

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
 DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES
 LOK SABHA
 ADMITTED QUESTION NO. 737
 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST MARCH, 2016

“NATIONAL FODDER AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT POLICY”

737. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of fodder for livestock in various States of the country, if so, the details and the consequences thereof including adverse effects on animal husbandry and dairy industry;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a National Fodder and Pasture Management Policy to bridge the gap between demand and supply of animal fodder;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the total area of land where fodder and pasture resources are available in the country including Rajasthan;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to set up fodder banks in various States of the country and revitalise the old and degrading pasture resources in the country in order to overcome the shortage of animal fodder and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to provide training and incentive to the farmers to produce multi-perennial fodder crops at the empty spaces available between the lines of trees in orchards and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
 (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)**

Madam,

a) As per ICAR-Jhansi based Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute vision-2050 document, at present in the country, there is an estimated deficit of 35.6% green fodder (supply of 526 MT against demand of 817 MT) and 11.0% of dry forage (supply of 453 MT against demand of 509 MT).

b) & c) The fodder and pasture management are covered under the Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder Development of the National Livestock Mission of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF).

Further, Government formulated Accelerated Fodder Development Programme in 2011-12 under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare which continued upto 2013-14. The assistance for fodder development was also provided under this scheme

From 2014-15, Additional Fodder Development Programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare has been formulated for drought affected areas, which is continuing at present.

Further, States undertake Fodder Development under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as per their requirement, which is approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by the Chief Secretary.

d) As per the latest report furnished by Directorate of Economics & Statistics Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare in their Land Use Statistics at Glance May 2015 report, the total area under fodder cultivation and total permanent pasture and other grazing land in the country including Rajasthan are 9,188 and 10,240 (thousand) hectares respectively.

State-wise area under fodder cultivation and pasture & other grazing land in the country are given in Annexure-I & Annexure-II.

e) Earlier, this Department was implementing the component of establishment of fodder banks, but it was dropped from the Central scheme on the recommendations of Planning Commission in the year 2005. The main reason behind this recommendation was that the States were not coming forward to implement the component. A major constraint in sustaining fodder banks is the limited shelf-life of stored fodder, coupled with uncertain and fluctuating demands. Higher transportation costs also make the price of stored fodder inhibitory, even if densified fodder blocks are transported. Generally, in a normal rainfall years, sufficient fodder is available in the form of green fodder and crop residues at much cheaper rates. This is a reason as to why the component of fodder block making units is not being utilised by entrepreneurs, as they are never sure of the demands, and storing fodder beyond a few months may reduces the quality to the extent of rendering it unfit for consumption by livestock.

f) The Regional Fodder Stations under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) situated in different parts of the country provide free trainings to the farmers for growing various muliti-perennial fodder crops as per their agro-ecological climatic conditions.

In addition to this, ICAR Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi conducts regular training programmes for farmers for growing perennial grasses in the space available between trees in the orchards. The varieties of grasses/crops varies depending upon the agro-climatic conditions in different regions of the country. The perennial grasses propagated for demonstrations during the training programmes are Bajra Napier Hybrid, Guinea grass, perennial sorghum, etc. Beside training programmes are organized in the institute. 1-2 days trainings at farmers' fields are also organized for growing of perennial grasses under institute outreach programmes like Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav and Adarsh Chara Gram. Incentive in the form of free root slips of perennial grasses are given to farmers initially so that other farmers in the village can also see its importance and prepare nursery in the village itself.
