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Q. Separate ministry for animal husbandary can bring fresh momentum to the growth of livestock sector. Do you agree with this view? Critically analyse.

Ans: Livestock and fisheries have together registered an average growth rate of six times more than that in the crop sector between 2012-13 to 2016-17. By considering the growing ^{significance} ~~demand~~ ^{and} a separate ministry of animal husbandary, dairying and fisheries is created for the best time.

Benefits :-

→ Now the ministry can independently regulate the sector, which was previously under the Mo Agriculture and Farmers welfare and treated as a sub sector or allied sector.
(MoA & FW)

→ The policy focus of Mo A & FW is highly skewed towards the crop cultivation sector which neglected the livestock sector despite of their growing significance. For eg. PM KISAN scheme

→ India is largest producer of milk and second largest producer in the field of fisheries. This sector deserved to have a separate ^{downwards} ministry ~~to~~ ^{dedicated} its development.

→ As this sector now came under a full fledged ministry, it will have significantly higher budget allocation.

→ It will further help in assessment of actual situation and exact growth figures of agricultural sector which was previously adjusted with livestock sector.

Challenges :-

→ Both these sectors are integrally linked to each other. It will create conflicts between the ministries at the time of policy making.

→ It might further encourage fisheries dept to create separate ministry of its own for the sake of blue revolution.

→ It may lead to duplication of govt and quasi govt agencies like Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & National Agricultural Research Council (NARC) into separate agencies of agriculture and veterinary / fisheries.

→ Different policies can affect these farmers who practice both agriculture and livestock in off season.

As livestock sector plays a vital role in country's economy, an independent ministry can help to push its growth to the next level. But to ensure this, a smooth coordination with agricultural sector is necessary.