

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4227
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST 2025

DESI COWS FOR AGRICULTURE

4227. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

Will the Minister of **FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the availability of Desi (indigenous) cows at farm level is minimal, which is hindering the adoption of natural farming practices by farmers;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to conserve, promote, and increase the population of Desi cow breeds in the country including Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether there are any dedicated schemes or incentives for farmers to rear Desi cows for agricultural purposes;
- (d) if so, the details of such schemes and number of beneficiaries during the last three years; and
- (e) if not, whether the Government has any plans to launch any new initiatives to strengthen the role of Desi cows in sustainable and natural farming systems?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (e) No, Sir. 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 complement and 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 are covered under the scheme including indigenous breeds of Andhra Pradesh. 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 4.92 crore animals covered, 8.55 crore AI performed and 2.78 crore farmers benefitted. At present NAIP is implemented in 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh and during the last three years, 45.36 lakh animals have been covered, 91.61 lakh artificial inseminations performed, and 18.52 lakh 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 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, Rath, 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 23 IVF laboratories. The technology has important role in genetic upgradation of bovine population in single generation. Under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission 2 IVF labs have been made operational in Andhra Pradesh located at Lam Farm, Guntur and National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre Chintaladevi, Nellore. 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) Funds have been released to the States for establishment of 16 Gokul Grams for development and conservation of indigenous breeds of cattle and buffaloes in scientific and holistic manner. Under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission one Gokul Gram has been made operational in Andhra Pradesh at Chadalawada, Prakasam district.

Two National Kamdhenu Breeding Centres have been established one for southern region located Chintaladevi, Nellore Andhra Pradesh and other for northern region at Itarsi, Narmadapuram Madhya Pradesh as repository of germplasm of indigenous breeds.

Both the activities have been discontinued under revised realigned Rashtriya Gokul Mission from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

(vii) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying 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. So far under Surabhi Chayan Shrankhla, 36329 animals have been recorded in Andhra Pradesh including elite animals of indigenous breeds.

(viii) 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 38736 Community resource persons /MAITRIs are trained and equipped including 4746 MAITRIs of Andhra Pradesh.

(ix) Under the component of establishment of Breed Multiplication Farm (BMF) Department has sanctioned 132 Breed Multiplication Farms including 19 BMF sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh. Component has been discontinued under revised RGM

(x) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing Central herd Registration scheme for identification, location and propagation of elite animals of indigenous breeds. Under the scheme Central Herd Registration Unit has been established at Ongole district, Andhra Pradesh for Ongole breed of cattle.

Further, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme- National Mission on Natural Farming. 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	No. of Animals Inseminated	Total no. of Artificial Insemination done	No. of Farmers Benefitted
ANDHRA PRADESH	4536707	9161296	1852683
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1111	1604	527
ASSAM	881055	1259764	749322
BIHAR	2450143	3683407	1530448
CHHATTISGARH	915472	1406599	533649
GOA	7786	14973	2254
GUJARAT	2949352	5408465	1504439
HARYANA	128519	254320	93434
HIMACHAL PRADESH	816600	1595552	566527
JAMMU & KASHMIR	1009162	2311126	719369
JHARKHAND	1522512	2277581	954973
KARNATAKA	4926425	11157784	2801705
LADAKH	3505	5107	2914
MADHYA PRADESH	3407476	4559038	1936791
MAHARASHTRA	2814985	4330167	1728855
MANIPUR	9404	13093	6989
MEGHALAYA	18583	41821	6276
MIZORAM	2687	5014	1105
NAGALAND	14015	23658	6287
ODISHA	1741456	2625026	1065487
RAJASTHAN	2810270	4029253	1800791
SIKKIM	21290	29198	18020
TAMIL NADU	2642168	4763897	1094774
TELANGANA	1236919	1898999	639899
TRIPURA	117013	177620	101219
UTTAR PRADESH	9840771	16782344	5379493
UTTARANCHAL	692563	1344087	469003
WEST BENGAL	3738913	6386110	2280080
Total	4,92,56,862	8,55,46,903	2,78,47,313