



# New Guidelines for Poultry Farmers

## Why in News

According to new guidelines for poultry farmers, **small and marginal poultry farmers in India** will now have to **take measures similar to their bigger counterparts to prevent environmental pollution.**

- Till now, small poultry farms in India were **exempt from environmental laws.**
- In 2020, the [National Green Tribunal](#) stated that the [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#) should revisit the **guidelines for keeping poultry farms in the green category and free from air, water and environmental protection laws.**

## Status of Poultry Birds in India

- According to the [20<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census](#), there are **851.8 million poultry birds in India.**
  - About **30% of this is 'backyard poultry' or small and marginal farmers.**
- **Chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese,** etc, are reared in poultry farms for meat and eggs.
- Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Assam and Kerala have the **highest poultry populations.**

## Key Points

- **Major Provisions:**
  - **New Definition of Poultry Farmer:**
    - Small Farmers: 5,000-25,000 birds
    - Medium Farmers: More than 25,000 and less than 1,00,000 birds
    - Large Farmers: More than 1,00,000 birds
  - **Certificate of Consent Required:**
    - For establishing and **operating a medium-sized poultry farm.**
    - This will have to be taken from the [State Pollution Control Board](#) or Committee under the **Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981.**
    - Permission will be **valid for 15 years.**
  - **Implementing Agency:**
    - The **Animal Husbandry Department** will be responsible for implementing the guidelines at the state and district level.
  - **Reducing Pollution:**
    - Poultry farms should have a **ventilated room to reduce the gaseous pollution from the birds.**
    - Also, care should be taken so that **poultry faeces do not mix with running**

**water or any other pesticide.**

- A farm should be set up 500 metres away from a residential area, 100 metres from rivers, lakes, canals and drinking water sources, 100 metres from national highways and 10-15 metres from village footpaths and rural roads.

▪ **Need:**

- Poultry production is associated with a **variety of environmental pollutants**, including oxygen-demanding substances, ammonia, solids, besides it attracts flies, rodents, dogs and other pests that create local nuisances and carry diseases.
  - Poor management of manure, litter and wastewater etc. adversely affects the living in the vicinity.
- Furthermore, intensive poultry production **may be responsible for [greenhouse gasses](#), [acidification](#) and [eutrophication](#).**
- The NGT in 2020 said that **sustainable development is a part of the right to life** and the state authorities are under obligation to protect the environment as per sustainable development concept.

▪ **Some Initiatives for Poultry:**

◦ **Poultry Venture Capital Fund (PVCF):**

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing it under “Entrepreneurship development and Employment generation” (EDEG) of the National Livestock Mission.
- It is a bankable programme and the Central Government is providing subsidy through [National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development \(NABARD\)](#) for those beneficiaries taking loan for PVCF.

◦ **National Livestock Mission:**

- Different programmes under the [National Livestock Mission](#) under which financial assistance is provided to States/Union Territories for implementation of Rural Backyard Poultry Development (RBP) and Innovative Poultry Productivity Project (IPPP).

◦ **Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD) Scheme:**

- ASCAD under “**Livestock Health and Disease Control**” (LH&DC) which covers the **vaccination of economically important poultry diseases** viz., Ranikhet Disease, Infectious Bursal Disease, Fowl Pox etc., including control and containment of emergent and exotic diseases like [Avian Influenza](#).

[Source: DTE](#)

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