

Brucella-free Villages

*159. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Bio-technology has launched Brucella-free Villages in certain States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to develop novel diagnostics and vaccination to tackle Brucellosis affecting cattle as well as humans?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. HARSH VARDHAND):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has launched a pilot scale programme on "Brucella-free Villages" for a period of three years in 50 selected villages of 10 states supported by Brucella Laboratories established in DBT network on Brucellosis. The programme involves screening of animal and human population in the selected village through indigenously developed diagnostic kits, vaccination and quarantine of infected cattle. Stakeholders from Village Panchayats, Departments of Animal Husbandry and faculty of veterinary colleges in the States are also involved.

(c) The Department of Biotechnology in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing since 2013, a DBT network on Brucellosis involving 16 centres and more than 80 researchers from National Institutions and State Veterinary Universities. The network involves epidemiology of disease, development of new generation vaccines and diagnostics. Three different diagnostic platforms including that for point of care use to confirmatory test in the laboratory have been developed for detection in humans and animals. A modified animal vaccine experimented in trial on buffalos with success in protecting from disease. Similarly, a human vaccine for use in high risk individuals is also studied.

Implementation of 6th Pay Commission in Maharashtra

*160. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra is awaiting reimbursement from the Central Government for expenditure incurred on 6th Central Pay Commission for teachers and subsequent cadres;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response for the delay in payment; and