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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
AND FOOD PROCESSING**

(2022-2023)

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING)**

**'STATUS OF VETERINARY SERVICES AND AVAILABILITY OF ANIMAL VACCINE
IN THE COUNTRY'**

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations /
Recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of
the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21)}**

FORTY FIFTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

DECEMBER 2022/ AGRAHAYANA, 1944 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on

20.12.2022

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on

20.12.2022



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

DECEMBER 2022/AGRAHAYANA, 1944 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING* (2021-22)**

Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar- Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Afzal Ansari
3. Shri Horen Sing Bey
4. Shri Devendra Singh 'Bhole'
5. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
6. Shri Kanakmal Katara
7. Shri Abu Taher Khan
8. Shri Mohan Mandavi
9. Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu
10. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
11. Smt. Shardaben Anilbhai Patel
12. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
13. Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil
14. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
15. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
16. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
17. Shri Mohammad Sadique
18. Shri Virendra Singh
19. Shri V.K. Sreekandan
20. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav
21. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
23. Shri Kailash Soni
24. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
25. Shri Vaiko
26. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav
- @27. VACANT
- @28. VACANT
- @29. VACANT
30. VACANT
31. VACANT

* Standing Committee on Agriculture renamed as Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing *vide* Para No. 3293, Bulletin Part-II, dated 23.11.2021.

@ Shri Partap Singh Bajwa, MP Rajya Sabha ceased to be a Member of the Committee *w.e.f.* 21.03.2022 due to resignation from the Membership of Rajya Sabha *w.e.f.* 21.03.2022; Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa ceased to be a Member of the Committee *w.e.f.* 09.04.2022 due to his retirement from Rajya Sabha *w.e.f.* 09.04.2022 and Shri Surendra Singh Nagar, ceased to be a Member of the Committee *w.e.f.* 04.07.2022 due to his retirement from Rajya Sabha *w.e.f.* 04.07.2022

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Shiv Kumar - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Sundar Prasad Das - Director
3. Shri Prem Ranjan - Deputy Secretary
4. Ms. Divya Rai - Assistant Executive Officer

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Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar- Chairperson

MEMBERS

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6. Shri Abu Taher Khan
7. Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu
8. Shri Mohan Mandavi
9. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
10. Smt. Sharda Anilkumar Patel
11. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
12. Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil
13. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
14. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
15. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
16. Mohammad Sadique
17. Shri Devendra Singh *alias* Bhole Singh
18. Shri Virendra Singh
19. Shri V.K. Sreekandan
20. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav
- *21. VACANT

RAJYA SABHA

22. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
23. Shri Masthan Rao Beeda
24. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
25. Shri S. Kalyanasundaram
26. Shri Surendra Singh Nagar
27. Shri Kailash Soni
28. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala
29. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
30. Shri Vaiko
31. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav

* Vacant w.e.f. 10.10.2022 due to demise of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav on 10.10.2022 vide Bulletin- Part II, Para No. 5316 dated 14.10.2022.

SECRETARIAT

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|----|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Shri Shiv Kumar | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Naval K. Verma | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri Prem Ranjan | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Ms. Divya Rai | - | Assistant Executive Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2022-23), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Forty Fifth Report on Action taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21) on the Subject 'Status of Veterinary Services and Availability of Animal Vaccine in the Country' pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

2. The Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21) on the Subject 'Status of Veterinary Services and Availability of Animal Vaccine in the Country' pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying), was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 10 August, 2021. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 24 November, 2021.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 15 November, 2022.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix**.

NEW DELHI;
06 December, 2022
15 Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)

P.C. GADDIGOUDAR
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Agriculture, Animal Husbandry
and Food Processing

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing deals with the Action-taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21) on the subject 'Status of Veterinary Services and Availability of Animal Vaccine in the Country' pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying), which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 10th August, 2021.

