MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF ANIMALS & BIRDS
IN MUGHAL INDIA

In the Mughal Empire, the animals and birds were taken care in a very systematic way, there were special arrangements of food, ornaments and servants were also hired for the proper care of them. In that period, the food was provided to the elephants according to their category, capacity, age and size. Each class was divided into three subdivisions, viz., large sized, middle, and young ones; the last class contained ten kinds. A certain quantity of food was fixed for each class. Previously the elephants were not categorized that is why a large quantity of food and fodder was wasted upon them. But when Akbar noticed this, he inquired into the matter and issued wise regulations for guidance to provide food properly.¹

Each male and female was given food according to its size quality and capacity which is given as (1). Mast elephants – large ones got daily 2 mans 24 sers, middle sized, 2 m.19 s., small ones, 2 m. 14 s., (2) Shergirs. Large ones, 2 m. 9 s., middle sized ones, 2 m. 4 s., small ones, 1 m. 9 s., (3) Sadas – large ones, 1 m. 34 s., middle sized ones, 1 m. 39 s., small ones, 1 m. 24 s., (4) Manjholas – large ones, 1 m. 22 s., middle sized ones, 1 m. 20 s., small ones, 1 m.18 s., (5) Karhas – large ones, 1 m. 14 s., middle sized ones, 1 m. 9 s., small ones, 1 m. 4 s., (6) Phandurkiys – large ones, 1 m., middle sized ones, 36 s., small ones – 32 s., (7) Mokals – large ones, 26 s., middle sized ones, 25 s., third class 22 s., Fourth class, 20 s., fifth class, 18 s., sixth class, 16 s., seventh class, 14 s., eight class, 12 s., ninth class, 10 s., tenth class, 8 s.²

Similarly, the female elephants were also divided into four classes, i.e. large ones, middle sized ones, small ones, and mokals. The first two class were again divided into three, the third into four, the fourth into nine subdivisions (1)

² Ibid., p. 132.
Large ones or big ones got 1 mans, 22 s.; middling 1 m, 18 s.; small ones, 1 m.
14 s.; (2) middle sized ones. Big 1 m. 10 s.; middling, 1 m., 6 s.; small 1 m. 2
s.; (3) small ones. Big, 37 s.; middling 32 s.; small 27 s., still smaller, 22 s.; (4)
Mokals – first class, 22 s.; second 20 s.; third 18 s.; fourth 16 s.; fifth 14 s.;
sixth 12 s.; seventh, 10 s.; eighth 8 s.; ninth 6 s. This was the division of the
food material which was provided to the elephants time to time. 3

Since Akbar had been very fond of this animal and collected it in a large
number, he appointed many elephant-keepers to look after them. A proper rank
was assigned in such a manner as he had proper knowledge of the animal. The
servants of the elephant stables were divided according to their seven divisions,
and a Mahawant was assigned to each elephant. These classes were as, 1. Mast
elephants – there were five and a half servants for each including a Mahawant,
who sit on the neck of the animal and directs it movements. He was acquainted
with good and bad qualities of this animal and thus, contributed much to its
usefulness. He got 200 dams per month, but if the elephant used to be a
khutahar, i.e., wicked and addicted to pulling down the driver, than he got 220
dams. Secondly, a Bhoi, who sits behind, upon the rump of the elephant, and
assists in battle and in quickening the speed of the animal, but he often
performed the duties of Mahawant. His monthly pay was 110 dams. Thirdly,
the Meths, of whom there were three and one half, or only three in case of
small elephants. The Meth used to fetch fodder, and assisted in caparisoning the
elephant. Meths of all classes got on the march four dams daily, and at other
times three and a half.

2. Shergir: For every Shergir, there were five servants, and a Mahawant
appointed at 180 dams, a bhoi at 103 dams and three Meths as before.

3. Sada: For every sada, there were four and a half servants, and a Mahawant
at 160 dams, 9 Bhois at 90 dams, and two and a half Meths.

3. Ibid., p. 132.
4. **Manjhola**: For every *Manjhola*, there were four servants, a *Mahawant* at 140 dams, a *Bhoi* at 80 dams and two *Meths*.

5. **Karha**: For every 'Karha', there were three and a half servants, and a 'mahawant' at 120 *dam*, a *Bhoi* at 70 *dam* and one and a half *Meths*.

6. **Phandurkiya**: For every *Phandurkiya* there were two servants, and a 'Mahawant' at 100 *dam*, and a *Meth*.

7. **Mokal**: For every 'Mokal' there were likewise two servants and a 'Mahawant' at 50 *dam*, and a 'Meth'.

