

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to address problems faced by dairy farmers of Maharashtra.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): Dairy farmers in Maharashtra are agitating for the past few months regarding low procurement prices of milk. Milk procurement prices have plunged, because of low global prices of skimmed milk powder, which has made their exports non-viable. This unsold stock of skimmed milk powder has contributed to price fall. Hence I urge the Centre to reduce GST to 5%, buy skimmed milk powder as buffer stock, and stipulate Minimum Support Price for milk to help farmers to get remunerative price for milk. For milk procured by private players, the Government can fix procurement price and take measure to ensure that it is strictly adhered to. I request the Government to incentivise investments in production of value-added milk products like curd, buttermilk, butter, cheese, ice creams etc. Such interventions can help dairy farmers by stabilising the prices of milk. I also recommend the Government to introduce milk in Mid-day Meals Scheme in Máharashtra.