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Title: Need to tackle the menace of stray dogs in Kerala.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): I request the Government to kindly tackle the menace of stray dogs in the country. As per reports, Kerala alone has a stray dog population of 2.5 lakh. Every year, more than one lakh people in the State are bitten by stray dogs. Majority of the victims of stray dogs are women and children, and the unexpected attacks of stray dogs inflict terrible shocks to victims. Therefore, the stray dog menace virtually affects 'Right to Live', and 'Freedom of Movement'. People in the State have sought the urgent intervention of local bodies and the State Government in tackling this issue. However, at present they are helpless to protect the interest of people. There are certain provisions in the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 that allows stray dogs to wander on streets. Having aggrieved by this issue certain human rights associations have filed the Public Interest Litigation in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Accordingly, the Hon'ble Court has sought the response of the Government of India and State Government on this issue. Therefore, I request the Government to kindly consider the plight of the people in this regard.