

- (i) To organise and plan the growth and development of natural products and their trade on rational, scientific and commercial basis in the interest of the tribal population in the country;
- (ii) To strive to ensure higher earning and larger employment opportunities for the tribal population by formulation of suitable economic schemes based on natural products;
- (iii) To ensure full utilisation of natural products available in the tribal areas by exploring new uses for them and by improving their marketability through organised effort;
- (iv) To boost the economic and commercial viability of the Tribal Development Co-operative Corporations (TDCCs), Forest Development Corporations (FDCs) and other State level agencies dealing with procurement, processing and marketing of natural products by providing marketing support to them.
- (v) To identify items of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) in different States to be brought under the ambit of the co-operative marketing and make recommendations for fixation of minimum prices of such MFP in the tribal areas by each State.

[English]

South-South Co-operation

*137. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to utilise the services of the non-Governmental

Organisations to promote South South co-operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the recent South Asia Craft Meeting held in New Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the support rendered by the Government to such activities?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). Government is engaged in promoting South-South co-operation through all possible appropriate channels. A case in point is the participation of the representatives of the apex industry organisations from India, in the parallel meeting of businessmen and industrialists from G-15 countries, held concurrently with the Caracas Summit on 27-29 November, 1991. It has been decided that the meeting of businessmen and industry representatives will be an institutionalised annual event accompanying the future Summit Meetings.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Consumption of Milk

*138. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita consumption of milk during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether there was considerable increase in milk production during the above period in North-Eastern States; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to encourage

production of milk in Assam and other North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) It is estimated that there was a 5.85% increase in Milk production in the North Eastern States in 1990-91 over the production in 1989-90.

(c) In spite of increase in milk production considering the backwardness and special problems of the North Eastern States, the following measures have been taken to increase the production of milk in these States:-

(1) A team of senior officials has visited Assam recently to assess the various measures required to improve the animal husbandry and dairying sector in the State including steps to increase milk production.

(2) An Integrated Dairy Development Project is proposed to be taken up from 1992-93 in non-Operation Flood, hilly and backward areas including the North Eastern States as part of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(3) In addition to the various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the North Eastern States are being assisted by the North Eastern Council and under the special component plan and Tribal Sub-Plan.

STATEMENT

**Per Capita Consumption of Milk during 1989-90 and 1990-91*

Sl. No.	State	Per capita consumption of milk kl. Kl.Kgs./annum	
		1989-90	1990-91 (provisional)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47.7	46.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.1	49.8
3.	Assam	25.7	26.6
4.	Bihar	35.2	35.8
5.	Goa	20.5	20.0
6.	Gujarat	81.8	84.4
7.	Haryana	194.9	193.3

Sl. No.	State	Per capita consumption of milk kl. Kl.Kgs./annum	
		1989-90	1990-91 (provisional)
1	2	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	102.9	108.6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	65.9	73.2
10.	Karnataka	52.4	53.7
11.	Kerala	54.4	56.6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	71.5	72.7
13.	Maharashtra	43.2	48.5
14.	Manipur	46.3	45.0
15.	Meghalaya	28.3	28.1
16.	Mizoram	13.7	11.7
17.	Nagaland	30.9	40.0
18.	Orissa	14.0	14.8
19.	Punjab	250.4	254.7
20.	Rajasthan	99.8	100.4
21.	Sikkim	63.0	62.9
22.	Tamil Nadu	62.2	60.9

Sl. No.	State	Per capita consumption of milk kl. Kl.Kgs./annum	
		1989-90	1990-91 (provisional)
1	2	3	4
23.	Tripura	10.6	11.0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	69.5	72.3
25.	West Bengal	43.4	44.3

Agriculture as an Industry

*139. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA
NAYAK:
SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to declare agriculture as an industry;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) (a) to (c). The matter is being examined in depth in consultation with other concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

Vegetable and Fruit Centre

*140. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank team had recently visited India for identifying places for establishing vegetables and fruit centres;

(b) if so, the places identified by the team; and

(c) the aid given by the World Bank for establishing these centres?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Questions do not arise. However, a feasibility study for evolving a project to create a grid for marketing fruits and vegetables is currently being undertaken by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). The study is being financed by the World Bank.

[Translation]

Soil Testing Laboratories

*141. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH
YADAV;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: