

From

Director Animal Husbandry
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-5.

To

1. All Deputy Commissioners
Himachal Pradesh
2. All Deputy Directors,
Animal Health & Breeding
Himachal Pradesh.

23 JAN 2019


SUBJECT: "Guidelines for Setting up of Cow Sanctuaries in Himachal Pradesh".

Sir,

Adopting necessary measures for making Himachal Pradesh stray cattle free is a priority issue of the state government. An important decision taken in this direction is to establish at least one cow sanctuary in each district. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India (GOI) has prescribed broad guidelines on the "Establishment of Cow Sanctuaries" that are not practically replicable in the state of Himachal Pradesh due to limited land resource and topography. Therefore some broad guidelines have been approved by the government for the state, a copy of which is being enclosed herewith.

You are requested to select the site and formulate your project proposal in accordance, with slight modifications if required, as per the practical applicability on the site.

Yours faithfully


Director Animal Husbandry
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-5

Encl: As above

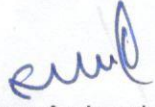
Endst: As above

Dated: Shimla-5

January, 2019

Copy forwarded to

1. Additional Chief Secretary (AH) Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
2. Pvt. Secretary to Chief Secretary Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, w.r.t the Video Conference with Deputy Commissioners held under the chairmanship of worthy, Chief Secretary, on 29-11-18.
3. Pvt. Secretary to hon'ble PR&AH Minister, for information please.
4. MD, HPSEB, for information and necessary action w.r.t No.3, under heading Miscellaneous Points of the guidelines enclosed, please.
5. Engineer in Chief, IPH, for information and necessary action w.r.t No.3, under heading Miscellaneous Points, of the guidelines enclosed, please.


Director Animal Husbandry
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-5

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Guidelines for Establishing Cow Sanctuaries in Himachal Pradesh

The following broad guidelines have been approved by the government for the state keeping in view the topography and limited land resource available:

SELECTION OF LAND: 1. As per the GOI guidelines preference should be given to big patches of land lying unused and unoccupied. Semi- forests or culturable wastelands which can easily be developed into grazing lands should be preferred and the average size of a Cow Sanctuary has been suggested 500 hectares (around 6200 bigahs) out of which 350 to 400 hectares should be earmarked for natural and fodder grasses. The GOI suggests that the state government may set apart land for the purpose and provide it to managing agencies on lease basis.

However for the state of Himachal Pradesh, keeping in view the limited land resource we may modify the selection of land. Wherever huge patches semi- forests or culturable wastelands are available these should be preferred, but we may also make efforts to establish smaller units which may house a minimum of 300 cows in 300 bigahs of land @ 1 bigah per cow. Even if 50% of the land has a scope for being used for raising fodder or planting fodder trees such sites should be selected. Where ever required the FCA (Forest Conservation Act) cases may be got prepared for NPV (Net Present Value) and in such a manner that minimum felling of trees is involved.

2. The GOI guidelines suggest that cow sanctuaries be established for rehabilitating cows from cities and towns and Gosadans be set up in rural areas. In the perspective of our state the Cabinet Sub-committee of hon'ble ministers has suggested that cluster approach be followed and big Gosadans be set up in rural areas. So such proposals may be also considered for regions where possibility for sanctuaries is bleak due to non-availability of suitable land.

DEVELOPMENT OF LAND & INFRASTRUCTURE:

1. Fodder Development: As per GOI guidelines the State Forest Department can act as nodal agency for developing vegetative cover in cow sanctuary area. In the perspective of Himachal the land resource being limited, the maximum feasibility for growing perennial grasses, fodder trees can be got implemented through departments like Forest, Agriculture, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, through MNREGA or through Temple Trusts or NGOs as deemed appropriate by the District Administration. Scope for cultivating fodder and allowing in cattle on rotational grazing basis should be preferred to make the projects self sustainable in the longer run.

2. As per GOI guidelines the entire sanctuary is required to be fenced with barbed wire to ensure that cows live and graze within the enclosed area. In our state we can use natural barriers like cliffs, rocks boulders, thickets, bushes etc. to cut down on cost and fence the susceptible entry / exit points with barbed wire in such a manner that the cows rehabilitated in the sanctuary cannot break through.

3. Veterinary unit, few cowsheds, living quarters for care takers, lighting arrangements, cow urine and dung product units should be planned in consonance with the GOI guidelines. Where ever there is scope for natural shelters like cliff cantilevers etc. these may be developed as much as possible to reduce the input costs. **Total shelter space to be made available per cow should be around 3.5 sq m (37 sqft).** Since the model to be implemented in the state is likely to be a semi-grazing partly stall fed one, scope for hay store, feed store, feeding mangers and watering troughs may be incorporated.

Ample water storage, drinking water ponds, harvesting flowing water from natural sources may be taken into consideration or else borewells may be planned.

TRANSPORT OF COWS

As per the GOI guidelines transportation of stray cows from towns / cities to cow sanctuaries should be the responsibility of concerned local body such as Municipal Corporation, Council and Nagar Palika. In our state the local veterinary staff shall provide technical assistance to the local bodies as and when required for the purpose.

FEEDING ARRANGEMENTS

The GOI guidelines suggest that adequate arrangements should be made in the sanctuary area for drinking water and fodder. In the initial phase of the project, cows may require to be fed by transporting fodder from outside.

In consonance with this advice but due to limited land resources we may ensure round the clock fodder and water availability and as elicited under the head "land development".

MANAGEMENT OF COW SANCTUARY

As per the guidelines of GOI the management of Cow Sanctuary may be entrusted with some non-governmental organisation of repute having experience in Cow culture and organic farming. The governmental aid should restrict itself to infrastructure, HRD, veterinary facilities, technical use of cow-dung, cow urine and carcass.

In perspective of our state preference should be given to NGOs, Temple Trusts, Panchayats and local bodies. Since it may be difficult to find out reputed NGOs having interest in cow culture the scope has been widened.

MISCELLANEOUS POINTS:

1. The District Administration if can execute the civil works and link the running of these sanctuaries with MNREGA etc., it may be considered so and the decision taken at the Government level.
2. To begin with the area of Cow sanctuaries should in first instance be fenced and sheds, care taker residence, hay store be constructed along with arrangements for drinking water and electricity. The rest of the project can be developed in due course of time.
3. Electricity and water connections @ domestic rates may be provided on priority by the HPSEB & IPH departments as per the orders of the state government.