

Expansion Programme Undertaken by Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Company

*30. SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOT-TAMBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company has undertaken a massive expansion and diversification programme;
- (b) if so, whether Union Government was approached to clear this project;
- (c) whether the project has been cleared, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. M/s. Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company Ltd. (GNVFC) have obtained Letters of Intent approval from the Government for the following projects for their expansion and diversification programme:

- i) Formic acid project,
 - ii) Methanol (Expansion)
 - iii) Acetic acid project,
 - iv) Printed circuit Board Project,
 - v) Nitrophosphate project, and
 - vi) Colour TV Glass shell project.
- (d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOT-TAMBHAI PATEL: When did the Union Government receive the scheme from the

Gujarat Government and when will they approve it?

[*English*]

SHRI R. PRABHU: Sir, I have already answered in reply to (d): Does not arise. It is because the Government has given permission for all these projects. So, there is no question of Government having not considered this and kept anything pending.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOT-TAMBHAI PATEL: How much time has the Government taken to approve these schemes and on what date was the approval given?

[*English*]

SHRI R. PRABHU: He is probably asking about the dates on which the applications were received and cleared. For the Ammonium Nitro-Phosphate and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate Projects, the GNFC was issued an industrial licence on 11th August, 1988. I do not have the details as to when the applications were received.

MR. SPEAKER: You send him the details.

SHRI R. PRABHU: I will send him the details.

Hike in Price of Milk in Delhi

*31. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK†: SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been steep hike in the price of milk distributed through Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the requirement of various types of milk in the Union Territory of Delhi and percentage of demand met by the Delhi Milk Scheme and the Mother Dairy put together; and

(d) whether Government propose to evolve a clear cut uniform price policy for milk and milk products?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b). The sale price of Mother Dairy Toned milk was increased from Rs. 3.50 to 5.00 per litre and of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) Toned Milk from Rs. 3.30 to Rs. 4.50 per litre w.e.f. 30.12.1988. The reasons for the increase are:—

- i) Higher procurement prices of fresh milk paid to rural producers.
- ii) Increase in the prices of conserved commodities like Butter oil, Skimmed Milk Powder and Butter used for recommendation.
- iii) Increase in other operating and overhead costs.

(c) No recent estimates of market demand for various types, of milk in Delhi are available. Tentative projections indicate that the estimated household demand for milk currently in Delhi would be around 20.00 lakh liters per day. Roughly 45 percent of this demand is being met by the Mother Dairy and Delhi Milk Scheme.

(d) No such proposal is currently under consideration.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: There is a hue and cry over the supply of milk in the Capital. The shortage of milk and an increase in its prices became the hottest topic for discussion in the Capital. After three

years, the prices of milk have risen in Delhi. It is for the first time that such a substantial increase in the prices of milk has been announced at a time by the government. It will mostly affect the physical and mental health of the children belonging to the weaker section of the society. Is there any proposal to remove such shortage of milk supply? Is there any proposal to step up the supply of milk through IMS. The Minister has admitted that there is such a decline in the supply of milk through DMS.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the price of milk has been increased after due consideration. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that the prices of milk in the Mother Dairy and Delhi Milk Scheme had not been increased since 1985. However in December last, the price of milk had to be increased out of compulsion because D.M.S. and Mother Dairy had incurred a loss of Rs. 50 crores within one year. The price at which milk was purchased from the dairy owners and milkmen was higher than the selling price. Thus, when it is purchased at a higher rate and sold at a lower rate, it creates a big problem. Besides, the prevailing price in the market is even higher. I would like to quote the comparative price of milk in other cities:

In Bombay it is Rs. 5.40

In Bangalore Rs 4.50

In Jaipur Rs. 4.50

In Lucknow Rs 5.50

In Trivandrum Rs. 5.00

In Patna Rs 5.50

In Chandigarh Rs. 5.40

In Ahmedabad Rs. 5.75

In Jamshedpur Rs. 5.80

In Bokaro Rs 6.20

In Ranchi Rs 6.00

In Ambala Rs 5.20

In Jabalpur Rs. 5.50

In Meerut Rs. 6.00

In Gurgaon the price is Rs. 5.00 per litre.