Special arrangements of servants and caretakers were made for female elephants too. 1. The large sized female elephant had four servants, and a 'Mahawant' at 100 *dam*, a *Bhoi* at 60 *dam* and two *Meths*. 2. Middle sized ones had three and a half servants and a *Mahawant* at 80 *dam*, a *Bhoi* at 50 *dam*, and one and a half *Meths*. 3. The small ones had two servants and a *Mahawant* at 60 *dam*, and a *Meth*. 4. *Mokals* had likewise two servants, and a *Mahawant* at 60 *dam*, and a *Meth*. 4

Akbar appointed a superintendent over every troop of ten, twenty, and thirty elephants. Such a troop was called a *halqa*, the superintendent was called *Faujdar*. His business was to look after the condition and the training of the elephants. He used to teach them to be bold, and to stand firm at the sight of fire and at the noise of artillery, and he was responsible for their behaviour in these respects. There were other officers also like *sadi* (a commander of one hundred), *Bistis* (a commander of twenty), *Dahbhashis* (a commander of ten) and *Hazaris* (commanders of one thousand) etc.

The above arrangement regarding the servants was not thought sufficient by Akbar, who had much experience in this matter. He therefore put several *halqas* in the charge of every grandee and required him to look after

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4. Ibid., p. 133.
them. The fodder also had been supplied by the government. Besides, a trustworthy clerk was appointed, who was the in charge of correspondence of this branch who looked after the receipts and expenditure and saved that the orders of Akbar are carried out. He also paraded the elephants in the order.⁵

It was very interesting to maintain and to keep these elephants properly. A number of equipments were there for the maintenance of these elephants. We have information of a considerable number of these equipments which are following:

1. The *Dharma* was a large chain, made of iron, gold or silver. It was made of sixty oval links, each weighing three *sers*, but the chain differed in length and thickness according to the strength of the elephant. One end of the chain was fixed in the ground, or fastened to a pillar; the other end was tied to the left hind leg of the elephant. Formerly, they fastened this chain to the forefoot, but as this was injurious for the chest of the elephant Akbar ordered to discontinue the use of it.

2. The *Andu* was a chain, with which both forefeet were tied. As it annoyed the elephant, Akbar ordered it to be discontinued.

3. The *Beri* was a chain for fastening both hind feet.

4. The *Baland* was a fetter for the hind feet, an invention of Akbar. It allowed the elephants to walk, but prevented him from running.

5. The *Loh langar* was long chain, suitable for an elephant. The chain twists round his leg, and the log will annoy the animal to such extent that it necessarily stops. This useful invention, which has saved many lives, and protected huts and walls, was also introduced by Akbar.

6. The *Charkhi* was a piece of hollowed bamboo half a yard and two *tassujes* long, and had a hole in the middle. It was covered with sinews and filled with gunpowder and used formerly, in order to separate two elephants that

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⁵ Ibid., pp. 133-34.
were fighting, they used to light a fire, but people had much trouble, as it seldom had the desired effect. Akbar invented the present method, which was hailed by all.

7. The *kanar* was a small pointed spike, half a yard long. This they likewise attached to the *kalawa*, and prick the elephant’s ears with it in order to make the animal wild or to urge it on.

8. The *Pichwa* was a belt made of ropes and was fastened over the buttocks of the elephant. It is a support for the *Bhoi*, and of much use to him in firing.

9. The *Pakhar* was like an armour, and was made of steel, there were separate pieces for the head and the trunk.

10. The *Gaj jhamp* was a covering put as an ornament above the *pakhar*. It looks grand. It was made of three folds of canvas, put together and sewn with broad ribbons being attached to the outside. Besides these there were several other ornaments and equipments like *Gaddh beri, Andhiyari, Kilawa, Dulthi, Dor, Gadela, Gudauti, Qutas, Gateli, Ankus*, and *Gad* etc. But it is impossible to describe all the equipments and ornamental trappings of elephants.6

For each *mast* and *shergir* and *sada*, seven pieces of cotton cloth were annually allowed, each at a price of $8\frac{1}{2}$ dams. Also, four coarse woolen pieces, called in Hindi *Kambal* (blanket), at 10 d. each, and eight ox hides, each at 8 d. For *Manjhola* and *Karna* elephants, four of the first, three of the second, and seven of the third, were allowed. For *Phandurkiyas*, and *Mokals*, and female elephants, three of the first, two of the second, four of the third. The saddle was made of cloth, lining, and stuff for edging it round about, for sewing, half a ser of cotton thread way allowed. For every man of grain, the *halqa-dar* was allowed ten *sers* of iron for chain, etc., at 2 d. per *ser*; and for every hide, one *ser* of sesame oil, at 60 d. per *man*. Also 5 s coarse cotton threads for the

kalawa of the elephant on which the Faujdar used to ride at 8d per ser, but for
other elephants, the men had to make one of leather, etc. at their own expense.
A sum of twelve dams was annually subtracted from the servants, but they got
the worn out articles.⁷

Besides all these elephants there were some other elephants especially for
the use of the Akbar. They were called khasa elephants. Abul Fazl described
that there were one hundred and one elephants selected for the use of Akbar'.
Their allowance of food was the same in quantity as that of the other elephants,
but it differed in quality. Most of them also got 5 s. of sugar, 4 s. of ghee, and
half a man of rice mixed with chilies, cloves etc. and some had one and a half
man of milk in addition to their grain. In the sugarcane season, each elephant
got daily 300 sugarcanes, for two month more or less and the Emperor used to
take place of the Mahawant.

