

## Bengal Registers 20 Per Cent Rise in Milk Production

Focuses on artificial breeding activities

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Kolkata: West Bengal has registered a 20 per cent annual rise in cattle milk production in the past two years and it is giving credit to artificial cattle breeding activities for this.

The state minister for animal resources development, Swapan Debnath, today said that prior to 2011, cattle milk farming used to be carried out only in 100-odd blocks in Bengal.

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“Now, milk farming takes place in all the 341 blocks in the state and this had led to the production of 53.87-lakh metric tons milk per annum. This is a net increase of 20 per cent,” Debnath said.

The minister gave credit for this to the impetus for artificial cattle breeding activities.

**“SO FAR, 38.56-LAKH ARTIFICIAL CATTLE BREEDING ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN THE STATE, AND WE HAVE DISBURSED AN INTENSIVE OF RS 46.95-LAKH TO MILKMEN IN THE CURRENT YEAR ITSELF,” HE MAINTAINED.**

Asked about the busting of adulterated cattle milk units in Kolkata in recent times, Debnath said that his department will soon undertake inspection drive of all milk packaging units in the state.

The inspection drive will be jointly carried by officers of the state government and the Centre’s Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).