

farming with consideration of environmental and geographical aspects before installation of sea cages. The broad criteria adopted for selecting a suitable site for Open Sea Cage Culture are: (i) water depth, (ii) current speed, (iii) domestic/industrial pollution free site, (iv) safe from severe cyclonic/natural calamities, and (v) minimum distance between the cages.

**Non-engagement of poultry farmers in operation  
of battery cages**

2265. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any objections to the notification G.S.R. 335(E), dated 24.04.2019 issued by the Ministry on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Egg Laying Hens) Rules, 2019;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether nearly 24 States have agreed that battery cages are wrong and requested to ensure that no new poultry farmers engage in operation of battery cages; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The Central Government issued draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Egg Laying Hens) Rules, 2019 vide G.S.R. 335( E) dated 29.04.2019 seeking public comments within a period of 30 days of publication of the said notification. The comments or suggestions from various poultry farmers, industries, Non-Governmental Organizations involved in Animal Welfare, Public, State Government etc. have been received on the draft Rules. The Rules have been notified in pursuance of the Direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. As per the direction of the Hon'ble Court, the comments and final Rule need to be submitted to Hon'ble High Court for finalization of Rules by the Hon'ble Court before it is finally notified. Hence, no further information in this regard can be provided in view of the matter is pending before the court.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.