

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:51
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015
Promotion of Desi Varieties of Cows
Patel Shri Dilip

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

whether the Government is aware that the practice of cross breeding Indian cows with imported bulls and semen which started in 1960s has set off a systematic destruction of the indigenous Indian cows, which includes precious breeds developed over a millennium;

(b) if so, whether the Government is likely to bring in a legislation for the protection of indigenous desi bulls along with other measures to promote the desi varieties of cows; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the necessary steps taken by the Government to protect the indigenous breed of desi cows?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE
(SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIYA)

(a) to (c) As per 19th Livestock Census-2012, only 21% are crossbreed against 79% indigenous cattle population. Breed wise Census was carried out for the first time in the country during 2007 therefore, change in the population of indigenous breeds is difficult to ascertain. As per the stipulation for division of powers laid down by the Constitution of India, Animal Husbandry, including breeding policy is a State subject. A broad framework of a model breeding policy was prepared by Government of India and circulated to all the States as a broad guideline to formulate their own breeding policy. Broad framework of the breeding policy envisages crossbreeding of nondescript cattle population with exotic breeds -Jersey and HF level of exotic inheritance being limited to 50%, preservation and conservation of indigenous breeds through selective breeding in their breeding tracts and use of recognised indigenous breeds for upgrading non-descript stock. Government has formulated National Livestock Policy, 2013 for holistic & scientific development of livestock including development & conservation of indigenous breeds of livestock. Same has been circulated to the States as guidelines for making changes in their respective State breeding policy. In order to compliment and supplement the efforts made by the States for development and preservation of indigenous bovine breeds Government of India has taken following steps to promote indigenous breeds: a) implementation of bull production programme (progeny testing & pedigree selection) for production of high genetic merit disease free bulls; b) induction of indigenous bulls of high genetic merit for natural service & AI; c) strengthening of bull mother farms; d) establishment of gokul gram; e) establishment of National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre at Andhra & Madhya Pradesh.