

**Regarding need for comprehensive measures to control stray dog menace in Kerala- Laid**

**SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE):** Kerala is facing a growing public safety crisis due to alarming surge in stray dog attacks, with over 2.5 lakh bite cases reported in 2024, many involving children and the elderly. Rabies deaths have intensified public fear and exposed serious flaws in animal control and healthcare systems. The rise in stray dog population stems from poor sterilization drives, ineffective waste management and legal hurdles that block timely action. While animal rights matter, they must be balanced with public safety. Local bodies are overwhelmed and under-resourced. State-wide sterilization & vaccination drives, improved waste management, legal reforms to enable swift municipal action, and support from the Union Government are indeed essential. Special focus must be given to sterilising feral dogs, often left out due to difficulty in capturing them, which leads to their unchecked breeding. On Animal Birth Control program, instead of focusing on docile dogs, feral dogs should be caught and focused upon. As lives of people in Kerala are at risk, the Government must act now.