1.2 The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying) has furnished Action-taken Replies in respect of all 29 Observations / Recommendations contained in the Report. These replies have been scrutinized and thereafter categorized as under :-

(i) Observations / Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government: Recommendation Para Nos. 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27,

28 and 29

Total 18
Chapter - II

(ii) Observations / Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

Recommendation Para No. NIL

Total 00
Chapter - III

(iii) Observations / Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Recommendation Para Nos. 1, 3, 5, 19 and 25

Total 05
Chapter - IV

(iv) Observations / Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited :

Recommendation Para No. 11, 13, 14, 15, 22 and 23

Total 06
Chapter - V

1.3 The Committee desire that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations / Recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases where it is not possible for the Department to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit, for any reason, the matter be intimated to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action-taken Notes on the Observations / Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the Action-taken by the Government on some of the Observations / Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

**A. Scheme on Livestock Health & Disease Control (LH&DC)
(Recommendation No. 1)**

1.5 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that the Scheme on Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) was formulated with a view to provide financial assistance as the Central share to States / UTs for control & containment of animal diseases, with a funding pattern of 60:40 between Centre and State (90:10 for North Eastern & Himalayan States and 100% for UTs). The Committee, however, are concerned to note the huge difference between figures on BE proposed and Budget allocated under the LH&DC Scheme from the year 2017-18 up to 2021-22. Against a proposed allocation of Rs.1553.03 crore, the Department was allocated a mere Rs.298.77 crore at the BE Stage in 2017-18 and this trend of drastic reduction at the BE Stage has continued up to the year 2021-22 with allocated BE being Rs.370.00 crore as against a proposed amount of Rs.909.39 crore. Moreover, funds allocated at RE Stage were further reduced from the years 2018-19 up to 2020-21. While expressing satisfaction over the total percentage expenditure of funds allocated to the Department, that has constantly been over 98% from 2017-18 to 2019-20, the Committee note with discontent that under some sub-components of LH&DC Scheme nil financial progress and zero physical

achievements have been made at some point during the period from 2015-16 up to 2020-21.

The Committee are constrained to note that the Sub-components on Professional Efficiency Development (PED), National Animal Disease Reporting System (NADRS) and Classical Swine Fever Control Programme (CSF-CP) show 'Zero Allocations' for the year 2020-21. The Nil achievement of Physical Targets regarding vaccination doses to pigs in NE States under CSF-CP during 2020-21 and Zero Trainings conducted under PED during the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and also during 2020-21 further add to the displeasure of the Committee. The Committee further express utter dismay while taking note of the most significant fact that no Veterinary Hospitals / Dispensaries were strengthened or established under the Establishment and Strengthening of existing Veterinary Hospitals / Dispensaries (ESVHD) Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme during the years 2017-18 and 2020-21 as well as nil achievements made regarding searching of village/stock routes under the Sub-component on National Project on Rinderpest Surveillance and Monitoring (NPRSM) during the years 2015-16 and 2017-18. While the expenditure pattern of the Department with respect to the LH&DC Scheme, in totality, shows near 100% utilization of allocated funds, the status of financial progress and physical achievements under the aforementioned sub-components raise serious concerns with the Committee. Taking a negative view of such a misleading approach of the Department, the Committee strongly desire that necessary explanation be furnished with regard to non-achievement of Physical and Financial Targets with respect to States and UTs under the LH&DC Sub-components so far and also recommend the Department to take stock of the situation regarding effective implementation of the Scheme Sub-components at the grassroots level. On the issue of drastic cuts under the Scheme at the BE Stage, the Committee recommend the Ministry of Finance to bear in mind the proposed allocation projected by the Department and make fund allocations commensurate with the needs of this Department so that important Schemes and Programmes do not suffer for want of funds. The Committee would like to be apprised of the actions taken by the Department in each of these areas and the progress made therein."

