

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1576
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
IMPORT OF CATTLE FROM AUSTRALIA
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had imported some cattle from Australia;
- (b) if so, whether said cattle are languishing in a quarantine centre in Chennai for some time;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to give approval for release of cattle immediately so that the State Government can go ahead with its cattle breeding programme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a)to(e): Yes, Sir. During April 2002, a total number of 201 breeding cattle were imported by Andhra Pradesh (160 Nos.) and West Bengal (41 Nos.) from Australia. During the post import quarantine in India, some animals tested positive for exotic diseases i.e. Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) and Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF). India is free from these diseases. Therefore, the Government of Australia was approached for deportation of the animals. The exporting country refused to take back the animals. The Government took a decision to euthanise the infected animals. However, in the meantime National Cattle Commission and Bharatiya Prani Mitra Sangh filed a PIL in the High Court of Madras on 19-9-2002. The Madras High Court passed a stay order on 19-9-2002 and the elimination process was kept in abeyance. The High Court also passed an order on 7-4-2003 to release 46 animals that tested negative. But, this was stayed by the Supreme Court by order dated 6-5-2003 in SLP filed by the Government. The matter is sub judice. Therefore, there is no question of releasing the animals from the quarantine station.