

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1644
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
INDIGENOUS BREEDS
ANANDRAO ADSUL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain indigenous breeds are facing extinction;
- (b) if so, details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to conserve these breeds?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): Breed census is not conducted under quinquennial Livestock Census. Therefore, it is not possible to make any statement on the breeds facing extinction. However, reported decline in number of a few indigenous breeds has been mentioned by various agencies from time to time.

It is to be appreciated that extinction of breeds is a global phenomenon because of rapid changes in conditions across the world. Rising demand for Livestock Products in the fast growing human population in the country cannot be met by exclusively following selective breeding of indigenous breeds. Except in case of poultry, the population of indigenous animals outnumber the cross bred stock among all livestock species. The policy of the Government has been to insist on having a balanced approach with adequate attention to conservation of useful breeds.

(c): A National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources is functioning under ICARA National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding has recently been approved by the Government which has focus on indigenous breeds of cattle. The scheme will insist on formulation of a breeding policy by the States which will pay due consideration to conservation of indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds. There are a number of centrally sponsored schemes to support efforts of the State Government towards conservation of other livestock species and breeds. Action towards formulation of a National Livestock Policy in line with the recently announced National Agricultural Policy has also been initiated.