

Former MP, 8 others booked for dairy fraud

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vadodara: The Panchmahal District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Ltd or Panchamrut Dairy registered two offences against nine former office bearers, including former chairman of the dairy and former Godhra MP Bhupendrasinh Solanki for misappropriation of funds amounting to Rs 2.4crore. The offences were registered regarding the finances of the dairy in the years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Solanki had a stronghold on the dairy cooperative and was its chairman for 15 years from 1994. He was also elected as the MP from the Godhra Lok Sabha constituency in 1999 and 2004 on a BJP ticket. He has been sidelined by the party since



Panchamrut Dairy in Panchmahal

2009 when he was not granted the ticket by the BJP.

The other accused in the case include former managing director of the dairy R S Patel, former general manager M H Dave and six

other former officials of the dairy.

The complaint states that milk and other products were despatched to various centres from the Panchamrut Dairy by the accused. However, the amount deposited with the dairy against these products was found to be lesser than the value of the goods dispatched. It subsequently came to light that the pending amount was later collected in cash from the centres, but was not deposited with the dairy.

The offence claims that in the year 2008-09, a misappropriation amounting to Rs 91.52lakh was done while in the year 2009-10, the amount stood at Rs 1.49crore.

The audit reports were sent to the cooperatives department of the state government, which asked the dairy to take necessary steps regarding the frauds last year. Following this the offence was registered.

Solanki said the step was politically motivated. "I have been out of the dairy since a long time now. The accounts were audited earlier too, but a second audit was done at a later stage," he added.