Each elephant required three bhois in the rutting season, and two, when
cool. Their monthly wages varied from 120 to 400 d., and were fixed by
emperor himself. For each elephant there were four Meths. In the Halqas,
female elephants were but rarely told off to accompanying big male ones, but
for each Khasa elephant there were three and sometimes even more appointed.
First class big female elephants had two and one half Meths, second class do,
two, third class do., one and one half; for the other classes as in the Halqas.

As each Halqa was in the charge of one of the grandees, so was every
Khasa elephant put in charge of one of them. Likewise, for every ten Khasa
elephants, a professional man was appointed, who was known as Dahaidar.
They drew twelve, ten and eight rupees per mensem. Besides, an active and
honest superintendent was appointed for every ten elephants. He was known as
Naqib (watcher) and he had to submit a daily report specially, when elephants

⁷. Ibid., p. 136.
ate little or got a shortened allowance, or in cases of sickness, or when anything unusual happened.\(^8\)

In order to prevent laziness and to ensure attentiveness Emperor Akbar, as for all other departments, had fixed a list of fines. On the death of a male or a female khasa elephant the bhois were fined with three months wages. If any part of the harness was lost, the bhois and Meths were fined two thirds of the value of the article, but in the case of a saddle cloth they had to pay the full price, when a female elephant died from starvation, or through want of care, the Bhois had to pay the cost price of the animal.\(^9\)

It is very interesting that like all the arrangements of the elephants, the emperor tried to keep the cheetahs and provided food to them properly. The cheetahs were categorized into the eight classes and the food was given according to its class. The first class cheetahs got 5 ser of meat every day, second class, 4½ s., third class, 4 s., fourth class 3¾ s., fifth class 3½ s., sixth class 3½ s., seventh class, 3s., eighth class, 2¾ s. The meat was given in a lump, and as on Sundays no animals were killed, so double the daily portion was given on Saturdays. Previously every six months, but now annually, four sers of butter and one-tenth of a ser of brimstone were given as ointment, which prevented itch.\(^10\)

There were four men appointed to train and look after each cheetah, but now there were three men told off for such cheetahs as used to sit on horses, when taken to the hunting ground, and only two for such as sit on carts and on dolies. The wages of the keepers varied from 30 Rs. to 105 Rs. per mensem, but they had at the same time to look after the cattle which drew the cheetah in the carts. The servants who looked after the cattle were divided into seniors and juniors, each class being subdivided into five divisions. The seniors got 300 d., 260 d., 220 d., 200 d, and 180 d., which were the lowest allowance, while the

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8. Ibid., p. 137.
9. Ibid., p. 139.
10. Ibid., pp. 297-98.
juniors got 160 d., 140 d., 120 d., 110 d., and 100 d. For the sake of show, the cheetah got brocaded saddle cloth; chain studded with jewels, coarse blankets and Gushkani carpets to sit on. Each cheetah had a name which indicated some of his qualities. Every ten leopards form a Misl or Taraf (set), were also divided according to their rank as follows. There were one thousand cheetahs were kept in the park of Akbar and an interesting encampment was formed. The best cheetah which was named samand-manik, was carried on a chau-dol, and preceded with much pomp. His servants were fully equipped, run at his side, the naqqara (a large drum) was beaten in front and sometimes he was carried by two men on horseback. A tame, trained cheetah had the doly carried by three men, others by two.\footnote{Ibid., p. 300.}

The considerable quantity of food was given to the horses accordingly. A khasa horse was formerly allowed eight sers fodder per diem, when the ser weighed twenty eight dams and after that the ser was fixed at thirty dams now a khasa horse got seven and a half sers. In winter, they gave boiled peas or vetch while in summer, grain. The daily allowance was included with two sers of flour and one and a half sers of sugar. In winter, before the horse got fresh grass, they gave it half a ser of ghee. Two dams were daily allowed for hay, but hay was not given when fresh grass was available. About three bighas of land yielded sufficient fodder for a horse. When, instead of sugar, the horses got molasses, they used to stop the ghee, and during the season of fresh grass they gave no grain for the first three days, but allowed afterwards six ser of grain and two sers of molasses per diem. In other Iraqi and Turki stables, they gave the grain boiled, an allowance of one dam being given for boiling one man of it. The horses also used get once a week a quarter ser of salt. In winter, each horse got a bigha of fresh oats, the price of which at court was 240 d, and in the country 200 d. At the time of fresh oats, each horse got two mans of molasses, the same quantity being subtracted from the allowance of grain. Experienced officers, attached to the Imperial offices, calculated the amount required and
made out an estimate, which in due course was paid when a horse was sick, every necessary expense was paid on the certificate of the horse doctor.\(^\text{12}\)

