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Title: The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries made a statement correcting the reply given on 17.08.2010 to Unstarred Question No. 3827 by Shrimati Darshana Jardosh and Shri Harish Chaudhury, MPs regarding 'Decline in Cow Population' and giving reasons for delay in making the statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): Madam, I beg to lay a Statement (i) correcting the reply given on 17.08.2010 to Unstarred Question No.3827 by Shrimati Darshana Jardosh and Shri Harish Chaudhary, MPs regarding 'Decline in Cow Population' and (ii) the reasons for delay in making the Statement:

- a) Breed-wise data on livestock population is not available till 17th Livestock Census (2003). However, breed-wise information has been collected by the Government during 18th Livestock Census (2007), which has been tabulated. Therefore, it is not possible to compare the current population of indigenous breeds with their population in the earlier Censuses to draw any definite conclusion.
 - b) State wise and breed wise number of cattle as per 18th Livestock Census(2007) is given in the Annexure-I, which is laid on the Table.
 - c) Considering the importance of indigenous breeds in the national economy, Government has undertaken the following steps for their development and conservation:
 - i) Department is implementing National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding since October, 2000, which has focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds. During Phase-I of the project in amount of Rs. 58 crore has been released to the States exclusively for development and :conservation of indigenous breeds. An amount of Rs. 356.78 crore has been exclusively earmarked for development and conservation of indigenous breeds under Phase-II of NPCBB.
 - ii) Government is also implementing three central sector schemes, namely Central Cattle Breeding Farms, Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute and Central Herd Registration Scheme or production of genetically superior breed of bull calves, good quality frozen semen and identification of location of superior germplasm of cattle and buffaloes to meet the requirement of mils and frozen semen of some of the important indigenous breeds in the country.
 - iii) The Government is implementing the project entitled "Conservation of threatened breed of iverstock"- a project dedicated to conserve livestock breeds on the verge of extinction.
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