

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5302  
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011  
DECLINE IN CAMEL POPULATION  
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the dwindling camel population in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of camel population in the country during the last three decades;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the camel milk contains high medicinal and nutritional properties;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to develop camel as a dairy animal through the National Research Centre on Camel (NRCC); and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (Dr. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) As per Livestock Censuses, camel population in the country during the last three decades is given below:

(In Million Numbers)

1977 1982 1987 1992 1997 2003 2007

1.10 1.08 1.00 1.03 0.91 0.63 0.52

Source: Livestock Census, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, and, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, M/O Agriculture.

(c) Looking at the national and international literature regarding medicinal properties of camel milk, the National Research Center on Camel (NRCC) has done some experimentation in association with the Medical College and the primary results suggested that the camel milk has medicinal value. At present also the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is running a project on this aspect.

(d) Yes, Madam. the NRCC is already projecting the attribute of milk potential of camel as a beneficial character.

(e) The NRCC has initiated a project in the year 2007-08 and three breeds viz. Bikaneri, Kachchi and Mewari have been included. The milk production potential of Camel is being evaluated. A camel milk dairy and a camel milk parlour has also been initiated at the Centre. Efforts are being made to do value addition to the milk in the form of different milk products.