

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2332
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2023

**RESEARCH PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF INDIGENOUS
COW BREED**

2332 SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated a research plan for improvement, conservation and betterment of indigenous cow breed, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government proposed to conduct scientific research on cow milk, curd, buttermilk, ghee, cowdung, urine from the point of view of utility for human life, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to decategorize cow from animal category and form the 'Gaumata category' in view of the reverence of the citizens of the country towards the cow as 'Gau Mata' and its advantage, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. As per Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) three research institutes namely National Dairy Research Institute, Indian Veterinary Research Institute and Central Institute for Research on Cattle are undertaking research projects for improvement, conservation and betterment of indigenous cow breeds including Deoni, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal and Tharparkar.

ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal is maintaining and conserving the Desi cow breeds, namely, Sahiwal, Tharparkar, Deoni and Gir at its Livestock Research Centre. For last several decades, the ICAR- NDRI has undertaken research and development work on various aspects like genetic improvement for milk production, development of assisted reproduction technologies, and management of "indigenous cow" with the aim to provide scientific solution to conserve and promote the important indigenous cow breeds of the country.

ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute is implementing a research project entitled "Conservation and multiplication of Tharparkar cow" is operational for the improvement of indigenous cattle.

Under All India Coordinated Research Project on Cattle of ICAR- Central Institute for Research on Cattle, Meerut is running project on improvement of three indigenous breeds of cattle- Gir, Kankrej and Sahiwal. The projects are operational at Dantewada, Gujarat for Kankrej, Junagadh for Gir under Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat and ICAR- National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal for Sahiwal.

(b) ICAR Institutes are undertaking following broad research programmes for conducting research on cow milk, curd, buttermilk, ghee, cowdung, urine from the point of view of utility for human life

- (i) Research on nutraceuticals from milk, functional foods with prebiotics, probiotics, micronutrients, and other bioactive compounds for improved human health.
- (ii) Clean milk production with a focus on emerging health concerns and development of new generation tools for ensuring quality control through application of newer chemical and biotechnological concepts.
- (iii) Development of indigenous cattle management system to enhance their productivity
- (iv) Dung and urine management for production of bio-fertilizer for use in organic farming.
- (v) Evaluation of Cow urine and its products for antimicrobial, anti-cancer and immunomodulatory potential.
- (vi) The ways for efficient utilization of ghee residue (GR) and a khoa-based product was prepared. Proximate analysis showed that ghee residue is a rich source of nutrients such as protein, carbohydrates, fat, and energy.
- (vii) Research on milk, cow dung and urine for preparation of Gokashtha and other product from cow dung, utilization of urine in treating animal feed and training is also being provided to stakeholders.

(c) No, Sir. However, considering the importance of the Indigenous Bovines in the country Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India is implementing Rashtriya Gokul Mission for development and conservation of indigenous Bovine breeds, genetic upgradation of bovine population and enhancement of milk production and productivity of bovines thereby making milk production more remunerative to the farmers.