

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1298
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015
Distribution of Skimmed Milk Powder
Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is considering to utilize surplus stock of skimmed milk powder with different State milk federations to distribute among school children as part of the mid-day meal scheme, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Union Government has written to Tamil Nadu State Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Union Government is encouraging other States to introduce such programme, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to assist the milk cooperatives largely owned by farmers to provide ready and steady market for their produce?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE
(SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIYA)

(a) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries has written to Department of Education and Literacy to propagate milk programme initiative under ongoing programmes by utilizing milk powder from the cooperatives, thereby assisting the farmers, and at the same time enhancing nutrition of pre-school children and alleviating child mal-nutrition in the country.

(b) & (c) Yes Madam. Union Agriculture Minister has written to Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to launch a school milk programme, in the Mid Day Meal Scheme being implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy through the State Government. Introducing milk in Mid Day Meal scheme would help in enhancing nutrition of school children and utilizing surplus milk powder available with dairy cooperatives, which in turn would provide greater market access to farmers of Tamil Nadu.

(d) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries has written to State Government of Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu to introduce school milk programme.

(e) This Department is implementing the following schemes to assist milk cooperatives to provide ready & steady markets for their produce:

- i. National Dairy Plan (Phase-I)
- ii. National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development