There were a number of articles and ornaments used for these horses. It is difficult to describe the various ornaments, jewels, and trappings, used for the \textit{khasa} horses on which the emperor Akbar used to ride. For the whole outfit of a \textit{khasa} horse, the allowance was 277\(\frac{1}{2}\) d. per annum, i.e., an \textit{Artak}, or horse quilt, of wadded chintz, 47 d., a \textit{yalposh} (a covering for the name), 32 d., a woollen towel, 2d. – these three articles were renewed every six months, in lieu of the old \textit{artak}, half the cost price was deducted, and one sixth for the old \textit{yalposh}, a saddle cloth, the outside of which was woven of hair, the lining being felt, 42 d., halters for the \textit{nukhta} (headstall) and the hind feet, 40 d., a \textit{pusht tang} (girth), 8 d., a \textit{magasran} (a horse tail to drive away flies), 3d., a \textit{nukhta} and \textit{qayza} (the bit), 14 d., a curry-comb, 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) d., a grain bag, 6 d., a basket, in which the horse got its grain, 14 d. These articles were given annually, and fifteen \textit{dams}, ten \textit{jetals}, subtracted in lieu of the old ones.

In the other stables, the allowance for horses whose value was not less than twenty-one \textit{muhurs}, was 196\(\frac{1}{2}\) d per annum, the rate of the articles being the same. Twenty five and a half damds were subtracted in lieu of the old articles.

In the stables of horses worth twenty to eleven \textit{muhurs}, the annual allowance was 155 \(\frac{3}{4}\) d., i.e., for the \textit{Artak}, 39\(\frac{3}{4}\) d., the \textit{yalposh}, 27 \(\frac{3}{4}\) d. a coarse saddle cloth, 30 d., the girth, 6 d., the \textit{nukhta} and \textit{qayza}, 10 d., and the \textit{nukhta} ropes and feet ropes, 32 d., the \textit{magas-ran}, 2 d., a towel, 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) d., a curry-comb, 1 \(\frac{1}{4}\) d., a basket, 1 d, a grain bag, 4\(\frac{1}{2}\) d.etc. Twenty \textit{dams} were subtracted for the old articles.\(^\text{13}\)

This management and maintenance of the horses was a unique feature. A large number of officers and servants were appointed for the keeping of the

\(^{12}\) Ibid., pp. 143-44.
\(^{13}\) Ibid., p. 145.
horses. These officers and servants performed their duties like wise 1. The *Atbegi* was incharge of all horses belonging to the government. He directed all officers charged with the management of the horses. This office was one of the highest of the state, and was only held by grandees of high rank, at present it was filled by the *Khan Khanan* (commander-in-chief). 2. *Darogha* There was one appointed for each stable. This post may be held by officers of the rank of commanders of five thousand down to senior *Ahadis*. 3. The *Mushrif*, or accountant, he kept the roll of the horses, managed all payments and fines used to see that Emperor Akbar’s orders were carried out or not and prepared the estimate of the stores required for this department. He was chosen from among the grandees. 4. The *Dida-war*, or inspector, his duty was occasionally to inspect the horses before they were mustered by Emperor Akbar, he also determined the rank and the condition of the horses. His reports were taken down by the *Mushrif*. This office may be held by the *mansabdars* or *Ahadis*. 6. The *Chabuksidwar* used to ride on the horses, and his work was to compare their speed with the road, which was like wise taken down by the *Mushrif*. He received the pay of an *ahadi*. 7. The *Hada*. This name was given to a class of Rajputs, who taught horses the elementary steps. Some of them got their pay on the list of *Ahadis*. 8. The *Baytar*, or horse doctor, got the pay of an *Ahadi*. 9. The *Naqib*, or watcher. Some active intelligent men were retained for supervision. They reported the condition of each stable to the *Darogahs* and the *Mushrif*, and it was their duty to have the cattle in readiness. 10. The *Abkash*, or water carrier. Three were allowed in the stables of forty, two in stables of thirty, and only one in other stables. His monthly pay was of 100 d. 16. The *Farrash* (who dusts the furniture). There was one in every *khasa* stable. His pay was 130 d. 11. A *sipandsoz* was only allowed in the stables of forty horses, his pay was 100 d. 12. The *khakrub*, or sweeper. Sweepers were called in Hindustan as *Halalkhur*, Akbar brought this name envogue. In the stables of
forty, there were two, in those of thirty and twenty, was only one. Their monthly pay was 65 dams.\textsuperscript{14}

