

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH MARCH, 2023

ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL RULES

2128. SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the recent incidents of attacks by stray dogs leading to serious injuries and deaths in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the actions taken by the Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the time required for the enactment and implementation of the proposed Animal Birth Control Rules, 2022 to control the population of street dogs and prevent overcrowding of strays;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note of the deaths in Kerala primarily due to dog-mediated rabies;
- (e) if so, the actions taken in this regard and the current status of the National Action Plan for Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030; and
- (f) the total number of professional dog-catching facilities in the State of Kerala and the details of the steps taken for the effective vaccination, immunization and sterilisation of pets and street/stray dogs/cats in Kerala?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)**

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The control of stray dog population is under the mandate of the State Government. As per information received from the state of Kerala, in order to tackle the stray dog menace, the State Animal Husbandry Department is enforcing compulsory licensing of owned dogs, annual vaccination of owned dogs and stray dogs, Animal Birth Control measures,

Animal shelters/Pounds, pet adoption and waste management. Proper implementation of these measures will bring down the incidence of dog bites in the State along with the elimination of dog-mediated Rabies in the state.

(c) The Proposed Animal Birth Control Rules, 2022 has been finalized and has been sent to Government of India Press for publication.

(d) & (e) The State Government of Kerala has informed that they have constituted Joint Steering Committee (JSC) including Secretaries and Directors and key persons from among all stakeholders. The 1st JSC meeting was held on November 16, 2022 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary wherein it was decided to declare animal rabies as a notifiable disease in the state. State Action Plan is under preparation by Health Department including all line department strategies. Vaccination is intensified in the state. Mass Dog Vaccination and Dog Population Control (through ABC) are the two major planks for the control of dog mediated Rabies. Nineteen Animal Birth Control Centers(ABC) are functional. More ABC centres are being established in the State with the involvement of local bodies. Standard Operative Procedures(SOP) have been developed for pet dog & stray dog vaccination. Sero-monitoring and epidemiological investigations are being done concurrently. Laboratory networking & location-wise mapping of Rabies positive cases have also been started this year. Sero monitoring is piloted in selected areas. Pilot program on "Rabies Free Trivandrum" has been flagged off.

(f) As informed by State Government of Kerala, there are **426 Trained dog catchers** available in the State. The State has taken the following steps for effective vaccination, immunization and sterilization of pets and street/stray dogs/cats in Kerala:

i) Mass Dog Vaccination

Mass dog vaccination includes the vaccination of both owned dogs and stray dogs/freely roaming dogs. September has been declared as the mass dog vaccination month henceforth to enforce strict prophylactic vaccination against Rabies in Kerala. The vaccination is done by conducting vaccination camps in all the local bodies with the co-operation of Local Self Governments. Since Sep, 2022, **3.88 lakh owned dogs** have been vaccinated against Rabies. Several State, District and Panchayat level meetings have been convened on a war footing basis to tackle the stray dog menace with the involvement of the Animal Husbandry Department, Local Self Government Department and Health and Family Welfare Departments. Anti Rabies Vaccination of stray dogs has commenced in 170 identified hot spots. Vaccine is provided free of cost by the Animal Husbandry Department. Till date, **about 20,000 stray dogs** have been vaccinated.

ii) Animal Birth Control

As it was found that sufficient number of animal welfare organizations recognized by Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) are not there; the Local Self Government Department,

institutions were permitted to conduct the ABC programme together with the Animal Husbandry Department by using the basic facilities in the veterinary institutions. As per the latest situation regarding the Animal Birth Control-Anti Rabies programme (ABC-AR), **24 ABC centres** have been identified throughout the State. Out of 24 Centres, **19** are functioning. Steps are also being taken to identify more ABC centers in all districts so as to extend the operation to all 152 blocks. **14,236 ABC surgeries** have been done so far in this Financial Year.

iii) Animal Shelters/Pounds

Local self government department will be constructing animal shelters / pounds for re-homing purposes according to the guidelines laid out by the Animal Welfare Board of India(AWBI). Suspected rabid dogs will be Isolated separately with necessary precautions. The inherent fear among the public will be addressed to an extent. Locations away from residential areas will be chosen for setting up of animal shelters for stray, lost, abandoned and surrendered animals.

iv) Awareness Programmes

Awareness programmes on responsible dog ownership, compulsory vaccination and licensing, post-bite/exposure management and treatment, adoption, etc. are being conducted in schools, residents associations, etc. through the Animal Husbandry Department, Health Department and Local Bodies.