In no other market is the price of milk lower than this. *(Interruptions)* Kindly listen to what I have to say. In Calcutta the price of milk is Rs 4.50 and the price of D.M.S. milk in Delhi is also the same. The price of milk sold there is not higher than that in Calcutta. But the supply of milk there is inadequate. Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want that the consumer should get milk of proper quality and in time and the dairy owners should also get fair price. If fair price is not paid to them it will result in short supply of milk because nobody will be interested in producing milk and in that case from where will the consumers get milk? We therefore, want that the fair price should be given to both the dairy owners as well as the milk consumers. Although the price of D.M.S. milk has been raised to Rs 4.50, yet D.M.S. will be incurring a loss of Rs. 22 crores per annum. Mother Dairy runs on the principle of no-profit no-loss and the question of earning profit does not arise there. You know that the requirement of milk in Delhi is 20 lakh litres per day. Both these organisations provide about 8-9 lakh litres of milk per day. We want that the supply of required quantity of milk should be ensured in Delhi. Today, the Government purchases milk from the dairy owners at the rate of Rs. 5.52 per litre, yet it sells it at a fair price to the consumers by subsidising it and by mixing *separata* and butter oil in it.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in some areas of Delhi there has been some black-marketing and whether that is one of the reasons for the shortage of milk, and, if so, what steps have the Government taken to curb such black-marketing?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no such thing has come to our notice yet. If the hon. Member is aware of any such thing, he should bring it to the notice of Government. The Government will certainly get it verified and take action against it.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister was asked about the reason of hike in the price of milk. The Government has increased the price of milk from Rs 3.50 to Rs 5.00 which comes to an increase of 40 per cent at a time. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will agree with me that there should be a balance between the prices of milk and the prices of fodder and oil cake. I want to know why were the prices of milk increased in November in spite of the fact that the price of fodder and oil cake were reduced by 30 per cent. Now that the prices of fodder are falling and the farmers have a profit margin, the Government is increasing the price of milk from Rs 3.50 to Rs 5.00. What I want to say is that some balance should be maintained between the two.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you reared a cow at home?

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: The price of oil cake has gone down by 30 per cent. *..(Interruptions)* I can provide the figures of one month. If the price of oil cake has not gone down, you may say so.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we take into account the whole country, then *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Banwari has reared bulls not cows.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Even bulls need to be provided fodder. In case he domesticates something else which can be left to roam astray then I cannot say anything about it.

MR. SPEAKER : They leave them in the fields of others.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I told you that the price of milk had not been increased since 1985. It has been increased after thorough consideration since D.M.S. and Mother Dairy were incurring a loss of Rs. 50 crores per annum. In order to offset that loss and to provide quality milk to the consumers besides paying fair price to the dairy owners, this step has been taken. You know that during lean season, milk has to be purchased at a price of Rs 6.00 per litre but it has to be sold at a price of Rs 5.00 or Rs 4.50 per litre. As I submitted just now, still D.M.S. alone will be incurring a loss of Rs. 22 crore and the Mother Dairy which functions at a no-profit-no-loss basis, too will be incurring loss during lean season. Therefore, a fair price has been fixed and it does not aim at earning profit, but to provide quality milk to the consumers in time. As I have just submitted, in no other state is the price of milk less than that in Delhi. It is not proper if someone makes a political issue out of it. This step is in the benefit of the consumer as well as dairy owners. The price of milk has been fixed only after keeping the interests of both in view.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not fair to raise the price of milk because it is an essential commodity. The price of milk has increased considerably in Calcutta as well you can buy blood there but you can't get milk for children. It is very unfortunate. (*Interruptions*) Please, pay attention to my submission. Dandavate ji, kindly listen to me because we want your opinion in this regard. A conference of the students organisation of the CPI (M) is going on in my State since yesterday and in this connection, the State Government has instructed the Government dairies to divert their milk supply to the conference as it has to be served to the members of the party cadre. What I have submitted is true and in case it is not so, you may move a privilege motion against me. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether an enquiry will be conducted in this regard or not?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards Kumari Mamata Banerjee's sub-

mission that the milk supply in Calcutta is being diverted for the consumption of the party cadre, I want to state that she has never filed such a complaint before and that we shall enquire into this matter and in case if it is correct we shall convey it to the respective State Government.

[*English*]

Mining of Diamonds with the help of France

*32. **SHRI V. TULSIRAM†:**
SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement between Indian and France has been reached in the field of mining of diamonds in the country;

(b) if so, the details of technical know-how and financial help to be provided by France; and

(c) the States where diamond mining and the development of diamond mines will be undertaken and when?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). An Agreement has been signed between Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), under the Department of Mines and the Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Miniers (BRGM) of France for transfer of technology from BRGM to MECL in diamond exploration which envisages association of Geological Survey of India and National Mineral Development Corporation.

The agreement covers evaluation of all existing geo-scientific, remote sensing and economic data through state of the art