

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2326
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2023

A-HELP PROJECT

2326 SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

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

- a) the details of the model to be part of the Accredited Agent for Expansion of Health and Livestock Production (A-HELP) project;
- b) whether animal sakhis will be skilled and trained towards animal welfare and animal health;
- c) whether the special provisions under the scheme takes into consideration the empowerment of women; and
- d) the details of implementation of the project along with the number of beneficiaries, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

- a) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on September 1st 2021. As per the MoU, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) will leverage services of the members of Self-Help groups (SHGs) as livestock resource persons and primary service providers through a new accredited model named "A-HELP" (**Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production**).

This model will be implemented across the country by using the existing cadre developed under DAY-NRLM for livestock (Pashusakhis) by providing further training and accreditation as A-HELP worker. In the rural village or panchayat level the A-HELP will be acting as a local livestock resource person and a connecting point between the livestock farmers and Veterinary Services. A-HELP worker will be the first port of call for any health-related demands of livestock population of that village, especially those who find it difficult to access the veterinary health services.

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is the Nodal agency for training and capacity building of A-HELP. A-HELP training programme for Pashu sakhis is for 16 days. The selection and prioritization of A-HELPS for training programmes will be co-ordinated and nominated by the respective State AHDs and State SRLM with the consultation of NDDB.

Preference will be given to Pashusakhis who undergone 42 days of trainings conducted by SRLM.

At the end of the training, participants will be awarded with participation certificate. However, certification and accreditation of A-HELP will be done through National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR) on the 17th day (i.e. after completion of 16 days training programme).

- b) Yes Sir, animal sakhis (pashusakhis) is skilled and trained towards Animal Welfare and Animal Health during the 16 days training programme at state level by master trainers of SAHD(State Animal Husbandry Department) & SRLM(State Rural Livelihood Mission) and trainers of NDDB(National Dairy Development Board).

Under Animal Welfare following topics were covered in elaborate manner in their respective language

Class room sessions	Practical
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scientific feeding and management of young calves/Heifers 2. Ration Balancing programme (RBP) 3. Scientific management system for general well being of livestock 4. Scientific Breeding management 5. Animal Nutrition and Nutrient Composition of feed and fodder 6. Significance of feed supplements in animal ration 7. Ways to improve Fat & SNF in milk and heat stress management through proper feeding practices 8. Feeding management of dairy animals during different states of lactation 9. Green fodder cultivation and planning around the year availability 10. Optimizing feeding cost and improving animal productivity along with Silage and hay making 11. Leg, dung and body condition score for appropriate feeding practices 12. Housing Management 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstration & Hands on experience on Pashuposhan app 2. Visit to Fodder farm units 3. Demonstration of RBP at farm level 4. RBP exposure visit at farm level 5. Documentary movies for better understanding on RBP programme, silage making, nutritional content on various feed and fodder

Under Animal Health following topics were covered

Class room sessions	Practical
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of major diseases and its preventive measures 2. Identification and detection of subclinical 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dairy farm visit to understand the symptoms of diseases. 2. Hands on practices on vaccination/

mastitis through home test	administering.
3. Causes and effects of Viral, Bacterial and Genomic diseases.	3. Demonstration and hands on practices on California Mastitis Test (CMT)
4. Significance of vaccination and vaccination schedule	4. Demonstration of e-Gopala application
5. Ethno-Veterinary Medical (EVM)treatment for diseases	5. Documentary movie on EVM
6. Significance of e-Gopala application and its deployment	6. Hands on experience on preparation and application of EVM
7. Significance of cow comfort	
8. Signals of health cow and disease management	

c) Yes Sir, A-HELP programme itself stands for women empowerment. It covers empowerment of women like skill enhancement, adoption of new technologies, more social recognition through the accreditation status, economic empowerment through gaining additional income by performing A-HELP roles and responsibilities and social empowerment as Local Resource Persons (LRPs) at farmers doorsteps. Besides they are also being supported by providing various tools to create enabling environment during their field operations.

d) The program was initiated in 2022, and since then 31 number of training programme have been conducted and 577 Master Trainers were developed. Details of state wise Master trainers developed by NDDDB is given below,

Status of Master Trainers Programme			
S.No.	State/UT	No. of programmes conducted	No.of Participants attended
			Total
1	Madhya Pradesh	5	60
2	Jammu & Kashmir	2	40
3	Uttarakhand	4	59
4	Jharkhand	4	59
5	Maharashtra	3	59
6	Bihar	3	60
7	Gujarat	4	100
8	Karnataka	4	96
9	Kerala	1	25
10	Assam	1	19
	Total	31	577

Ninety-Three numbers of A-HELP training programmes have been conducted in Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Gujarat and Assam. In

these training programmes 2354 participants have been trained. State wise details of participants trained under A-HELP programme is given below:

Consolidated list of A-HELP 16 days training			
S.No.	State/UT	No.of Programmes	No.of Participants trained
1	Madhya Pradesh	28	713
2	Jammu & Kashmir	24	599
4	Bihar	14	350
5	Uttarakhand	7	144
6	Jharkhand	3	75
7	Karnataka	9	270
8	Gujarat	7	178
9	Assam	1	25
	Total	93	2354

In addition to above, currently 6 trainings programmes comprising of 150 participants is underway in Bihar, will be accredited on 28th December 2023.
