

Shri Ramsinh Parmar

Ladies & Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to welcome each of you to this 72nd annual general meeting of our Union. With the continued cooperation and goodwill from all of you our union has been able to continue its stride and conquer greater heights in development, quality and production during the year. This is a matter of pride for all of us. Let us jointly the express our gratitude to the great visionaries like Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shri Tribhuvandas Patel and Dr. V. Kurien who have contributed immensely in shaping Amul since its inception in 1946.

It is heartening that for the first time the Chairman of Amul Dairy has been elected as the Chairman of GCMMF Ltd., Anand. I am grateful to the Chairmen of all the Milk Unions of Gujarat for unanimously electing me to this post.

India is the largest milk producing and consuming country in the world. India has made significant progress in dairying after the Operation Flood Programme was launched in 1970. Once an importing country of dairy products, India now exports milk products to various international markets.

Milk production in our country has increased manifold. India remains the worlds largest milk producing nation since the last two decades. The annual growth of India's milk production between 4 to 5% indicates a positive future for our milk producers. India's ₹5.4 lakh crores dairy industry has witnessed an annual growth of 15% between 2010 to 2016. With an estimated annual growth of 15% from year 2016, the output of the dairy industry is poised to reach ₹9.4 lakh crores by 2020. Our country currently produces 165 million tons of milk annually which firmly indicates the role of animal husbandry and

dairying in our rural development. Though India has progressed and achieved the number-one position in dairying in the world, in reality, our dairy industry is still at a nascent stage in the development and adoption of modern technologies. The yield of milk of our milch animals are much lower when compared to other countries. Lack of adequate availability of green fodder, quality feed, cold chain infrastructure and good transport facilities are still a challenge for our dairy industry. It is also challenging that even today only about 30% of milk production is procured by the organized sector.

Presently about 1.3 crores producer members of 1.24 lakh village milk societies affiliated to 165 cooperative dairies under the organized cooperative sector collect milk and profitably market their milk products. India currently produces 165 million tons of milk which is expected to reach 200 million tons by year 2020.

To cater to the increasing demand of milk products, we need to further improve our research and development. Even now the consumers prefer traditional dairy products. Gujarat is in the 3rd position in milk production while it is far ahead in providing value added products, thanks to our three-tier cooperative Amul model.

