

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:117
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
INDIGENOUS COW SPECIES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several indigenous cow species in the country are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, species-wise, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for protection and breeding of indigenous cow species;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (e): Breed-wise census has been conducted by the Government during 2007. Therefore, it is not possible to compare the current population of indigenous breeds with their population in the earlier censuses and to draw any definite conclusion. Data is insufficient to conclude that there is extinction.

However, considering the importance of indigenous breeds in the national economy, Government has undertaken the following steps for their development and conservation:

(i) Department is implementing National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding since October 2000, which has focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds. During Phase-I of the project an amount of Rs. 58 crore has been released to the States exclusively for development and conservation of indigenous breeds. An amount of Rs. 356.78 crore has been exclusively earmarked for development and conservation of indigenous breeds under Phase-II of NPCBB.

(ii) Government is also implementing three central sector schemes, namely Central Cattle Breeding Farms, Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute and Central Herd Registration Scheme for production of genetically superior breed of bull calves, good quality frozen semen and identification of location of superior germplasm of cattle and buffalos to meet the requirement of bulls and frozen semen of some of the important indigenous breeds in the country.