

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5715

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

REARING FARM ANIMALS

Reddy Shri Midhun;Suman Shri Balka;Tripathi Shri Sharad

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that rearing of livestock in rural areas is not economically viable for the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether rearing of livestock helps in time of economic distress; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to promote the rearing of livestock in rural areas and to make it more productive?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE (Dr. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a)and(b) No, Madam Livestock rearing is an important livelihood activity for most of the farmers, supporting agriculture in the form of critical inputs, contributing to the health and nutrition of the household supplementing incomes, offering employment opportunities and provides a hedge against agricultural failures in rural areas.

(c)A study carried out by National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal in the State of Maharashtra shows that the farmers rearing dairy animals were less vulnerable to poverty (43.62%) than the non-dairy holders (55.48%). This pattern was more marked in Western Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. Further, Government conduct Census and surveys from time to time to assess the number of livestock available in the country and to estimate the quantum of livestock products. As per latest Livestock Census – 2012, there are 512.05 million nos. of livestock in the country, out of which 491.68 million are in rural areas. Among the livestock population cattle and buffaloes together have major share of 58.5% and contribute largely in production of milk. India stands first in the world in case of milk production and it produced nearly 137.69 million tonnes of milk during 2013-14 with annual growth of 3.97% which shows the gradual increase in the milk production in growing demand of milk in the country.

(d) Yes, Madam the rearing of livestock helps in time of economic distress and reduces the vulnerability of rural households.

(e)The steps taken by the Government to promote rearing of livestock in rural areas by implementing the following schemes:

(i)National Dairy Plan – I: This Department is implementing National Dairy Plan-I with an objective of increasing milk production to meet the rapidly growing demand of milk by enhancing productivity of milch animals and providing rural milk producers with greater access to organized milk processing sector.

(ii)National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBB&DD): The NPBB component focuses on extension of field Artificial Insemination (AI) Network through MATRIN (Multipurpose Artificial Insemination Technician in Rural India) and to encourage conservation and development of recognized indigenous breeds of the country and the NPDD component focuses on creating and strengthening of the infrastructure for procurement, processing and marketing of milk and milk products.

(iii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS): The scheme is being implemented through NABARD with the objective for promotion of private investment in dairy sector to increase the Milk Production in the country and helping in poverty reduction through self-employment opportunities.

(iv)National Livestock Mission: The Government is implementing National Livestock Mission to enable production of improved breed of goats, sheep, pigs and provide support to BPL families to encourage rearing of backyard poultry.

(v) Livestock Health & Disease Control: Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Livestock Health & Disease Control' now renamed as 'Veterinary Services & Animal Health' to supplement efforts of State/UT Governments for prevention and control of animal diseases.