

Regarding the outbreak of African Swine Flu (ASF) in Mizoram

SHRI RICHARD VANLALHMANGAIHA (MIZORAM): Respected Madam Chairperson, first of all, being a first-time MP, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the people of my State for placing their confidence in me and giving me the opportunity to represent them in this august house.

Secondly, I would also like to extend my invitation to all my esteemed colleagues and request them to take time out from their busy schedules during this tenure to visit my beautiful State. Mizoram is also known as the most peaceful State in India despite being surrounded on two sides by the neighbouring countries, Myanmar on the East and Bangladesh on the West.

Hon. Madam Chairperson, through you, I want to draw the kind attention of the Central Government to a burning issue currently affecting my State, that is, African Swine Fever (ASF), which has affected the livestock and livelihoods of thousands of people. As per the latest reports, the pig farmers of our State have suffered financial losses of over Rs 200 crore due to the recent outbreak of ASF.

Since February 2024, the ASF has caused deaths of over 8,251 pigs and culling of over 15,000 pigs, as per the official records. This number is bound to be much more as there are a number of unreported cases. I would specifically like to highlight the hardship being faced by some of our pig farmers who have taken loans worth several crores but have lost everything due to this outbreak.

Madam, even before this recent outbreak, the State has been plagued by African Swine Fever (ASF) for many decades. Such is the magnitude of this problem. Even I myself have been affected personally by this outbreak. After the results of the Lok Sabha elections were announced, I could not even celebrate my victory properly as my own locality was declared as an infected area.

I, therefore, request the hon. Union Minister of Animal Husbandry to help us containing the spread of ASF immediately, and to help in finding out measures to contain it permanently.

Keeping in view the hardship faced by our pig farmers, a project proposal for revival of the piggery sector amounting to Rs 26,725 crore had already been submitted to the Central Government. I must mention that no financial aid has been received yet to compensate for the livestock which have been lost due to the disease but not due to culling. I, therefore, urge the hon. Union Minister of Animal Husbandry to kindly look into this personally and give favourable consideration to the proposal at the earliest.

Madam, from 2021 to June, 2024, in about three and a half years, about 55,602 pigs have died from ASF, and about 40,540 pigs have been culled. So, the total loss of pigs in terms of number has been 96,142. A total of 22,718 families and 652 villages have also been affected due to the deadly disease.

Thank you, Madam.