GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AGRICULTURE LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3750 ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001 O.F. PROJECT S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the studies of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics` Pune as reported in the `Indian Dairyman` June 2000 issue highlighting the failure of all Cooperatives both Anand type and non-Anand type in Maharashtra under Operation Flood Project;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that report of the initiatives group at Mumbai which was presented at a workshop chaired by the Planning Commission have reached similar conclusions;
- (c) whether an in-depth study of the Reports earlier prepared by EEC, World Bank, Indo Dutch Group, initiatives will be re-examined as also L.K. Jha Committee report to set the record straight over the so called success of the Anand Model so that we can learn from our past mistakes and failures specially from the Nalgoan experience from Maharashtra and help in our future planning; and
- (d) whether the Government will examine the lesson that the Anand pattern was successful only in places like Anand and sister Coops run by GCMMF where massive quantities of low priced smp and butter oil were poured for conversion in high priced produced?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

- (a): The said study does not conclude that all cooperatives, both Anand type and non-Anand type, in Maharashtra under OF-Project have 'failed'. The author has stated prominently in his article- 'The Jalgaon and Kolhapur districts of Maharastra, as shown by a study, present two extremes as far as the functioning of the cooperative societies is concerned. While Kolhapur Milk Producers were largely satisfied with the cooperatives, the Jalgaon Producers generally complained about the inputs and services provided by the societies.' However the inferences drawn in the study are based on inadequate statistical data and therefore should not determine the success or failure of a Model.
- (b): The study by 'initiatives' suffers from inadequate sample size in limited areas, follows no stratified random sampling to arrive at statistically invalid results and misleading generalization. The study wrongly indicates India's milk production and productivity growth and recommends strategies that could displace India's majority small producers of their income from dairying.
- (c): The Jha Committee and the world bank evaluations report both noted the criticisms leveled against Operation Flood (Indo-Dutch, World Bank, etc.) but commended the achievements of the programme. Similarly EEC too considered the operation flood experience satisfying.

The future planning for Dairy Development in the country would thus be based on the successful features of the Operation Flood Programme and the lessons learned from possible shortcomings.

(d): The success of dairy cooperatives in Anand and the sister cooperatives affiliated to the GCMMF was due to better participation of farmer members, professional management and better governance. There has been no dumping of massive quantities of low priced SMP and butter oil for conversion to high priced produce in the cooperatives affiliated to the GCMMF.