

Need to launch a comprehensive camel conservation and livelihood scheme-laid

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I would like to highlight the alarming decline in camel populations in Rajasthan. Camels are not just a symbol of our local culture but are also a source of livelihood for the Raika and Rebari communities. According to the 20th Livestock Census, the camel population has decreased from over 4 lakh in 2012 to just 2.5 lakh in 2019. Despite their cultural, ecological, and livelihood importance, camels remain outside the core focus of major central schemes. Multiple studies, including those by ICAR, have found animal husbandry as one of the best adaptation practices against climate change and agrarian distress, especially in ecologically sensitive states like Rajasthan. Yet, the camel herders in Rajasthan face struggles with limited access to veterinary care, market linkages, and camel milk processing infrastructure. I therefore urge the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying to launch a comprehensive Camel Conservation and Livelihood Scheme, which includes subsidies for camel dairy units, incentives for yield improvement, and mobile veterinary clinics. This will help conserve a culturally important species and also support climate-resilient, dignified livelihoods for Rajasthan's pastoralist communities.