

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1303  
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010  
MILCH CATTLE  
Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the population of milch cattle has increased in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State wise;
- (c) whether the productivity of milch cattle in the country is low as compared to other countries of the world;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, Madam. The number of milch cattle has increased from 58.1 million in 2003 to 62.4 million in 2007 which is about 7.5 percent.
- (b) State-wise number of milch cattle in 2003 and 2007 is enclosed as Annexure I.
- (c) Productivity of milk per milch animal in the country is not available. However, productivity of milk per cattle in India (1228 Kg./animal/annum in 2009-10) is very low as compared to the world average (2091 kg./animal/annum in 2009).
- (d) This is mainly due to poor regime of nutrition as well as low genetic potential for milk production and health care.
- (e) In addition to the steps taken by the State Governments for improving productivity and number of milch animals, Government of India has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by way of following steps:
  - i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding is being implemented since October 2000. The project envisages genetic up-gradation of bovine population on priority basis. The project also has focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds.
  - ii) Government is also implementing four Central Sector Schemes, namely, (1) Central Cattle Breeding Farms to produce elite bulls for supplying to the State/breeding agencies for induction in their breeding programmes to upgrade the quality and productivity of the livestock in the country; (2) Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute to produce frozen semen doses of indigenous/exotic, crossbred cattle and Murrah bulls for use in Artificial Insemination under breeding programme of the country (3) Central Herd Registration Scheme for registration of elite cows and buffaloes of national important breeds and for identification and location of superior germ plasma and (4) Central Fodder Development Organization with the objective of multiplication of high yielding varieties of fodder crops, distribution of minikits, seed production, training programmes and fodder demonstration.
  - iii) Government is also implementing centrally sponsored schemes namely Fodder & Feed Development for supplementing the efforts of States in feed & fodder development.
  - iv) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is undertaking research programmes for the improvement of various breeds of livestock in different agro climatic regions of the country through institute based projects and All India Coordinated Research/ Network Projects.