

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1177
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY 2025

YAK PRESERVATION SCHEMES

1177 SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any step towards genetic improvement and preservation of Yak in the State of Sikkim;
- (b) whether Government provides any financial assistance to yak-herding communities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the criteria fixed for availing financial assistance; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government policy to overcome impacts of climate change and other socio-economic drivers and whether there has been a waning interest in yak farming?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) In order to complement and supplement the efforts made by the State towards genetic improvement and preservation of Yak the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is covering development and conservation of Yak under the scheme Rashtriya Gokul Mission and funds have been released under the scheme to the State of Sikkim for this purpose.

(b) and (c) During the last 5 years financial assistance of Rs. 600 lakh has been released to the State of Sikkim for development conservation of indigenous breeds including Yak and to support Yak herding communities. Funds under the scheme are being released to the States as per the Guidelines of the scheme.

(d) In order to complement and supplement the efforts made by the State to mitigate adverse impact of climate change the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been implementing Rashtriya Gokul Mission for development and conservation of indigenous breeds and enhancement of milk production and productivity. Indigenous breeds are well known for their quality of heat tolerance, ability to withstand extreme climatic conditions and are least affected by climate change. Following steps are being taken under the scheme for development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds including Yak and Mithun: (i) Funds under the scheme have been released for organising fertility camps, milk yield competition, calf rallies, farmers training programme, seminars and workshop, conclaves etc to create awareness among the farmers and herding communities about importance of indigenous bovine breeds including Yak; (ii) Implementation of Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme to extend Artificial insemination coverage in the districts with less than 50% coverage using semen of high genetic merit bulls including semen of indigenous breeds; (iii) Accelerated breed improvement programme using bovine In-Vitro Fertilization technology (IVF) for faster genetic upgradation of bovines including indigenous breeds.

The State Government is conducting awareness programs, seminars, and workshops aimed at addressing the socio-economic drivers and impacts of climate change, with a special focus on yak conservation. These initiatives are being carried out in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), the GB Pant Institute, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) – National Research Centre on Yak (NRC Yak), Dirang, and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

According to ICAR, NRC Yak is working on a semi-intensive yak-rearing model to transition from traditional transhumance practices, thereby making yak husbandry more economically viable. The institute is also engaged in skill development, capacity building, and promoting yak-based eco-tourism to enhance the income of farmers involved in yak farming.

No information is available with the Department about waning interest among farmers in Yak farming.