

MR. SPEAKER : I also wanted to ask one question in this connection.

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN : I wanted to ask question.

MR. SPEAKER : 15 Minutes are over, the time has passed.

[English]

Increase in Expenditure of Delhi Milk Scheme

\*125. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :  
SHRI RAM DHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a constant increase in the expenditure of the Delhi Milk Scheme over the years ;

(b) if so, the expenditure of the Delhi Milk Scheme during the last three years, year-wise, showing separately the extent of increase on account of salaries of the employees; and

(c) the increase in milk production during these years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

Statement

The table below shows the total expenditure of Delhi Milk Scheme, the expenditure on salaries and wages and production of milk during 1985-86 to 1987-88.

TABLE

Item	Year		
	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
1. Delhi Milk Scheme expenditure (total) (Rs. in crores)	46.51	55.07	57.12
2. Expenditure on salaries and wages (Rs. in crores)	4.32	5.21	5.86
3. Milk production (Average lakh litres per day)	3.25	3.77	3.96

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Details have been given by the hon. Minister regarding the continuous increase in expenditure in the Delhi Milk Scheme. What are the reasons for the constant increase in expenditure in the Delhi

Milk Scheme ? For instance, there is some reference to loss of milk on account of breakage of half-a-litre bottles—which is not satisfying—amounting to Rs. 13.66 lakhs per year.

Similarly, according to reports, the in-plant purchase of equipments have also resulted in losses and increase in expenditure. Has the Minister examined all these facts and taken some steps to plug these losses ?

**SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV :** The increase in the expenditure has been there because of several factors. The hon. Member has spelt out some of them. But one major factor is that there has been an increase in the materials and supplies—i.e. the cost of milk which is procured. It accounts for 80% of the expenditure of the Delhi Milk Scheme; and 20% is covered by operating expenses, maintenance, salaries and wages, and some other expenses.

So far as operating expenditure and maintenance are concerned, they are hardly 10% of the total expenditure. Salaries and wages are also of the same order. Recently, as a result of the 4th Pay Commission's recommendations, there had to be some increase. That is covered under salaries and wages. Therefore, this has been the main reason why there has been some increase in the expenditure.

So far as losses are concerned, i.e. due to some breakages, this is the average expenditure on losses which occur every year. You know that we are supplying milk in bottles; and breakages are there. About there lakh bottles are being supplied every day. So, some breakages are bound to be there.

The third point which the hon. Member has mentioned is about machinery and plants. There have been some machinery recently purchased for automatic filling of pouches—which were introduced recently. They are under trial. They have not come up to the mark. Therefore, there has been some shortfall. Because of that factor also there is some effect on the prices.

**SHRI BALAWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA :** The Public Accounts Committee has recommended that the DMS should be converted into a Corporation. Also the PAC has recommended certain other measures of streamlining the costing system, working of the comparative economics of substitution of fat and raw milk and butter oil, revision of salary, prices of the milk on the basis of

actual production cost and improving the supply of milk through a cooperative system. Has the government any consideration to convert the DMS into a Corporation and also consider the recommendations of the PAC ?

**SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV :** In view of the present situation that is prevailing and the present policy to supply milk to the poor section of the population, lower middle classes and wage earners, I think the Report has been considered and it has not been found feasible to accept the proposal that it may be converted into a Corporation because, keeping as it is, there is a lot of help which the government is extending. Therefore, the hon. member will appreciate that this method is working quite satisfactorily well

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAM DHAN :** Mr Speaker, Sir, as per the Statement of the hon. Minister, the expenditure on the Delhi Milk Scheme is constantly increasing and its burden has to be borne by the consumers and the milk producers are not able to get a remunerative price. In the name of efficiency, Delhi Milk Scheme started the schemes of distributing milk in polypacks in place of bottles but the wastage in this cases is much more. This wastage has resulted in losses and increase in expenditure. I mean that wastage has increased from 2 per cent to 10 per cent. Secondly, the distribution of milk was done through students and they were paid Rs. 280 per month. If they were able to sell more than 30 crates of milk they would be provided with an assistant on a salary of Rs. 120 per month. A total Rs. 400 was spent on it. But this system has been replaced by the system of contractors. There is not a single centre where less than 50 crates are sold. Now the contractors are paid Rs. 750 per month or Rs. 25 daily. You had prepared a scheme for reducing expenditure and increasing efficiency. But we do not find anything like that. Therefore, the hon. Minister is requested to state as to how is this scheme being implemented ? It is neither benefitting the milk producers nor the consumers.

**SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV :** Sir, as the hon. Minister has stated that milk used to

be sold through students, home delivery agents, ex-servicemen or some organisations. This system is still prevailing although there has been some shortage in milk supply due to the summer season. The senior students are still being paid Rs. 6 for one shift and juniors are getting Rs. 4 per shift. The persons who are engaged for home-delivery service are getting 20 paise per litre. The ex-servicemen are being paise per litre. We have not made any changes in this regard. As regards the increased expenditure, every effort is being made to keep on eye on it so that it can be reduced. You have submitted that expenditure is increasing due to poly-packing, but it is not so. Poly-packing will be much cheaper and wastage is also very less. Several schemes are being implemented for increasing efficiency and reducing losses. We try to have constant vigilance in this regard. The management is being improved and the distribution rules are being streamlined to avoid wastage in every respect. If you take the average of our daily production which has increased substantially then you will find that the expenditure has not increased in that ratio. The average daily production which was 3.25 lakh litres in the 1985-86 has increased to 3.77 lakh litres in 1986-87 and 3.96 lakh litres in 1987-88. Thus there has been a constant increase in the supply of milk and losses has also not been too much and the relevant figures are with you. The controlled price is kept at the minimum which is so low that it is not possible to buy milk at this rate. Our sale price is Rs. 3.30 per litre. You tell us whether you can get milk at this price in the market? We buy milk at more than Rs. 4 per liter from the market. The losses as I have stated are very less. The loss in the bottling system was a little more, but the present system of poly-packing is more profitable and people are able to carry it easily.

[English]

#### Crop Prospects

\*126. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Meteorological Department has reported that the rains this year will be satisfactory in the country and if so,

the position in different States upto July, 1988 ;

(b) the crop position in different States ; and

(c) the position of floods and the consequent damage to the crops reported from different State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. India Meteorological Department has forecast good rainfall for 1988. Upto 27th July, all the States of the country except Arunachal Pradesh have received normal or excess rainfall.

(b) Sowing and transplanting operations for the Kharif crops so far have progressed timely, except in the case of Saurashtra region and West Rajasthan, where sowing of groundnut and bajra were delayed. With the rains received during July, the situation in these regions also has now improved.

(c) There are reports of floods in the river basins of Bhuriding and Brahmaputra in Assam, Ghagra and Kosi in Bihar, Rapti in U.P., Tista in West Bengal, Godavari and Krishna in Andra Pradesh besides flash floods in other parts of the country. Out of the normal cropped area of about 810 lakh hectares, about 6.7 lakh hectares is reported to have been damaged due to floods.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : This year the rains are very good and it is reported in the newspapers that good rains like this year were there only in 1898 and not thereafter. In 1983-84 food production was of the order of 153 million tonnes. What is the target fixed for the production of foodgrains and oilseeds, and what will be the additional production of foodgrains because of the good rains this year ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : What will be the production, we cannot forecast immediately, but the target fixed for this year is known. The hon. Member knows, that the Prime Minister took a serious view that the level of production this year was not increasing and he has fixed the target at 166