1.6 In its Action taken reply, the Department has stated as under:-

"The Department, on receipt of the Annual Action Plans or proposals from States / UTs, appraises them as per prescribed technical guidelines for release of budgeted

funds. The budget utilization / release depends on the proposed deliverables by States /UTs under their action plans, utilization of funds released earlier and requirement of funds.

Further, it is mentioned that till 2019-20, most of the funds from LH&DC scheme was allocated towards FMD-CP and balance towards PPR-CP, Brucella-CP, CSF-CP, ASCAD, ESVHD, NADRS, NPRSM etc.(all components of erstwhile LH&DC scheme). However, from 2019-20, NADCP, a Central sector scheme was carved out of LH&DC taking both FMD-CP and Brucella-CP from it. Again, release of State share is often delayed or there is non-provision in state budget. This adversely impacts utilization of the released central funds which depends on the release of state share, as per funding pattern (60:40 or 90:10 for Himalayan and NE states).

Accordingly, from 2021-22, Department has revised Livestock Health and Disease Control (LHDC) scheme with the aim of reducing risk to animal health by prophylactic vaccination against diseases of livestock and poultry, capacity building of Veterinary Services, disease surveillance and strengthening veterinary infrastructure. The major activities supported are eradication and control of two major diseases namely Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and classical swine fever (CSF), establishment and strengthening of mobile veterinary units (ESVHD-MVU) and Assistance to States for control of other economically important, exotic, emergent and zoonotic livestock and poultry diseases (ASCAD). The funding pattern is 100% central assistance for eradication and control of PPR and CSF, respectively, and is 60:40 or 90:10 for non-recurring components of ESVHD as well as for some components of ASCAD.

In the revised LH&DC Scheme, components of the hitherto LH& DC scheme such as NADRS, NPRSM and PED have been merged with the ASCAD component. States / UTs will however continue to report incidences of livestock & poultry diseases as earlier, periodically, for reporting to OIE and financial assistance will now be provided under the “strengthening of disease diagnostic laboratories” a component of ASCAD. NADRS component has also been considered for integration with INAPH for easy and better reporting and to avoid data duplication.”

1.7 Noting drastic reductions in the proposed Budgetary Allocation at the BE and RE Stages for the Scheme on Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH & DC) from the year 2017-18 up to 2021-22, the Committee had recommended the Ministry of Finance to bear in mind the proposed allocations before earmarking

funds for various Schemes of the Department. Further, taking cognizance of the total percentage expenditure of 98% of the Scheme on Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) against the Sub-component wise Performance of the Scheme, the Committee had raised concerns about the mismatch between the near 100% overall utilization of funds and the unsatisfactory performance under the sub-components regarding achievement of Physical and Financial Targets at the level of States and Union Territories (UTs). While seeking an explanation from the Department in this regard, the Committee had recommended the Department to take action to ensure effective implementation of Scheme sub-components. In its Action-taken reply, the Department has informed about the revision of the Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) Scheme and also about the process of release of funds to States / UTs. However, as it appears from the Reply, the Department has failed to furnish any substantial explanation about the non-achievement of Physical and Financial Targets under Scheme sub-components despite showing near 100% utilization of allocated funds. The Department has also not apprised the Committee about the response of the Ministry of Finance regarding drastic reductions of the proposed allocation at the BE and RE Stages. Expressing dissatisfaction over this half-hearted approach of the Department, the Committee desire that incongruity between the expenditure of allocated funds and the non-achievement of Physical and Financial targets set under the Scheme Sub-components be explained and also the response of the Finance Ministry be provided regarding reduction of funds at the BE and RE Stages of allocation.

