

of eligible beneficiaries/households only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, and shall also not be denied from subsidized foodgrains or cash transfer of food subsidy under NFSA due to failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication because of network/ connectivity/ linking issues/ poor biometric of the beneficiary or other technical reasons. It has also been directed that in such cases, benefits under NFSA shall be provided based on physical production of Aadhaar card in place of biometric authentication of beneficiary.

These instructions were re-iterated to all States/UT *vide* letter dated 08/11/2018 that owing to failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication or Aadhaar related failures, no genuine beneficiary shall be denied from foodgrains entitled under NFSA.

Miserable living condition of cattle

728. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the bad treatment of cattle in large scale farms, such as the cattle being forced to live in unacceptable conditions in large, dark rooms without windows/natural sunlight, lie in their own feces all day without good quality feed and lack of healthcare;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken or proposes to take any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) There are some news reports that cattle are being ill-treated and kept in conditions which are unacceptable.

(b) and (c) As per Section 3 of the Prevention of Cruelty Animals Act, 1960, it shall be the duty of every person taking care or charge of any animal to take all reasonable measures to ensure the well-being of such animal and to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering. Cruelty to animals is an offense under Section 11(1) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and its Rules and also as per the provisions of the State laws. Further, Section 11(1) (h) of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 provides that it is a cruelty, if any person, being the owner of (any

animal) fails to provide such animal with sufficient food, drink or shelter and as per the Section 11 (1)(i) it is a Cruelty, if any person, without reasonable cause, abandons any animal in circumstances which tender it likely that it will suffer pain by reason or starvation, thirst and it is also a punishable offense under PCA Act, 1960. The Provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and Rules framed there under need to be implemented by the State Governments.

It is also pertinent to mention that it is the responsibility of the local bodies to ensure that the stray animals including cows are provided proper shelter, water feed and medical care.

The Animal Welfare Board has been recognizing the Animal Welfare Organizations and has recognised 3575 Animal Welfare Organisations which are taking care of old and stray animals. The Animal Welfare Board encourages such organisations by providing Regular Grant, Shelter House Scheme, Animal Birth Control and Ambulances Services Scheme. 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.

Constitution of Central Approval and Monitoring Committee

†729. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central Approval and Monitoring Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Joint Secretary, Fisheries, under the aegis of Department of fisheries towards the development of fishery and welfare of fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of meetings convened by the Committee so far, and the details of the shortcomings observed during these meetings; and

(d) to what extent Government has addressed these shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. A Central Approval and Monitoring Committee (CAMC) under the chairmanship of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.