Akbar also implemented the system of fine in the cases of the horse stolen, injury, and death. If a \textit{khasa} horse died, the \textit{Darogha} had to pay one rupee, and the \textit{Mirdaha} ten d., upon every \textit{muhur} of the cost price, and the grooms had to lose one-fourth of their monthly wages when a horse was stolen, or injured, Akbar himself determined the fine, as it could not be uniformed in each case.

In the other stables they exacted from the \textit{Darogha} for a single horse that dies, one rupee upon every \textit{muhur}, for two horses, two rupees upon every \textit{muhur}, and from the \textit{Mirdaha} and the grooms the above proportions. But now they had to take one rupee upon every \textit{muhur} for one to three horses that die, and two upon every \textit{muhur} for four horses, and three upon every \textit{muhur} for five. If the mouth of a horse got injured, the \textit{Mirdaha} was fined ten dams upon every \textit{muhur}, which fine he used to recover from the other grooms.

The emperor made proper arrangements of food for the camels. Both male and female camels got according to their age and capacity. The camels which were used for burden and traveling were called ‘\textit{bughdis}’. These \textit{bughdis} at the age of two and a half, or three years particularly, when they were taken from the herd of the stud \textit{dams}, got 2 s. of grain, when they were three and a half or four years old then they got 5 s. and upto the age of seven years got 9 s. and at the age of eight years got 10 \textit{sers}. The same rule was applied to \textit{bughurs}. Similar things were done in the case of \textit{bughars jammazas, ghurds, magah} and \textit{loks} upto four years of age. But from the fourth to the seventh year, they got 7 s., and at the age of eight years, 7½ s., at the rate of 28 \textit{dams per ser}. As the \textit{ser} had then 30 \textit{dams} and a corresponding deduction was made in the allowance. When \textit{bughui} camels were in heat, they used to eat less food and the concession were made for them. If they got lean than 10 s. of food material

\textsuperscript{14} Ibid., p. 148.
was given to them which was fixed according to the provisions of the Pagusht rule at the court. The government also provided grass to the camels for eight months. The camels on duty inside the town were daily allowed grass at the rate of 2 dams per head, and those outside the town got it for, 1½ dams. While during the four rainy months, and on the march, no allowance was given, so the drivers used to take the camels to the meadows to graze the grass.¹⁵

A number of articles were used to keep these camels properly and safely. The following articles were allowed for ‘khasa’ camels: an Afsar (head stall), a Dum afsar (crupper), a Mahar kathi (furniture resembling a horse – saddle, but rather larger – an invention of emperor Akbar), a kuchi (which serves as a saddle cloth, a qatarchi, a sarbchi, a tang (a girth), a satrang (a head-strap), a sherband (a lion-strap) a jalajil (a breast rope adorned with shells or bells), made of broad cloth, or variegated canvas, or wax cloth. The five qatars of camels properly caparisoned were always kept ready for riding, together with two, for carrying a Minajja, which was a sort of wooden turret, very comfortable, with two poles, by which it could be suspended, at the time of traveling, between two camels. A camel’s furniture was either coloured or plain. For every ten qatars they allowed three qatars coloured articles.¹⁶

It was a difficult task to maintain these camels properly, so the emperor appointed large number of servants to look after the camels. Firstly Akbar formed the camels into qatars and put each qatar under the charge of a Sarban, or driver. They were given sufficient wages for this service’. The servants of first class got 400 dams, the second class, 340 dams, the third class 280 dams and the fourth got, 220 dams, per mensem. These qatars were of three kinds – 1. Every five qatars of these three was in charge of experienced man, called ‘Bistopanjji’, or commander of twenty-five and he used to get a salary of 720 dams. He used to maintain a horse for his personal use and had four drivers under him. 2. It was just double the preceding, or ten qatars, which were

