

(d) if so, how many countries have banned Indian poultry products and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Bird flu is a highly contagious disease resulting in huge economic losses in terms of high mortality of birds, culling of birds, fall in production and disruption of trade of poultry and poultry products, thus is a cause of worry to poultry farmers. However, the number of cases of bird flu in the country during the current financial year has not increased in comparison to the ones 5 reported during last financial year. The State Governments are in the state of preparedness, also well equipped and well experienced in carrying out the control and containment operations. In past 12 occurrences, including the last one at CPDO, Hessarghatta, Bangalore, the disease was contained and controlled at the source itself.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the Industry and the Indian Embassies, countries such as Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia had imposed ban on import of poultry products from India due to bird flu. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), had taken up the matter with Indian Missions in these countries with a request to take up the issue with the respective authorities for lifting up the ban.

#### **Use of bull in agriculture**

787. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the ratio of man and animal in 1947 and at present;
- (b) the policy of Government regarding use of bull in agriculture; and
- (c) whether Government encourage use of bull in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The man and animal ratio (livestock) in 1947 and at present is presented in the following table:

(in million)

Year	Man	Animal (Livestock)	Man - Animal Ratio	Remark
1951	361.09	292.80	100 : 81	No population and livestock census was conducted in 1947
2007	1138	529.70	100 : 47	Livestock population as per Livestock Census 2007. Estimated human population for the year 2007.

Source: Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2012, Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Formulation of policy on development of bovine population including draught animals is a State subject and most of the States have a formulated policy for development of bovine population including draught animals. In order to supplement and complement the efforts made by the States the Government is implementing 'National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding' which has focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds. One of the achievements of the project would be increasing the availability of improved draught animals for farm sector. Selective breeding and multiplication of the important draught breeds of cattle in their breeding tract, through both artificial insemination (AI) as well as natural service, will establish regular and continuous supply of high quality draught animals greatly improving the overall draught animal economy in the country.

#### APMC Act

788. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act, supposed to contain farm-produce volatility, has degenerated into a cartel system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?