

Title: Need for early clearance of Integrated Dairy Development Projects of Maharashtra Government.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): The Union Government has sanctioned for implementation of Integrated Dairy Development Project-I, Phase-I in non-operation flood hilly and backward areas in Maharashtra State (100 per cent Centrally-sponsored) on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1996 for the districts Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Yeotamal, Chandrapur, and Gadchiroli for the years 1996 to 1999.

The Maharashtra Government submitted a separate proposal on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1997 to the Union Government for implementing the I.D.D.P. Project-I, Phase-II for the same district. The total cost of the Project is Rs.1,995.22 lakh. This proposal is still pending with the Union Government.

Again, Maharashtra Government submitted a project proposal on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1998 for implementing Integrated Dairy Development Project-III in non-operation flood hilly and backward areas in Maharashtra State for the districts Amravati, Buldhana, Bhandara, Nanded, Latur, and Nandurbar. The proposal is still pending with the Union Government.

The main objects of these projects are:

1. To Strengthen and revitalise the existing Dairy Co-operative Societies and organise new DCS;
2. To encourage farmers to adopt dairy as a business for increasing milk production and income of the farmers in the area;
3. To build up milk processing and storage capacity in urban areas;
4. To improve the delivery of services provided to the milk producers by the Animal Husbandry, Department and Cooperatives;
5. To encourage fodder cultivation by farmers and awareness through extension services.

As the projects are still pending with the Union Government, I request the Government to kindly clear these projects immediately.