¹⁵. Ibid., p. 152.
¹⁶. Ibid., p. 152.
committed to the care of a Panjahi, or the commander of fifty. He was allowed to keep a horse and nine drivers. He got 960 dams for this service. 3. Here a Panjsadi, or commander of 500 was appointed and commanded every hundred qatars. While ten qatars were under his personal superintendence. With the exception of one qatar, the government had maintained drivers for the others. While the Panjahis used to work under his orders. The salary of ‘Panjahis’ and ‘Panjsadis’ was not equal. Abul Fazl writes that the Yuzbashis were also appointed to this post of ‘Panjasadi’. The Emperor, from his practical knowledge had appointed a grandee too. Each ‘Panjsadi’ was placed under a ‘grandee’ of court. There were several foot soldiers, which had been selected to inquire from time to time into the condition of the camels, so that there may be no neglegence. Besides this, twice a year some people adorned with the jewel of sight used to inspect the camels, as to their leanness or fatness. This happened at the beginning of the rains and at the time of the annual muster. If any camel was disappeared or lost, the ‘Panjahis’ and the ‘Panjsadis’ had to bear fine in full value of the animal.\(^{17}\)

If a camel was found lame or blind under their responsibility, they were fined with the fourth part of its price. There were ‘Raibaris’ to teach the camels the way to cover longer distance. ‘Raibari’ was the name given to a class of Hindus, who were acquainted with the habits of the camel. They used to teach the country bred lok camels, so to step as to pass over a great distance in a short time.\(^{18}\)

Besides all these things, Abul Fazl has also mentioned the prices of these camels, which are following - a bughdi camel had the price of 5 to 12 muhurs, a jaammaza from 3 to 10 muhurs, a bughur, from 3 to 7 muhurs, a ‘mongrel’ lok from 8 to 9 muhurs, a country-bred, or a ‘Baluchi lok’ from 3 to 8 muhurs, and an ‘arwana’ from 2 to 4 muhurs. Akbar had regulated the burdens to be carried by the camels. According to this management a fixed

\(^{17}\) Ibid., p. 155.  
\(^{18}\) Ibid., p. 155.
weight had to carry by these camels. A first class bughdi could not carry more than 10 mans, a second class 8 mans, superior jammazas, loks etc. used to carry 8 mans, and a second class not more than 6 mans. Abul Fazl also mentioned that in this country (Hindustan) camels do not live above twenty four years.\footnote{Ibid., p. 156.}

The emperor divided these cows and buffaloes in to different classes. He made special arrangements of food for them. Every head of the first khasa class got daily 6\(\frac{1}{4}\) ser of grain and 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) d of grass for these animals. The whole stable got daily 1 man 19 s of molasses, which was distributed by the Darogha, who had been considered a man suitable for such a duty and office. The remaining cattle of khasa classes got daily 6 s. of grain, and grass as before, but no molasses were given while in other cow stables the daily allowance was as follows. First kind got 6 s of grain, 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) d of grass at court, and sometimes only 1 d. The second kind got 5 s of grain, and grass as usual. The first class ‘ginis’ got 3 s of grain, and 1 d of grass at court, otherwise only \(\frac{1}{4}\) d second class do. 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) s of grain, and \(\frac{3}{4}\) d. of grass at court, otherwise only \(\frac{1}{2}\) d.

On the other hand 1 male buffalo (called arna) got 8 s of wheat flour boiled, 2 s of ghee, \(\frac{1}{2}\) s. of molasses, 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) s. of grain and 2 d of grass. There is a very interesting thing about buffalo that at its young stage, it possesses great strength and fights astonishingly. At the time of fight it can tore a lion into pieces. When such strange thing was noticed by the emperor, he promoted this animal to the second stage and used it for carrying water. It then got 8 s of grain, and 2 d for grass. The female buffaloes were also used for carrying water. It got 6 s of grain, and 2 d for grass. The first class oxen for cheetah wagons got 6 \(\frac{1}{4}\) s. of grain and other classes got 5 s. of grain but the grass was given in the same quantity. The oxen for heavy wagons got formerly 5 s. of grain and 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) dans for grass. But for sometime they got a quarter serless, and grass as before.\footnote{Ibid., p. 158.}
There was another factor for which the cow got an important place among the animals, the cow was useful for milk. Similarly buffaloes were also important for milk. So during Akbar's time milch-cows, and buffaloes, got a considerable quantity of food in proportion to the quantity of milk they gave. It is heard about the cows and buffaloes that a cow used to give daily from 1 to 5 s of milk, a buffalo from 2 to 30 s. The buffaloes of the Punjab were the best in this respect. As soon as the quantity of milk given by each cow has been ascertained, these were demanded for two dams weight of ghee for every ser of milk. The emperor thought it better to appoint servants to look after the cows and buffaloes. There were different stables to keep these cattle. In the khasa stables one man was appointed to look after with four other heads of the cattle. These keepers used to get a fixed salary. The eighteen such keepers of the first stable got 5 dams per diem, and the remaining keepers got 4 dams. In other stables, the salary of the keepers was the same, but each had to look after six cows of the carriage drivers and some of them got their salaries on the list of the Ahadis. Some other servants got 360 d, otherwise 256 d. down to 112 d. Bahalas, or carriages were of two kinds - 1. Chatridar or covered carriages, having four or more poles (which support the 'chatr' or umbrella), 2. The second was without a covering carriage suited for the horses was called 'ghur-bahal'. For every ten wagons, 20 drivers and one carpenter were allowed. The head driver or mirdhana, and the carpenter, got 5 d. per diem, while the others got 4 dams. For some time 15 drivers had been appointed and no carpenter was allowed because the drivers themselves undertook the repairs and received on this account an annual allowance of 2,200 dams or (55 rupees).

