



# राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission

केन्द्रिय कार्यालय, Central Office

हरिहर भवन, पुल्चोक, ललितपुर, HariharBhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



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## Press Note

June 24, 2013

### NHRC Expresses Concern on the Incident of Milk Adulteration: Consultation held with Stakeholders

The National Human Rights Commission called upon the stakeholders and held a consultation meeting regarding the latest incidents of high level of coliform detected in the milk samples of dairies operating in the valley. The incident of milk adulteration was made public through the report of Food Technology and Quality Control Department as well as the news report published in various media.

On the occasion, NHRC Member Justice Ram Nagina Singh said that detection of high level of coliform in milk was a serious issue. Expressing his deep concern, Member Singh added that such an issue is related to the right to healthy life of people and thus action must be taken against those milk producing dairies involved in violating the prescribed standard of quality.

At the program, NHRC Member and Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan said that problems seen in the entire process of foodstuff production and processing to distribution should be corrected to ensure the protection of people's fundamental right to healthy food.

Commending the monitoring launched by the Food Technology and Quality Control Department in the recent past, Member Pradhan further suggested the department to freely take ahead the effective investigation and monitoring by remaining aloof from any undue pressure.

He also stressed the need of regular investigation and monitoring on the food production system and market monitoring by the stakeholder authorities and publicize the report within specific intervals for safeguarding the people's right to healthy food.

Also speaking at the program, Senior Officer of Food Technology and Quality Control Department Pramod Koirala said six different dairies were sealed after their milk products were found containing high level of coliform on June 6 and 7, 2013.

He also added that, in recent past, a case has been lodged against the six dairies in accordance with the Food Act, 2023 BS and Food Regulations, 2027 B.S.

On the occasion, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Ganesh Raj Dhakal said the ministry was carrying out market monitoring and more officers are being recruited to make the monitoring mission more effective. He also expressed his commitment to forward the monitoring in sound coordination.



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Speaking at the occasion, Chief of Dairy Development Corporation (DDC) Raj Govinda Rajkarnikar said the coliform level in the DDC produced milk has been reduced to zero and sterilization has been given top priority.

Similarly, expressing concern on the incident of the coliform found in the milk samples, Joint Secretary Dr. Prabhakar Pathak of Ministry of Agriculture said that the ministry was watchful about the tainted agro products and its impact on the public health. He confirmed that regular monitoring, reporting and the discussion being held on the measures to be adopted to evade the production of unhealthy agro products.

He also added that the training on healthy milk production is held with the objective to support the movement of healthy milk production.

At the program, Hasna Maiya Shrestha, Director of National Dairy Board elucidated on various causes for substandard quality of milk in recent days.

She said that efforts have been inculcated at the leadership of the Joint Secretary of the Agricultural Development Ministry to form a committee in order to find the solution to the crux of the problem with regard to milk adulteration.

Calling upon the concerned stakeholder authorities to deviate their attention towards maintaining the quality of the food stuffs in order to protect and promote the fundamental rights to healthy food and right to healthy life of people, Member Pradhan adjourned the meeting.

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Durga Khadka

Officiating Secretary