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# Nashik & Sinnar talukas likely to face fodder shortage for cattle by May-end

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Nashik/Kolhapur: With Nashik and Sinnar talukas likely to face fodder shortage for cattle by May-end or early June, the animal husbandry department has decided to make the fodder available from neighbouring talukas.

According to the officials from the animal husbandry department, barring Nashik and Sinnar talukas, fodder availability is at a good stage at other places despite drought and water scarcity.

“In Nashik taluka, there are no resources for the cattle in the city, hence the taluka depends on the fodder import. In the case of Sinnar taluka, there is fodder scarcity because of a lack of farming activity owing to water scarcity. But there is no reason to worry,”

said an official.

A section of farmers in Sinnar have started shifting cattle to their relatives' places where they can get fodder and water. For others who need fodder, it will be made available through the channels if and when such a demand is raised. The department is keeping a close watch on the daily developments,” said the official.

Eight of the 15 talukas have the fodder to sustain till June-end. The demand, thereafter, will have to be looked into.

“There is ample fodder in the other villages which can suffice the need of the cattle till June-end. We hope the monsoon sets in by May-end. If this happens the fodder will be available naturally. However, if there is no rainfall till June 10, the department will take appropriate steps,” he said.

No scarcity in Jat, says Sangli collector

Meanwhile, Sangli collector Raja Dayanidhi said there is no shortage of fodder for cattle, especially in drought-hit Jat tehsil.

For the past few days, the farmers have been demanding fodder camps to be set up for their cattle, claiming that the fodder has become costly.

In a statement issued, Sangli collector said, “There is adequate fodder available in Jat. We are providing water tankers. The deployment of water tankers will increase as per the need.”

Dayanidhi said fodder management has been done since last year after learning that there might be a shortage due to crop loss, owing to rainfall deficiency. Some parts of Sangli district are still rain-fed. The authorities claimed that the water was released into the canals and the farmers were given seeds of fodder crops, which have grown. The local agriculture staffers have been asked to survey the fodder demand. The farmers claimed that due to fodder shortage, the milk production and thereby, the income of the farmers has declined.

Tankers deployed in

705 villages

Pune divisional commissioner Chandrakant Pulkundwar, during his visit to Kolhapur on Saturday, said that water tankers have been deployed for 705 villages from the Pune division.