Apart from the salaries, emperor also made certain rules and regulations for the servants. Even he made provisions of fine or penalty if any servant failed to perform his duty with sincerity. Similarly if any mishapening was reported about the cattle, the emperor charged him with fine. Even if a horn of

21. Ibid., p. 159.
22. Ibid., p. 160.
an ox was broken, or the animal got blind, the ‘Darogha’ was fined one-fourth of the price, or even more, according to the extent of the injury. It shows that to what extent the emperor was careful and merciful for the maintenance of these cattle. The special provisions of timely inspection of the cattle were also there. The emperor appointed experts to check the health of the cattle. The cattle which were used for work or to carry load had been mustered once a year by the experienced men. These experienced men used to estimate the fatness or leanness of the cattle. But the cattle that were rarely used were also inspected every six months.23

Like other animals considerable quantity of food was given to the mules. Such mules which were not country bred got at court 6 sers of grain, 2 dams for grass, otherwise only 1½ dams. The country bred mules got 4 sers of grain, and 1¾ of grass, when they were kept under maintenance otherwise 1 dam for grass. Each mule was allowed every week 3½ jetals for salt, but the salt was given in one lot.24

For the maintenance of the mules a number of articles were needed. The emperor took special measures to prepare these articles and equipments which are as follows. For imported mules, a head stall of leather was prepared with the cost of 20 ¼ dams. Similarly other things were also prepared for different costs. An iron chain weighing 2 s, and bearing the cost of 10 dams, a ‘ranaki’ (crupper) of leather for 4 d., a palan (pack-saddle), 102 d., a shaltang (shawl strap), and a palan (pack-saddle), a palas-tang (blanket strap), 36 ¼ d., a taqa tanab (a rope for fastening the burden), 63 d., a qatir shalaq (a short whip) 6 d., a bell one for every Qatar, 10 d., a horse hair saddle, 40 d., a kalawa of leather bearing 13 d., a set of ropes, 9 d., a saddle cloth, 4½ d., a sardoz (a common head stall) 4 d., a khurjin (wallet), 15 d., a fodder bag, 4 d., a magasan (to drive away files) of leather, 1 d., a curry comb and a hair glove which was used for washing was of 4 dams. In this way all these articles which were used for the

23. Ibid., p. 160.
24. Ibid., p. 162.
maintenance had the total cost of 345 ¼ dams. The furniture which was needed for the mules was renewed every third year, but for all iron and wood work, half of the price was deducted. The annual allowance for the repair of the furniture was 40 dams, but on the march, the time of renewal depended on the wear. The mules were sold every six months at a cost of 8 dams per head.

For the maintenance of the mules servants were also appointed. The emperor divided the mules into Qatars. Each Qatar was under a keeper. The ‘Turanis’ Iranis, and Indians, were appointed to this office. The first two used to get a salary from 400 to 1,920 d., and the third class, from 240 to 250 d per mensem. Such keepers as had monthly salaries of 10 Rs. (400 d.) and upwards had to find the peshang (first mule of the Qatar) in grain and grass. Experienced people used to inspect the mules twice a year as to leanness or fatness. They were paraded before his majesty. These mules were kept with special care. If a mule got blinded or became lame because of any carelessness of the muleteer, he was fined one-fourth of the cost price, and one half of it.

There were proper arrangements of food for the deer also. Deer were kept properly and their food was as follows, the ‘khasa’ deer which was selected for fighting before his majesty, got 2 sers of grain, ½ ser boiled flour, 1/3 ser butter, and 1 dam for grass. Those which were kept on his majesty’s hunting grounds, kotal, and fighting with other sets used to get 1¾ s. of grain while the flour and butter was given as before. The grass was supplied by each amateur himself. All khasa have bred, kotal deer, and those of his majesty’s hunting ground, had each one keeper. The fighting deer of the sets had each one keeper for every two, while the single last one had a keeper for itself and nothing was given for grass. The deer which were given to people to have them flattened got 1¾ ser of grain and ½ dam for grass. There was one keeper for every four

25. Ibid., p. 162.
26. Ibid., p. 163.
but arrangement were also done of one keeper for every two, only then if these
deer were found fit for *khasa*.* 

Some deer were also sent to other towns, they used to get 1½ *ser* of
grain and each had one keeper. If there was newly caught deer then till seven
days it could not get food regularly after that this newly caught deer used to get
½ *ser* of grain for a fortnight. After that they used to get 1 *ser*., and when one
month was over then they got 1½ *ser* to eat.