**B. Status of Veterinary Infrastructure in the Country
(Recommendation No. 3)**

1.8 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

“The Committee further note that though the average number of villages per Veterinary Institution in the country stood at 9.86 until 2018-19, a closer look at such data for individual States reveals a different picture. Jharkhand has as many as 36.3 villages per unit Veterinary Institution, Meghalaya has 28.5 villages per Veterinary Unit whereas Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have 21.6, 20.2 and 18.2 villages per Veterinary Unit, respectively. Moreover, according to the recommendation of the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) in 1976, there ought to be at least one

Veterinary Doctor / Institution for 5000 cattle units by the year 2000. With the present population of livestock in the country being 535.78 million, going by the recommendation of the NCA, there is a need for approximately 1,07,156 Veterinary Institutions in the country as opposed to the present number of 65,894. Evidently, an exponential increase in the population of Livestock has far outstripped the number of centers offering veterinary care in the country. This inadequacy in Veterinary Infrastructure not only affects the quality of Livestock and outreach of Government Schemes and Programmes to intended beneficiaries but also hampers the growth potential of the Livestock Sector, thus dampening its economic output. Dismayed to note this massive shortfall in Veterinary Infrastructure in the country, the Committee strongly recommend the Department to employ strict measures in cooperation with States and UTs, aimed at increasing the strength of Veterinary Institutions not just at the macrolevel but also at the microlevel in terms of villages per unit Veterinary Institution in each of the States and UTs and aspire to have at least one multi-speciality Veterinary Hospital in each district of the country. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action plan along with the timeline drawn up by the Department to tackle all the aforesaid issues highlighted by the Committee.”

1.9 In its Action taken reply, the Department has stated as below:-

“Animal Husbandry is a State subject. However, in order to strengthen veterinary infrastructure in States so as to cater to the needs of providing adequate veterinary healthcare, the Central Government provided funds to the State/UT Governments under “Establishment and Strengthening of existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries” (ESVHD), as a component of Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH & DC) scheme where the funds were released based on the action plan of the state and utilization of earlier released funds. State Governments are responsible for providing the basic infrastructure and necessary qualified manpower for veterinary health care in respective States. To bridge the gap between the demand for and availability of veterinary professionals as well as veterinary infrastructure in the country, states are continuously advised to strengthen their veterinary infrastructure. As stated above, the revised and realigned components of Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying schemes wherein Disease Control programme, renamed as Livestock Health & Disease Control (LH & DC) programme, includes the component for establishment and strengthening of mobile veterinary units (ESVHD-MVUs). MVUs will aid in clinical diagnosis, treatment,

vaccination, minor surgical interventions, etc. as well as be used for extension services to farmers / animal owners at their doorsteps even in far flung areas. Initially, one MVU per 1 lakh animals will be funded from the centre with funding for around 5000 MVUs, the revised LH & DC scheme would be in place from 2021-22 to 2025-26.”

1.10 Expressing concern over the shortfall in Veterinary Infrastructure in the country, the Committee had recommended the Department to employ strict measures in cooperation with States and Union Territories to strengthen the Veterinary Institutions and to aspire to have at least one Multi-speciality Veterinary Hospital in each District of the country. The Department, in its Action-taken reply, has informed that the revised and realigned Scheme on Livestock Health and Diseases Control (LH & DC) includes the component for ‘Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries – Mobile Veterinary Units’ (ESVHD-MVUs), which is aimed at providing doorstep delivery of Veterinary Services to the Livestock Owners even in far flung areas. The Department has further replied that initially, one Mobile Veterinary Unit (MVU) per 1 lakh animals will be funded from the Centre with funding for around 5000 MVUs and that the revised LH & DC Scheme would be in place between 2021-22 and 2025-26. The Department, however, has remained silent on the recommendation of the Committee regarding establishment of at least one Multi-speciality Veterinary Hospital in each District of the country. Stressing on the need to provide expert and affordable Veterinary Services to Livestock Owners within easy reach, the Committee disapprove of the silence of the Department and desire that the Department would work towards ensuring the presence of at least one Multi-speciality Veterinary Hospital in each District of the country by drawing a timeline. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken and progress made in this regard.

