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**DIFFICULTIES FACED BY RIDERS REGARDING QUARANTINE
PROTOCOL WHILE IMPORTING EQUESTRIAN SPORTS HORSE**

1. Equestrian Sports has had a glorious past and brought laurels to the country on many occasions. Unlike other sports, Equestrian sport involves a perfect combination of the Horse and the Rider to act as one to achieve reckonable results. Although we have excellent riders in our country, the quality of horses that are being used by riders of other countries are far superior than the quality of horses we have in India. For obtaining desired results at National, Asian and Olympic level there is a requirement to import excellent quality pedigree warm blood sporting horses. For this purpose many of our riders have imported horses from European countries in the past but have found great difficulties due to procedural complications and lack of facilities for horses at the Quarantine facilities at Kapashera while importing and exporting.

2. Some of the difficulties faced by our riders in importing quality horses are enumerated below :-

(a) As per procedure invoked by DGFT and Min of Agriculture the details of horses to be imported have to be forwarded to concerned Ministry before approval of import license. Once the rider selects and purchases a horse, thereafter he forwards its details to procure licence from concerned authority who takes a minimum of 90 days to issue licence. This results in loss of time.

(b) The Quarantine facility in Kapashera is inadequate to meet the needs of imported sporting horses who require regular exercise including mounted work by the riders. As a result, horses that arrive in top athletic condition have to stand for 2 to 3 weeks without exercise and training/schooling, resulting in loss of condition, behavioural problems and drop in performance.