SCOPE AND SUCCESS OF BOMBAY MILK SCHEME AND FAILURES TOO

In the history of Bombay Presidency, compiled by Somerset Flayre, Bombay has been described as "a paltry island and a fishing village" in 1662. But the motto on the crest of the Bombay Municipal Corporation says it is "urbs prima Indis" meaning the first city of India. This is justifiable. Look at the beautiful structures of "Bombay the beautiful," such as Gateway of India, buildings, Marine drive, fascinating Hanging garden, wide and well-marked roads, some of the finest hotels, restaurants, railway terminus, bank buildings, stadium, colleges, and the Haffkin Institute of international fame. Bombay can truly be proud of many features, which other Indian cities do not have the privilege of possessing. The bold action of Bombay Government to place Bombay Milk Scheme on the map of dairy world to produce and distribute quality milk comparable with the best in the world and contribution of the milkmen to make the scheme a success, richly added to make the real "Urbs prima in India."

The success of the scheme can be summarised in accordance with the aims laid down.

1. Dislodge of congested milk cattle stables. Except 1200 cattle existing in the city at present, which are kept under satisfactory conditions, nearly 7770 have been removed at the 21 colony and majority of owners shifted from city to suburb under existing rules, leaving the
city perfectly a sanitary from such a nuisance.

2. **Quality milk.** Bombay milk scheme achieved a remarkable success in supplying quality milk through legislative measures and supplying the pasteurised milk in sterilised bottles. The real significance would be apparent, if Bombay took over the whole estimated supply is 6000 maunds of milk a day, which will contribute towards the health of people, reducing the causes of communicable diseases and increasing the span of life, through the supply of clean, safe and wholesome milk. This fact in the long run can be easily compared with the past available statistical data on deaths and various diseases and future data to come.

3. Plan further succeeded in its aims
   1. **Cattle colonisation.** Colonising 15000 animals in 26 ideal farm units.
   2. Completion of 700 milk distribution centres.
   3. Target to distribute 5000 maunds of milk/day will be augmented by opening a set of another two proposed colonies and colonising the suburbs cattle (45000) under ideal conditions.

**Figures of the Milk Plan**

1. Reducing high cost and soaring prices of milk as referred to earlier and possible measures given.

2. **Augmenting the acute shortage** - Acute shortage cannot be overcome unless the whole of the nation take the problem enthusiastically, in the increasing the general level of production through selective breeding,
art of feeding, management and care of the milk animals. Further consumers and producers education is necessary to understand each other and the initiative to be taken to introduce "Drink M-ore Milk Campaign" under the future National Five Year Plans.

3. Calf rearing - The failure of which has its own technical handicaps which have been clarified earlier.

Scope of the scheme and its applicability to other provinces and cities of India.

As it is necessary to dislodge cattle stables from various cities of India like Calcutta, and Madras, for which Government of Bombay has laid down the right procedure to adopt. Any commercial producer can study the scheme and run the business technically. But the future of such schemes would be quite prospective one, if the surrounding areas can supply the demanded fodder and feed requirements at reasonable rates and where owners have got sufficient land to salvage dry animals and calves of excellent breeds to their native land and maintain them economically unlike every Bombay where item is procured artificially.

CONCLUSION

I suggest to copy the milk distribution scheme only in other cities and milk procurement to be pursued on the lines as Anand Union doing in rural areas.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHEME.

The Civil Supplies Department took upon the task of organizing the milk supply as an item of food for the people. A separate milk department was created from 1st March 1945.
Administrative set up - Milk Commissioner at the main office Bombay is assisted by one Assistant Milk Commissioner (Admin), one Assistant Milk Commissioner (Accounts), one Assistant Director (General), one Assistant Director (Milk Distribution), one Milk Account officer, and one Land Survey officer. Director Milk Colony Arey is assisted by Assistant Director Milk Colony, Chief Veterinary officer, Colony Account officer, Milk Costing officer, Dairy and Engineer, Special officer for processing, Chief Chemist and Bacteriologist, Special Engineer under Milk Plan Construction Division, and Agricultural Officer.

Milk Commissioner has been delegated with certain powers to incur expenditure on certain items to a limited extent except diesel oil and furnace oil to any extent. Over and above the authorized limit, he is to forward the demand to the Secretariat and the Minister incharge of Milk Colony for its approval.

**Classification of Staff and Salary**

1. Gazetted officers.
2. Non-gazetted officers.
3. Class IV servants, workers and mazdoors.
4. Part-time workers.
5. Daily workers.

Average salary drawn by different categories in the Milk Scheme or consolidated pay in case of part-time workers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
<th>Average Salary Drawn (including allowances)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Gazetted Officers</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Class III</td>
<td>540</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Class IV</td>
<td>1394</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Part time workers</td>
<td>1182</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL----------------</td>
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<td>3086</td>
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**RECRUITMENT**

For gazetted officers advertisement is done through press and selection is made through Public 

**DEPARTMENTAL DISCIPLINE**

The charges are framed against the suspected persons and a complete departmental enquiry is made which is forwarded to the Secretariat for its suitable disposal. The persons thus charged are fined and punished and in severe cases even dismissed from service.

**EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYER RELATION**

The problem is complex in its nature as milk scheme is an enterprise of state-cum-private nature, hence the state of relationship would be different under the two categories. Workers under milk department enjoy all the amenities of state departments as authorised, such as the benefit of free medical aid and can erect their own hut on the land provided free of cost together with housing material in the colony. But the workers who are engaged in farm units under private milk producers, their wages are low, i.e. Rs 45 per month. In addition, they get free quarter attached to each farm unit and 3/4 th or one seer of milk
free of charge a day. The stable workers in the city are little bit better as compared to colony Bhayias. As stable workers increase their remuneration through dishonesty by selling pure milk for their personal ends and adulterating the pure milk to keep the quantity constant which is the result of low wages. In some cases they keep 1 or 2 buffaloes along with the private owners thus increasing their income, but regarding housing, amongst they have tip to aline themselves with the cattle. Stable workers in the suburb get as 10 a day for the conveyance of milk to the private owner's depot located in the city's milk market and get railway season ticket at owner's expenses, thus they meet out their food requirements out of these 10 Annas only. The disputes regarding wages are quite common.

STRIKES

As a result of low wages, workers are easily exploited by some socialist workers, as a result of which workers went on strike comprising about a thousand of workers in the second week of September, 1954 at Aarey.