

Bhutan seeks Amul's help to source 2,000 cows



Bhutanese PM Tshering Tobgay in Anand Tuesday. (Source: Express Photo)

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The Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay visited Amul Dairy in Anand on Tuesday, along with a 19-member delegation that included his wife Aum Tashi Doma, and sought the expertise of Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) in sourcing 2,000 cows for farmers in his country. GCMMF chairman Jethabhai Patel received Tobgay and other dignitaries. Later, GCMMF MD R S Sodhi told The Indian Express that the Bhutan PM wanted help from GCMMF in sourcing cows of jersey and HF breed for the farmers. "They want to give cows to their farmers and want to buy jersey and HF breed of cows. Tobgay asked Amul can help them in sourcing the cows," Sodhi said.

Tobgay was impressed with the dairy cooperative movement of India and the contribution made by the dairy co-operative in the uplift of farmers. In a press release, Tobgay was quoted as saying: "I have heard a lot about Amul and have grown up experiencing the wonders of Amul. I am delighted and honoured to be at Anand."

Tobgay said he respected the spirit of Sardar Patel, "a giant among men," and Verghese Kurien, "an inspiration to people the world over".

Tobgay's handwritten note in the guest book of Amul Cooperative says, "It is my honour to visit Anand to pay my respects to Sardar Patel, a giant among men and Dr Verghese Kurien, an inspiration to people world over. Thank you Team Amul for your hospitality."

Tobgay was also accompanied by his daughter and the finance minister of Bhutan as he visited the plant to understand the process of milk production. Tobgay also visited the garage where Dr Kurien resided during his early days in Anand, as well as the memorial of Dr Kurien and his wife Molly. Tobgay also viewed a power point presentation on the history of the milk cooperative since its inception in 1946 by Amul Dairy MD K Ratnam and GCMMF MD R S Sodhi.

Gujarat Cabinet Minister Ramanlal Vora, Anand MP Dilip Patel, MLA Sanjay Patel, Rohit Patel, Collector Rakesh Shankar as well as officials of the local civic body and the milk cooperative were part of the interaction with Tobgay.

The Bhutanese PM said he too belonged to the family of farmers and has cows at his home. He praised the spirit of Amul. "All over the world, farmers and social workers draw inspiration from Amul's cooperative movement."

Sodhi briefed Tobgay about Amul's marketing activities in Bhutan and offered to support the Himalayan country in dairy development there, including the purchase of 2,000 cows.