

To

Date:26/Dec/2019

Mr. Shri Sanjay Agarwal

Secretary

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

New Delhi

Dear Mr. Agarwal,

Greetings from Cobrapost!

We are an independent non-profit news website and television production house, predominantly known for investigative journalism since 2003.

During the course of investigation for a story on NDDDB, we have come across certain malpractices, both financial and procedural. We would like to ask you the following questions in this regard:

1. Under what rules was Mr. Dilip Rath allowed to join the NDDDB, an office of profit, without completing the cooling off period of one year as is mandatory for all bureaucrats including IAS?
2. According to information available with us, NDDDB has created six private producer companies in recent past. Does NDDDB have mandate to create such private entities at public expenses? Do you think such producer companies have been created to promote and strengthen dairy cooperative movement? If not why they have been allowed to be created by your department? If yes, please inform how they are helping the cause of dairy farmers?
3. These private companies have been extended huge monetary grants under National Dairy Development Plan-I running into hundreds of crores of rupees. Not only that, they also have been allowed to use the unspent funds by NDDDB. What monitoring mechanism your department has in place to check NDP funds are not misused?
4. Information available in public domain has it that all these private producer companies have common directors largely drawn from NDDDB and its subsidiaries. In other words, it means these subsidiaries are owned and controlled by NDDDB officialdom. Please explain why it is being allowed to indulge in such practices by the government?

5. It is learned that Mother Dairy, a direct subsidiary of NDDDB, is procuring milk from these private companies, thus giving primacy to private interests over dairy cooperatives. What would like to say on this?
6. It is learned that Mr. Dilip Rath, who heads NDDDB and its subsidiaries such as NDS and IRMA, as Chairman is also the Mission Director and as Mission Director he found it plausible to extend huge grants to these six private producer companies out of NDP-I funds. How would you like to explain this clash of interest and how Mr. Rath is being allowed to head NDP-I and NDDDB at the same time and enjoy an overarching influence in decision making?
7. Most of the top management of NDDDB consists of retired bureaucrats and professionals who are almost a decade past their superannuation age. What could be the reason for them to continue in office? What is the retirement policy of your department with regard to NDDDB?
8. Why NDDDB has refused to submit itself and its subsidiaries to the RTI Act 2005 despite the Government of India advising it to do so and Central Information Commissioner also ruling it to do so? Should we say NDDDB is above law and not accountable even to Indian Parliament and the government is allowing it to conduct its affairs in ways which are least transparent?
9. Why the government is not directing the NDDDB to submit itself to RTI Act?
10. Of late, media reports have indicated a deep rot in NDDDB, with reports of various financial and other malpractices coming to light on regular basis. Why CAG has not been directed to audit the books of NDDDB and its subsidiaries despite the Delhi High Court ruling so a decade back?
11. In the absence of any CAG audit, what mechanism has your department put in place to audit the account books of NDDDB and its subsidiaries to ensure they conduct their business in a transparent manner?

We request you to send your response to this email ID as soon as possible. If we do receive your reply, we shall duly include the same in our story. In case, we do not hear from you in time, we shall publish your response in subsequent posts.

We hope to receive your response soon.

Warm regards,

Team Cobrapost

To

Date:26/Dec/2019

Mr. Dilip Rath

Chairman

National Dairy Development Board

Anand, Gujarat

Dear Mr. Rath,

Greetings from Cobrapost!

We are an independent non-profit news website and television production house, predominantly known for investigative journalism since 2003.

During the course of investigation for a story on NDDDB, we have come across certain malpractices, both financial and procedural. We would like to ask you the following questions in this regard:

1. According to information available with us, NDDDB has created six private producer companies in recent past, namely, Paayas Milk Producer Company Ltd., Maahi Milk Producer Company Ltd., Saahaj Milk Producer Company Ltd., Shreeja Milk Producer Company Ltd., Baani Milk Producer Company Ltd. and Bapudham Milk Producer Company Ltd.. Does NDDDB have mandate to create such private entities at public expenses?
2. These private companies have been extended huge monetary grants under National Dairy Development Plan-I running into hundreds of crores of rupees. Not only that, they also have been allowed to use the unspent funds by NDDDB? What could be the reason for this undue favour being extended to these producer companies instead of helping the cooperative dairy farmers? Please explain to inform your answer.
3. Surprisingly, all these diversely located companies have a common auditor, the Gurgaon-based SB Billimoria & Co. What could be the reason for this phenomenon of choosing a single auditor for all six companies?
4. Information available in public domain has it that all these private producer companies have common directors drawn from NDDDB and its subsidiaries. In other words, it means these subsidiaries are owned and controlled by NDDDB officialdom. Please explain.
5. It is learned that Mother Dairy, a direct subsidiary of NDDDB, is procuring milk from these private companies, thus giving primacy to private interests over dairy cooperatives. What would you like to say on this?

6. It is learned that Mr. Dilip Rath, who heads NDDDB and its subsidiaries such as NDS and IRMA, as Chairman is also the Mission Director and as Mission Director he found it plausible to extend huge grants to these six private producer companies out of NDP-I funds. We see there is a clash of interest here, and Mr. Rath should not have extended these grants to these producer companies for the sake of probity. How would you like to explain this granting of assistance?
7. It is learned that of these six producer companies, five companies figure in the annual reports of the NDDDB for the fiscals 2014–15 and 2017–18. Strangely, Bapudham Milk Producer Company Ltd. does not figure in these annual reports. What could be the reason for this omission? Please explain in detail.
8. Most of the top management of NDDDB consists of retired bureaucrats and professionals who are almost a decade past their superannuation age. What could be the reason for them to continue in office? What is your retirement policy?
9. Why NDDDB has refused to submit itself and its subsidiaries to the RTI Act 2005 despite the Government of India advising it to do so and Central Information Commissioner also directing it to do so? Should we say NDDDB is above law and not accountable even to Indian Parliament?

We request you to send your response to this email ID as soon as possible. If we do receive your reply, we shall duly include the same in our story. In case, we do not hear from you in time, we shall publish your response in subsequent posts.

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