

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1535
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2023

INSENSITIVE TREATMENT AND ABUSE OF HORSES AT KEDARNATH

1535. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any action against the insensitive treatment and abuse of horses used for ride in Kedarnath;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government plans to bring a strict policy into place for such animal abuse carried out at pilgrimage sites; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)**

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per information received from the State Government of Uttarakhand, 210 challans have been issued to equine owners, 1088 animals have been blocked for participating from yatra and also 20 FIR has been filed till 16.11.2023.

(c) & (d) The Government of Uttarakhand has issued Standard Operating Procedure for handling equine animals on travel routes vide Government Order No. 775/XV-1/23/4(12)22 DATED 01st May, 2023 which is being followed. A 30 member Mule Task Force has been formed by the Government of Uttarakhand and deployed along the yatra route to ensure compliance of the rules by the animal owner and to prevent animal cruelty. By continuous monitoring along the yatra route, challans have been issued to the animal owners who violate rules through Sector Officer/ District Panchayat/ Police/ Administration./Veterinarians and unregistered horses and mules have been stopped from participating in the Yatra.

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has issued Standard Operating Procedure for the working equines in the hilly/ mountainous terrain vide letter dated 29.08.2022 which was circulated to the Principal Secretary Animal Husbandry Department and Member Secretary, State Animal Welfare Board. The Chief Secretary of Government of Uttarakhand and Principal Secretary Animal Husbandry Department was requested by AWBI vide letter dated 27.06.2023 to issue direction to ensure implementation of the Standard Operating Procedure issued by AWBI. The AWBI has constituted a monitoring committee for looking after the welfare issues of the equine and pony in the tourist and pilgrimage tracks of Uttarkhand state.
