

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3827

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010

DECLINE IN COW POPULATION

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the population of some cow species including Gir is on the decline in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cow population in the country, State-wise and breed -wise; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to improve and protect cow breeds in the country?

Answer

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

(a): Breed-wise data on livestock population is not available till 17th Livestock Census(2003). However, breed-wise information has been collected by the Government during 18th Livestock Census (2007), which has been tabulated. Therefore, it is not possible to compare the current population of indigenous breeds with their population in the earlier Censuses to draw any definite conclusion.

(b): State wise and breed wise number of cattle as per 18th Livestock Census(2007) is enclosed as Annexure-I

(c): 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 buffaloes to meet the requirement of bulls and frozen semen of some of the important indigenous breeds in the country.

(iii) The Government is implementing the project entitled ` Conservation of threatened breed of livestock`- a project dedicated to conserve livestock breeds on the verge of extinction.