

Price-rise of milk and milk products

3288. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of milk and milk products like cheese, butter have risen in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to bring down the prices of the above products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (base year 2004-05 = 100) of milk during 2011-12 has increased from 174.2 on 02.04.2011 to 193.4 on 13.08.2011. Increase in prices is mainly attributed to increase in cost of production.

Authentic data on increase of prices of milk products like cheese, butter is not available with this Department.

(c) The Government has taken the following measures to augment the availability & stabilize the price of milk & milk products:

1. National Dairy Development Board has been allowed to import 50,000 MT of Skimmed Milk Powder and Whole milk powder and 15,000 MT of Butter, Butter oil and anhydrous milk fat at 0% concessional duty under Tariff Rate Quota for the year 2011-12 for reconstitution of milk by State Milk Federations and Metro Dairies vide notification dated 14.01.2011.
2. Export of milk powders (including skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, dairy whitener and infant milk food), Casein and Casein products has been prohibited with effect from 18.02.2011.

Demand and supply of fertilizer

3289. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large number of fertilizer units have been closed down in the country, thereby putting a question mark on the supply of fertilizers to the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;