

[English]

Import of Butter-Oil from USA

*91. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States of America have supplied butter-oil to the National Dairy Development Corporation with a view to assist Government in drought relief work;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof and the landed cost per kilogram;

(c) the mode of its utilisation; and

(d) whether a part of imported butter-oil is being sold to the consumers through Mother Dairy outlets at a great margin; if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b). The US Government offered a quantity of 5200 MT of butteroil for drought relief which will be monetised through erstwhile Indian Dairy Corporation (Now National Dairy Development Board) for the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The shipments are in progress. Since the butteroil is being received free of charge, there is no landed cost upto the port of landing.

(c) It is proposed to utilise the butteroil for direct sale as a cooking medium and for recombination of fluid milk by the dairy plants in the cooperative and public sectors.

(d) Mother Dairy, Delhi, has not received the butteroil in question.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: I am glad that the butteroil that has come is being used to serve the drought affected people

and not for some other purpose which is required by many Ministers to butter somebody. (Interruptions) I am surprised to know that butteroil to the tune of 5200 MT has not yet been sent to various States before being used by the Government itself or some agencies to help the affected people. Rather it is being sent to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Is it a fact that the butteroil will be sold and the money will be given to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund? Is it the Government's view that this butteroil will be sold in the market and the money that will be coming will be added to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund or is it being sent to the various states to help the affected people so that they can consume them? What is the position? If my second question is correct, then will you kindly let me know what amount of butteroil has been sent to what States?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: I feel that the hon. Member did not have his hearing aid. I said in the main reply itself that the shipment is in progress and this will be sold and after that the money that we get from it will be deposited in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. We have received only 2500 MT so far. It has not yet been distributed because most of it will be reused for recombination of fluid milk by the different dairies, metro and other dairies, and some of it will be sold out. Therefore, there is no question of distribution of different States, but different dairies will use it.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: The answer seems to be contradictory. If it is a fact that the butteroil will be sold and the money given to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, I would like to know what is the money that has come out of this sale and how it has been distributed to various States. You have said in your reply that the butteroil will be used for consumption as a cooking medium, it will be distributed to the affected areas as also it will be mixed with milk. How do you reconcile all these answers?

[Interruptions]