

## Preservation and Improvement of Cattle Wealth of the Indian Union

By

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The Indian Union is a Secular State and all the great leaders have taken no end of trouble to proclaim this fact. The definition of Secular State emphasises that this state is purely worldly and not bound by any religious dogmas. Nevertheless we are having in the constitution that the cow should not be slaughtered in the Union. If this is to be symbolic to indicate unity of life and how we intend respecting the same it may be alright. But if we mean to put this into effect literally we are trying to do the impossible and consequently impracticable.

From the recent figures with regard to cattle population in the Union given, we note the following :

Number of Zebu in the Indian Dominion :

	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Buffaloes</i>
Cows	28,325,570	12,234,049
Bullocks	37,813,546	4,123,762
Young Stock	25,917,508	9,931,257
Useless	2,744,583	658,188
Total	94,801,207	26,937,256
Sheep	...	22,568,101
Goats	..	30,538,214
Poultry	...	70,748,985

Figures in respect of pigs, horses, mules and camels are not available.

Human population in the Union : 390 millions.

It is difficult to know how these figures have been gathered. If by useless stock is meant only old, and decrepit, it is probably a fair estimate. It would then mean that no account is taken of inefficient animals—barren cows, heifers not coming to heat and a large number of young stock that would never grow to be useful.

Add to this the efficiency of the Veterinary Departments in this country in combating diseases. It is computed that death rate mortality due to Rinderpest, H. S., Foot and Mouth diseases. Black quarter is about 20.61 per 10,000. This is the situation despite the fact that we are very badly in need of adequate Veterinary staff to go round the contry. All the

Veterinary Colleges are producing more and more men each year and various laboratories are also producing vaccines and drugs to protect the livestock population of the country.

The picture would not be complete if it is not mentioned that in addition to the vast human population in this country, there is no birth control being practised by the population—human diseases are being combated by efficient doctors assisted by up-to-date and well equipped hospitals and malnutrition is being combated by rationing with its vast ramifications of procurement, purchase from abroad and grow more food campaign. To make things a bit more exciting many countries including Asiatic countries are getting rid of their Indian population and they are all coming to this country.

In short this is a very sketchy picture of the population and food situation in this country. Though what has been said is sketchy like modern art, one has to view the picture in the mind and put in a lot of things on the canvas which have been omitted perhaps by accidents. Some of the things not mentioned in that are the area of India is constant, forest grazing has been ruined by over-grazing and forest areas have already gone below the 20% figure which is considered a normal requirement of a country to keep up proper balance in many ways including weather. Add to this periodicity in disasters in this world in various ways due to effect of sun spots.

Having seen the picture it will be noticed that both the livestock and the humans are competing very hard for food and the race will go on until money can buy from foreign markets, but it must be remembered this policy cannot be long lived because of general food deficiency in the whole world. Lord Orr has been crying hoarse about the situation and a world Bank for food for human is being organised.

When these start facts face the world and the Indian Union in particular is it fair to either to the rest of the world or to us to consider any planning for the future blinded by overpowering sentimentalism which prevails all round us? As scientists, economists, administrators and enlightened people as we wish to be known, let this important problem be handled in a scientific manner with one simple goal of self sufficiency. Indian Union cannot afford to import food continuously and in case of a world conflagration it would be impossible for even money to procure because we have not a first rate navy, and air force to make imports possible. Since our policy is not to be aggressive we can only work at self sufficiency.

If this has to be made possible there is no room for sentimentalism especially when it is borne in mind that the Indian Union is a secular state. It is no use deluding ourselves by the cattle population figures of

other countries like Scandinavia, Canada, South America, Australia and New Zealand and saying that cattle population far exceeds the human population. The real fact is in most of these countries livestock farming is done on a large scale, the human population is null and there are vast areas for the cattle to find adequate food. There is also no use in saying that we cannot kill cattle particularly as we cannot kill say ones grand-parents because they have grown useless at present. As a matter of availability of food in the end would decide the issue even with the humans e.g. witness various famines which affect this country periodically. It may be pointed out that in the past in India and other countries the very old were left in the forest with a little ration to perish, so that they may not affect the food problem of the country.

In the cycle of life, plants get their nutriments from the air and soil and with the help of the sun manufacture their own protoplasm. The animals live on plant life and in turn live on each other. Even among human beings there is no one who is not consuming animal food in some form or other and in turn his body is continuously fighting various types of parasites that are living in him and if balance is not maintained the body as such perishes:

Now coming to the cattle problems of the Indian Union it is for us to decide how we can solve the urgent problem facing us. From a survey of the livestock in the country it is seen that the livestock in most of the parts are poor and thus inefficiency for production either for work or milk. Each state or province is making efforts to improve livestock. In addition to improvement directly by breeding there is the question of carrying out mixed farming wherever suitable so as to increase fodder supply. Recently Dr. Nath has also reviewed the position regarding availability of fodder in the country. From his conclusions it is seen that mixed farming in addition to conservation and increase of water supply for growing fodder and food for human requirements and better utilisation of fodder grasses available in abundance in the forest areas during the rainy seasons will go a long way to minimise deficiencies. But even increase in food production cannot quite solve the problem because increase of food in this country also increases in the number of mouths to be fed. In spite of all these efforts made in this direction, no lasting improvement can be effected until the breeding stock is limited to efficient animals and the livestock population is also controlled so that only useful animals will make the best use of the available fodder in the country. If the problem is viewed from this angle it will not take many years to be able to reach our goal. It will not be difficult to plan out to achieve this end if there is co-operation between the public, Government and the scientists of the country.

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