

The Animal Welfare Board has issued advisory on stray animals to all the State Governments/ Union Territories *vide* letter dated 12th July, 2018. The Gaushalas are established to take care of stray animals (s). The Animal Welfare Board encourages such organizations by providing grant-in-aid for taking care of the animals with the budget provided by the Government of India. Apart from the aforementioned actions, many State Governments is also taking various actions for rehabilitating stray cattle.

The Central Government has enacted the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 and amended in 2010. Under the Rules, the local bodies are mandated to carry out the Animal Birth control program to control the street/stray dog population and prevention of rabies. Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 provides for sterilization and vaccination of stray dogs to control the stray dog population and to prevent rabies and to reduce man-dog conflict. The Animal Welfare Board of India is implementing the Scheme of Animal Birth Control and immunization of stray dogs by providing grants-in-aids to the Animal Welfare Organizations and local bodies which are implementing the Animal Birth Control programme.

The Central Government is also implementing sex sorting semen technology for artificial insemination which will produce only female animals. Once this effort is successful, the number of male animals which are left by the farmers will be reduced.

Subsidy for dairy farming

3859. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to introduce subsidies for dairy farming; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been implementing Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme with the objective of generating self employment opportunities in the dairy sector through enhancement of milk production, procurement, preservation, transportation, processing and marketing of milk by providing back-ended capital subsidy @ 25% of the project cost to the General Category and @33.33% of the project cost to SC/ST category farmers under bankable projects through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and financing bank. So far,

altogether, an amount of ₹ 1586.53 crore has been provided by NABARD as subsidy benefitting 371566 beneficiaries upto 30.06.2019.

Detention of Indian fishermen in foreign countries

3860. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian fishermen detained in the jails of various countries, country-wise; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to secure their release and bring them back to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): (a) As received from Ministry of External Affairs, the details of Indian fishermen under the custody of neighboring countries (as on 5th July, 2019) are as under:-

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| 1. | Sri Lanka | - | 5 Indian fishermen |
| 2. | Pakistan | - | 209 Indian and believed to be Indian fishermen |
| 3. | Iran | - | 2 Indian fishermen |

(b) Government attaches highest priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. The matter of apprehension of Indian fishermen and their fishing boats is raised at the highest levels and strong protests are lodged in the countries concerned. It is reiterated to the countries concerned that the fishermen issue may be considered as a purely humanitarian and livelihood concern and there should not be any use of force under any circumstances. As a result of sustained diplomatic efforts by the Government, 2004 Indian fishermen and 380 boats have been released by Sri Lanka Government since May 2014. Similarly, persistent diplomatic efforts of the Government of India have led to release and repatriation of 2080 Indian fishermen and 57 Indian fishing boats from Pakistan's custody since 2014.

Availability of fertilizers to farmers

3861. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate steps have been taken by Government to ensure the availability and timely supply of urea and other fertilizers to the farmers and if so, the details thereof;