



Gau Sadan Scheme

At a Glance

Functions

Following the Delhi Agricultural Cattle Preservation Act, 1994 that prohibited slaughter of cattle, the Delhi government provided subsidies to NGOs to establish 10 Gau Sadans in Delhi.

Findings

- According to the Animal Husbandry Department, 251 acres of land had been allotted for the construction of Gau Sadans. Around 50% of the allotted land is lying unutilised.
- A survey conducted by the Planning Department of the Delhi government revealed that the number of cattle in seven Gau Sadans put together was less than the capacity of three Gau Sadans.
- In 2001, the government spent total of Rs 1,49,22,164 for the 3,379 cattle. The expenditure per cow is Rs 4,416, more than the per student expenditure in a government school.
- A large number of stray cattle can still be seen roaming on roads, and within the Sadans, the mortality rate of cattle continues to be high.

Reforms

- Many of the stray cattle in Delhi are healthy, productive cattle left in the city for free fodder. The government should pick them up and auction them off. Also all cattle should be registered, so that owners can be fined on the spot if their animals are found stray. This would reduce the number of 'stray' cattle significantly.