has notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023.

Further, in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 19.05.2026 *In Re: City Hounded by Strays, Kids Pay Price* (Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 5 of 2025), the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, GoI has issued direction through the letter dated 09.06.2026 to all State Governments and Union Territories for implementation of the Animal Birth Control Programme, addressing issues relating to stray dog population management, public safety, animal welfare, rabies prevention and institutional accountability in letter and spirit without any delay or dilution.

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