

(b) whether European Commission held that the majority of the operations under the aegis of the NDDB were either in the break-even or in a repeated loss situation and that it was the hidden subsidy provided by imported commodities that allowed them to show profits on paper; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) The imported gift commodities have been primarily used with the objectives of maintaining a steady supply of liquid milk in the Metro cities and for the purpose of generating funds for financing Operation Flood Programme. The issue prices of these commodities have been raised over the years to make them comparable with domestic prices thereby discouraging the dairies from developing dependence on these commodities.

(b) European Economic Community have continued to support Operation Flood Project and the imported gift commodities have been used in line with approved norms and no such adverse inferences have been drawn by them.

(c) Does not arise.

**Meetings of Advisory Committees
Attached to ICCR**

7222. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meetings of the various Advisory Committees on different regions attached to Indian Council for Cultural Relations have been held during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). The ICCR has three Advisory Panels on different regions, namely:

(i) *Advisory Panel on Latin America*

(ii) *Advisory Panel on South and South East Asia*

(iii) *Advisory Panel on Africa*

The following meetings of these panels were held in the last two years i.e., from 1st January, 1988 onwards:

Advisory Panel on Latin America

i) 25.3.1988

ii) 11.10.1988

Advisory Panel on South and South East Asia

i) 3.6.1988

ii) 18.11.1988

Advisory Panel on Africa

i) 25.2.1988

ii) 11.10.1988

(c) Does not arise.

Purchase of Arms by Nepal From China

7223. SHRI JAYAWANTINAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: