

brought under cultivation at economic cost. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management in the catchment of Flood Prone River provide for the treatment of barren lands in the selected watersheds

[English]

Supply of Milk Powder and Butter Oil by EEC

2292. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC) for the supply of milk powder and butter oil for the Operation Flood-III Project;

(b) if so, whether at present the EEC is reluctant to honour its commitments;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken to ensure that EEC honours its commitments;

(d) whether at present there is a shortfall in production of milk and milk powder products in the country;

(e) whether the Government are also considering the proposal to permit export of milk powder by private sector;

(f) if so, the quantity proposed to be exported, country-wise; and

(g) whether the proposal of export is opposed by the National Dairy Development Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However there has been some delay in making gift commodities available.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The production of milk products had to be curtailed as priority has been given by the public/cooperative sector dairy plants to meet the requirement of liquid milk of cities and towns. However, with the onset of the flush season the production and availability of milk products is expected to improve.

(e) to (g). The export of milk powder has been canalised through NDDB. There is no proposal under consideration at present to permit the export of milk powder by private sector.

South-South Co-Operation

2293. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken any decision to promote South-South Co-operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). India has always emphasised the importance of South-South Co-operation. During the Non-aligned Summit in Belgrade in 1989, India joined in the initiative to create a summit level group on South-South consultation and co-operation (G-15). The Group provides a forum for regular and in-depth consultations at the highest level on international issues and to promote South-South Co-operation. Several specific projects for South-South Co-operation have been identified by the Group. A summit level meeting of Group of 15 recently took place in Caracas,