

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6320  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015  
EXTINCTION OF ONGOLE BULL  
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Brazilians have sought permission from the Chennai based National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) to take the germ plasm (semen) of the famous Ongole Bull to improve the Ongole Bull variety genetically as it has high demand internationally and its cost is around Rupees 3 to 40 crores internationally;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the authorities of NBA have constituted an expert committee in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is true that the Ongole Bull is on the verge of extinction and now only about one thousand top quality Ongole Bulls in Andhra Pradesh are available; and
- (f) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the Ongole Bull?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. As per the information made available by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. M/s. Brasif S.A, Administracoes e-Participacoes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil applied to National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in Form I on 30.07.2012, seeking prior approval for accession of 4000 Bovine Cattle Embryos (Male and Female) from M/s. Sagwadi Trust, Bhavnagar, Gujarat.

(c) & (d): As per information made available by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, NBA had constituted an Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (EC on ABS) in 2005 and is being re-constituted from time to time to evaluate the applications received by the NBA. The EC on ABS in its 31st Meeting held on 9th March 2015 recommended to form a core group of members to evaluate the economic value of the bovine embryos of certain priced cattle.

(e) & (f) As per Live-stock Census 2007, total population of Ongole cattle was 2,57,661 in the country and breed is not under extinction. Government of India have initiated following programmes for development and conservation of indigenous breeds including Ongole breed of cattle:

- a) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBDD)
- b) Rashtriya Goukul Mission (Part of NPBBDD)
- c) Establishment of National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre (in Ongole District for South India)
- b) National Dairy Plan-I
- c) Central Cattle Breeding Farms
- e) Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute
- f) Central Herd Registration Scheme - also in Ongole.