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Import of milk powder defended

Anand, Jan 19 (UNI)— National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) chairman V Kurien has said that those who criticise "Operation Flood" had not really understood the project.

Dr Kurien told newsmen here yesterday that those who criticised the import of milk powder as gift commodities from the European Economic Community (EEC) were probably not aware that the quantity involved was only around 35,000 tonnes a year.

He asserted that such imports had not made the Indian dairy industry dependent on imported milk powder.

Dr Kurien said the production of milk powder had gone up to 1.2 lakh tonnes a year. He said the NDDB was seeking only 15,000 tonnes of food-aid per year for the third phase of Operation Flood.

About the criticism that operation flood had only helped to transfer nutrition from the villages to the city, where milk was

largely consumed, Dr Kurien said independent studies had shown that milk consumption was going up in villages, too.

Besides, the farmers were using the additional income from the sale of milk to buy other important items of daily use, he said.

Dr Kurien also dismissed allegations that too much money was being spent on erecting dairy

500th new type of locomotive

Chittaranjan, Jan 19 (PTI) — The 500th broad gauge diesel shunting locomotive will roll out of the diesel loco shop of the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works next Wednesday marking a significant chapter in the history of the Railway undertaking.

According to Mr R K Vir, general manager of the CLW, the locomotive will be christened as "Subhash" and commissioned by Mr Ajit Kumar Panja, Union Minister of State for Planning.

plants and processing facilities.

The fact was that today there was not enough capacity in the dairy sector to handle all the milk produced in the villages, he said.

Another allegation levelled against Operation Flood was that it had made India dependent on imported machinery and equipment.

To this, Dr Kurien's answer was that there was nothing wrong with using imported technology to modernise the dairy industry, as it was being done in other sectors.

In any case, he said there were as many as 135 small and large units in the country manufacturing dairy equipment, which met almost the entire needs of the industry.

Dr Kurien said it was a pity that vested interest groups in India as well as countries like the Netherlands and West Germany were criticising a project which was now being emulated in countries like China and Sri Lanka.