

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 246
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2023

DEATHS CAUSED BY RABIES

246 SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:
SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:
SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that a significant portion of worldwide Rabies deaths are from India;
- (b) whether Government has identified reasons for this trend and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures Government has taken towards the amelioration and prevention of this issue;
- (d) whether Government is aware of reports suggesting that non-governmental bodies intentionally sabotage the process of stray animal sterilisation;
- (e) if so, the steps Government has taken to curb the same; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government towards promoting the role of city and district-level administration in stray animal population control?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. SATYA PAL SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) to (c): Yes, as per WHO -Association for the Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (APCRI) study (2004) significant portion of worldwide (59000 deaths) Rabies Deaths are from India i.e. 20000 deaths.

Union Health Ministry has launched the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for prevention and control of Rabies. The strategies of National Rabies Control Programme are to conduct training on

appropriate animal bite management, prevention and control of Rabies, surveillance and intersectoral coordination, strengthening surveillance of Animal Bites and Rabies deaths reporting, provision of procurement of Anti-Rabies Vaccine for animal bite victims through the National Free Drug Initiative and IEC activities to create awareness. Further, to effectively control Rabies, 'National Action Plan For Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination (NAPRE) from India by 2030' has also been launched by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare alongwith Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.

(d) to (e): As per Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, there is no specific report for sabotage of the sterilization programme by the NGOs. However, as and when any complaint is received, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), which is a statutory body, verifies such complaints and takes necessary action under the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules.

(f): As per ABC Rules, the project recognition for each ABC Centre is mandatory for conducting Animal Birth Control Program so that the effective implementation of the ABC programme can be carried out by the local bodies on their own or by engaging the services of any Animal Welfare Organization which has the requisite training, expertise and human resources. To facilitate transparent approval process, the AWBI has developed online portal for granting recognition for ABC Project to the Animal Welfare Organization including NGOs.

As per the said ABC Rules, the formation of State Animal Birth Control Implementation and Monitoring Committee and local Animal Birth Control Monitoring Committee are mandatory for effective implementation of Animal Birth Control Programs in accordance with these rules to control the population of street animals, for eradication of rabies and for reducing man-animal conflict. The control of stray animal population is the mandate of the Local Bodies, who are responsible to implement the programme in a transparent and planned manner. The Animal Welfare Board of India is issuing advisories time to time for implementation of Rules. The funding for the ABC programme is arranged by the State Government.
