

Title: Urged the Government to protect the interests of milk producers in the country and re-consider the minimum market access under WTO agreement.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, India has been regarded, for centuries, as a land of milk and honey because India has the highest milk consuming people in the world. But of now, the availability of milk in India is less than the nutritional parameter of per capita 240 grams.

Sir, we have made strides under the leadership of Saradar Vallabhbhai Patel and Shrimati Indira Gandhi who had spear headed the White Revolution. But I would like to urge upon the Government to ensure the daily bread of millions of milk producers. We should also protect the dairy sector from the international trade commission's distortions such as sanitary phyto-sanitary measures and codex alimentarius guidelines.

Our country needs milk and we have already experienced the example of Amul. If the replication of Amul is persuaded in a vigorous way, then India will be able to transform itself into a milk giant. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to look after the interests of milk producers in India and protect them because as per the provisions of minimum market access under W T O India is bound to allow the import.

As per the provision of Minimum Market Access under WTO, India is compelled to allow import of milk products to the extent of three per cent of our total consumption. But now it is hovering around 1.1 per cent. So, I would urge upon the Government to re-consider the zero duty bound rate of SMP and the bound rates of other milk products may be reduced in compensation.