



भारतीय प्रतिरक्षा मजदूर संघ

BHARATIYA PRATIRAKSHA MAZDOOR SANGH

(AN ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF DEFENCE WORKERS)

(AN INDUSTRIAL UNIT OF B.M.S.)

(RECOGNISED BY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, GOVT. OF INDIA)

CENTRAL OFFICE: 2-A, NAVEEN MARKET, KANPUR – 208001, PH & FAX : (0512) 2332222

MOBILE: 09415733686, 09235729390, 09335621629, WEB : www.bpms.org.in

REF: BPMS / MOD / Military Farm / 186 (8/1/R)

Dated: 25.08.2013

To,
Shri A K Antony ji,
Defence Minister, Govt of India,
South Block, DHQ PO,
New Delhi 110011.

Subject: Closure of Military Farms Department.

Hon'ble Sir,

With due regards, I would like to draw your attention to your own statement delivered at a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conference in New Delhi on 20 Feb 2013 which is as under:

"I think our Armed Forces, Government, DRDO, industry both public as well as private should come together in mission mode so that India can achieve maximum for indigenisation in a reasonable time. India needs to speed up the indigenisation process of its defence production in order to root out corruption from the sector. Whatever support is needed from the Government, I assure you we will give,"

This federation has firm belief that when you are referring the indigenization & self reliance in defence preparedness, you are not excluding the Military Farms. Military Farm department was established by Britishers in India during 1887 with the aim to supply well hygienically produced fresh cow milk to troops.

Now, the Military Farms are under the Administrative Control of the Dy. Director General of Military Farms. The DDGMF acts as an adviser to the Quarter Master General on technical matters connected with Military Farms. The administrative control of Military Farms in a Command is controlled by Director of Military Farms (DMF). Each farm is in charge of a DADMF/Manager/Farm Officer, who is responsible for the direct management of the farms and the maintenance of its statistical and account books and rendition of accounts to the Controller of Defence Accounts concerned.

The Military Farms are run on quasi-commercial basis. The primary responsibility of a Military Farm is:

(a) to provide wherever it can be economically undertaken a reliable and hygienic supply of dairy produce to the troops as per authorised scale;

(b) to provide fodder for the animals of the Army in India (except belonging to the Army Remount Depots). Vegetables are also produced in certain farms for issue to the troops. While Military

Hospitals and others entitled are issued free supplies, surplus produce is issued on payment to officers, ORs and Civilians of Defence Services.

For this purpose Military Farms maintain their own cattle and also own agricultural land for raising fodder. Dry/Young Stock Farms are also organised in some stations to provide for cheap living conditions to dry and young stock so that the over crowding and financial burden on Military Farm is reduced. At other stations where there are no cattle holding Military Farms, Military Farm Depots function and supply milk either by purchasing locally or from a nearby Military Farm, pasteurising it and issuing it to the units. Military Farm Depots may at times be completely dependant for all its pasteurisation of milk on a neighbouring Military Farm or Civil Supply. Such a type of Depot acts only as a delivery centre. To cater for exploitation of hay from forest areas, its cultivation, stocking, baling and despatching to the various Military Farms/Units, Baling Depots are sanctioned.

All the Military Farms have the following four sections:

(a) Cattleyard Section:- This Section is responsible for maintaining milch animals for production of milk. Accounts of feed issued to milch animals and accounts of milk produced are maintained in this section. Milk produced in this section is tested and handed over to the Dairy Section.

(b) Dairy Section:- This Section receives milk from Cattleyard Section, pasteurise it and issues it to various units/Military Hospitals. The accounts of milk issued to various units are maintained by this section.

(c) Cultivation and Fodder Section:- This section is responsible for production of fodder required by the animals, vegetables and other crops. Fodder is sometimes purchased. For this purpose it maintains its own account. This Section is also responsible for stocking and issue of dry/green fodder and silage.

(d) Administration Section comprising Establishment, Accounts, Stores, etc. groups:- The Administration Section of the Military Farm maintains Administration / Establishment of the farm and all the cash and coupon accounts of the farm. It also maintains Journal indicating all transactions other than cash.

But it is being observed that some vested interest group have got the Military Farm department totally failed to do so and now even after 125 years only 30 to 40 percent fresh cow milk is being supplied to troops and 60 to 70 percent milk is purchased from the market which is not produce in hygienically atmosphere/condition.

Upto 1974 there were 82 Military Farms and now these have been reduced to 37 in number by closing 45 Military Farms. Now it is learnt from the newspapers that Ministry of Defence has ordered to close all Military Farms for the interest of State.

It is to be noted that the sample of Military Farms produced milk never failed from specific testing laboratories in India whereas other civil milk supply agencies could not supply pure milk to customer. Further, Govt has expended Rs. Millions for purchasing animals and installing Milk Plant in the dairy and workshop, machineries, vehicles for the interest of State. On closure of the Military Farms all the above will have of no use resulting in huge loss to the State.

In such circumstances, you are requested to intervene into the matter and issue necessary instructions kindly that instead of closing the Military Farms, improvement may be done by increasing the strength of animals, buying higher breeds which produce enhanced milk.

Thanking you.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.P. Singh', written over a light grey rectangular background.

(M. P. SINGH)

General Secretary