A number of servants were employed for the care of the deer. In the deer
park, *Mansabdars, Ahadis* and other soldiers were employed to look after the
deer. They got considerable pay for this work. The pay of foot soldiers varied
from 80 to 400 *dams*.

The emperor had maintained 12,000 deer for various purposes. They
were divided into different classes and proper regulations were made for each
of them. There was a systematic method to maintain the deer. There was also a
stud for deer, in which new results were obtained. The food which was given to
these deer was as follows: A large female used to get 1½ *ser*, grain and ½ *dam*
for grass. A new born deer used to drink milk of the *dam* for two months,
which was reckoned as equivalent to ¼ *ser*., of grain. Afterwards every second
month, the allowance was increased by a quarter *ser* of grain, so that after a
period of two years, it could get the same as its *dam* while ¼ *dam* was given for
grass from the seventh to the tenth month. The young males also got weaned
after two months, when they got 3/8 *ser* of grain, which was increased by that
quantity every second month, so that, after two years, they could have 2 ¼ *sers*.
On the other hand from the fifth to the eighth month, they got ½ *dam*., for
grass, after which period they got ½ *dam* for grass.*

The dogs were very helpful for hunting purposes and also for tracing the
hidden animal. One more thing was that the dogs were capable to engage with

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dangerous animals for some moments, which could give enough time to the hunter to be alert and to attack the dangerous animal. Akbar used to like this animal very much for his excellent qualities. He imported dogs from all countries. The excellent dogs came from Kabul specially from the Hazara district (north of Rawal Pindi). At that time the servants had maintained these dogs very carefully. They even ornamented the dogs, and gave them names. Dogs were capable to attack a tiger. They were highly trained for the purpose of help and security. The *khasa* dogs got daily 2 *sers* of meet, similarly other got 1 ¼ *ser*. There was one keeper for a every two ‘*Tazi*’ (hunting) dogs, their wages were 100 *dams.*, per mensem. In this way dogs had been very helpful for hunting purpose.

The birds were also kept for various purposes. The keepers to look after these birds were employed in this department. Many *mansabdars*, *Ahadis*, and other soldiers were employed. The footmen were mostly *Kashmiris* or *Hindustanis*. Their pay was as follows. The first class of the former, first grade got 7½ R., second 7 R., third 6 ¾ R., second class, first grade got 5½ R., second, 5 R., third 4½ R. Te first class of the latter (*Hindustanis*), first grade, 5 R., second 4¾ R., third 4½ R., second class, first grade 4½ R., second, 4 R., third 3 ¾ R., the third class, first grade, 3½ R., second 3½ R., and the third got 3 R.

A considerable amount was given for the expense of food of these birds. In Kashmir and in the *aviary* of Indian amateurs, the birds were generally feded a day, but at the court they were feded twice. A *baz* (falcon) got a quantity of meat weighing 7 *dams*, the *jurra* got 6 *dams.*, *bahri*, *lachin*, and *khela*, 5 *dams.*, the *basna*, 3 *dams.*, the *chappak basna*, *shikara*, *chappak shikara*, *basra* and that etc. got 2 *dams*. Towards the close of every day the sparrows were feded on, of which the *baz*, *furra*, and *bahri*, got each seven, while the laching got five, the *basna*, three and others got only two. The *charghs* and *lagars* got meat and at the same time the *Shungars*, *Shahbazes* and *burkats* got one ser. These
birds were fed even on the hunting ground for which they were taken there.29

Akbar always rewarded the hunters and the keepers for their performance. He used to reward the Mir Shikars (superintendents of the chase) according to their ranks, with suitable presents. The donations were also fixed for each game brought in, varying from 1 m. to 1 d. If the falcon bring down the game alive or dead, attention was paid to the kill which it exhibited and to the size of the quarry. The man who kept the falcon got one-half of the allowance. Abul Fazl writes “His Majesty hunts himself; fifty percent of the donation is stopped. If birds are received by the imperial aviary as Peshkash (tribute), the Qushbegi (superintendent of aviary) gets for every baz 1½ R., and the accountant ½ R. For jurra, the Qushbegi gets 1 R., the accountant, ¼ R., the bashas, the former receives ¼ R., the latter, 1/8 R., the latter chargh, charghela, khela, bahri-bachcha, the former gets 1/8 R., the latter 1/10 R., for every Chhappak, basha, dhoti etc., the former receives 1/10, the other 1/20 R (suki).”30

29. Ibid., p. 305.
30. Ibid., p. 306.