

MILITARY DAIRY FARMS

*283. **Col. Zaidi:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal put forward in 1950 that all Military dairy farms be handed over to the Agriculture Ministry;

(b) whether a committee was appointed to examine this proposal; and

(c) if so, what are the recommendations made by the committee and whether these recommendations have been implemented?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) to (c). Presumably, the hon. Member is referring to a suggestion put forward in 1947 by the Ministry of Agriculture for the transfer of the Military Dairy Farms to them. After discussion between the two Ministries, a Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of the Quartermaster General to go into the question of the general working of the Military Dairy Farms and of using them for general breeding purposes and for improvement of cattle. The terms of reference of this Committee did not include the question of handing over the Military Dairy Farms to the Ministry of Agriculture. The main recommendations of the Committee were—

(i) To appoint a technically qualified and well experienced fodder expert.

(ii) To achieve self-sufficiency in fodder and concentrates at the earliest time possible.

(iii) To get the maximum production from the land at the disposal of the various military dairy farms and to bring further areas under irrigation at different farms.

(iv) To complete existing unfinished buildings in the military dairy farms.

(v) Regarding breeding policy envisaging the wasting out of cross breeds and greater attention to indigenous breeds.

(vi) To adopt artificial insemination.

(vii) To recruit suitably qualified staff.

(viii) To achieve self-sufficiency to meet milk requirements of the entire army.

Action to implement these recommendations except the one at (i) above has been, or is being, taken.

Col. Zaidi: Is it true that there are many complaints of corruption in the management of these dairy farms? Have there been many cases of persons having been sacked during the last two years, and how many cases are now pending against such supervisors?

Shri Gopalaswami: I should like to have notice.

Col. Zaidi: Could I have some idea of the sort of budget these supervisors look after? Do the budgets run into ten or fifteen lakhs of rupees, and if so, are the salaries of these officers commensurate with their responsibilities?

Shri Gopalaswami: I am afraid, Sir, that for this question also I shall require notice.

Col. Zaidi: Could I know if trained people are appointed in charge of these dairy farms? I mean, are they Graduates in Agriculture or persons who possess training in dairy farming, or are they just ordinary officers who were promoted from the very bottom and who possess no training whatsoever?

Shri Gopalaswami: That would require an analysis of the existing personnel. I shall undertake it, and shall answer a question later on if it is put down.

GOLD ORE

*284. **Dr. Nataraj Pandey:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold ore has been discovered recently on the dried up river bed of Mahanadi just above the Hirakud Dam; and

(b) if so, whether the ore has been properly analysed?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Director, Geological Survey of India, reports that some persons mistook some small streaks of sulphide mineral found in rocks in the area for gold. The specimens were analysed in the laboratory of the Geological Survey of India at Calcutta and found to contain no gold.

Dr. Nataraj Pandey: Will the hon. Minister place a copy of the report on the Table?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not know whether there is any report, but it was found that it contained no gold.