

Shortage of milk powder

†1730. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to State:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there has been a sudden shortage of milk powder/milk food of infants in the domestic market of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons for this shortage; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to meet the gap of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government has not received any report of shortage of milk food of infants in the domestic market of the country. It has been reported by the State Milk Federations that they are holding lesser stocks of milk powder compared to corresponding period last year.

The lower stock is due to increase in sales of milk than last year and lesser conversion of milk to milk powder by State Milk Federations.

The following steps were taken by Government to ensure availability of milk powder in the country:

- (i) On permission of Government, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) had imported 30,000 MT of milk powder during 2010-11 under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) at concessional duty of 0% to meet the requirements of Metro Dairies and State milk Federations.
- (ii) Government has permitted NDDB to import 30,000 MT of milk powder during 2011-12 under Tariff Rate Quota at concessional duty of 0% to meet the requirements of Metro Dairies and State milk Federations.
- (iii) Ministry of Commerce & Industry *vide* its notification dated 24.01.2011 has withdrawn Duty Entitlement Pass Book scheme benefit on export of Skimmed milk product, Casein and any other Milk Product.
- (iv) Ministry of Commerce & Industry *vide* its notification dated 18.02.2011 has prohibited export of milk powders (including skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, dairy whitener and infant milk food), Casein and Casein products.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.