

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2170
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
DECLINE IN CAMEL POPULATION
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a decline of camel population due to their inadequate use in agriculture and transporting of goods;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that National Research Centre on Camel has recommended promotion of Camel Milk in view of its medicinal and food value;
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to protect and increase the population of "Ship of Desert";
- (e) Whether the Government is considering to permit the use of Camel Milk; and
- (f) If so, details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) and (b) Yes Madam, as per 18th Livestock Census, 2007, the population of camel in India was 5,17,000, which has been reduced to 4,00,000 as per 19th Livestock Census, 2012.

(c) Yes, National Research Centre on Camel (NRC) Bikaner is conducting research to establish medicinal and food value of camel milk based on experiment with laboratory animals and collaborative research programmes, camel milk has been found valuable adjuvant for management of some metabolic diseases.

(d) Measures taken by the Government:

(i) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture had launched "National Livestock Policy-2013" under para 8.7 on Breeding of Camels. It will aim at improving their desert specific draft power, milk production, and disease resistance and sports traits. Breeding of Double hump camel in high altitude areas would be supported with import of semen to minimize otherwise high chances of inbreeding.

(ii) Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs had approved the introduction of "The Rajasthan Camel (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Bill, 2014".

(iii) During X Plan, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Conservation of Threatened Breeds of Livestock" was introduced for conservation of livestock whose population had gone below 10,000 in the home tract, and Rs.55.02 lakh was released to Government of Jammu & Kashmir for Conservation of Double Humped Camel during this Plan period. During XI Plan, a project on conservation of Kachchhi camel in Gujarat and Double Humped Camel in Jammu & Kashmir was supported by the Department under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. During XI Plan and XII Plan Rs.126.00 lakh was released to Government of Gujarat for Conservation of Kachchhi Camel. During XII Plan, under the National Livestock Mission, there is a Sub-Mission on Livestock Development which has a component for Conservation of Livestock breeds including camel.

(e) and (f) Under FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS (FOOD PRODUCTS STANDARDS AND FOOD ADDITIVES) REGULATIONS, 2011, issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare dated 1st August, 2011, there is no provision on ban on sale of camel milk in the country. However, no standards have been formulated under Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Acts and Rules with respect to camel milk. National Research Centre on Camel, Bikaner has provided data to FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA for approval to use camel milk.