**C. Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD)
(Recommendation No. 5)**

1.11 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

“While appreciating the efforts of the Department regarding dovetailing of funds under ESVHD Sub-component with that of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Rural

Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and that of MPLAD Funds to enhance resources to cater to Veterinary Health Services in States/UTs, the Committee feel that efforts of the Department need to be focused on identifying the most vulnerable States/UTs and encouraging them to avail funds for strengthening Veterinary Infrastructure under the said arrangement. While observing the release of Rs.1636.70 crore towards proposals under RKVY-State Level Sanctioning Committee (RKVY-SLSC), the Committee are constrained to note that of the 10 major deficient States in Veterinary Infrastructure identified in January, 2019, only 7 have submitted proposals for receiving such funds. The remaining three States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan witnessed a percentage deficit of 82.7%, 57.9% and 54.3% respectively, with Gujarat being the top-most deficient in Veterinary Infrastructure among the 10 States in January, 2019. The Committee feel that such a huge deficit in Veterinary Infrastructure and Services not only hampers the quality and output of the Livestock Sector of these States but also deprives individual Livestock Owners of basic facilities regarding health, upkeep and maintenance of cattle, poultry and other Livestock while also denying them the opportunity to optimize their output potential. The Committee, therefore, recommend that measures for positive reinforcements be devised to encourage States and UTs to not only submit proposals for funds but also to utilize these in the best possible manner to upgrade or establish necessary Veterinary Infrastructure. The Committee would like to apprised of actions taken and progress made by the Department in this direction.”

1.12 In its Action taken reply, the Department has stated as under:-

“The recommendations and observations have been noted.

The Department is pursuing with States to ensure optimum utilization of allocated funds. State Implementing Agencies/ State Governments are followed up continually through review meetings to liquidate the pending Utilization Certificates and submit proposals for release of fund so as to achieve the desired targets. In the case of proposals under RKVY (General), it is up to the States to prioritize their funding requirements for veterinary infrastructure as funds under RKVY are released from Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare (MoAFW). Further, State Agriculture Departments often garner funds under this scheme for their own priorities rather than for veterinary infrastructure.

During 2021-22, Rajasthan was funded Rs. 1852.53 lakh for establishment and strengthening of hospitals and dispensaries. Further under RKVY-SLSC during this year

2021-22, the proposals amounting Rs.434.906 crores have been recommended for different states including Rs. 93.95 crores for Andhra Pradesh, Rs.8.5 crore for Bihar, Rs.10.24 crores for Chhattisgarh Rs.14.91 for Goa, Rs.19.38 crores for Gujarat, Rs. 21.58 crore for Haryana, Rs. 6.71 crores for Himachal Pradesh, Rs.12.00 crores for Karnataka, Rs.10.30 crores for Maharashtra, Rs.30.52 crores for Punjab, Rs.2.59 cores for Rajasthan, Rs.5.15 cores for Tamil Nadu, Rs. 39.63 crores for Uttar Pradesh, Rs. 48.31 crores for West Bengal, Rs. 93.30 crores for Arunachal Pradesh, Rs. 6.36 crores for Assam, Rs. 1.81 crores for Mizoram, Rs. 0.066 crores for Nagaland, Rs. 2.03 crores for Sikkim, and Rs. 7.57 crores for Tripura. Additionally, the Department has also allotted Rs. 254.64.00 crore to various states including Rs. 62.26 for Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 150.06 for Karnataka and Rs. 42.32 for Assam under RKVY-Animal Health sub-Scheme during 2021-22 for canine-Rabies control programme by vaccination of dogs.

The Department has revised components under LH & DC Scheme so that States / UTs can be assisted in a focussed way in order to control the animal diseases and strengthening of veterinary infrastructure through 1 MVU per lakh animals which will help increase the outreach of veterinary services to a large extent. So far, Maharashtra has been funded for 80 MVUs in 2021-22, as per its requirement.”

1.13 While appreciating the efforts of the Department regarding dovetailing of funds under the Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD) Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme with that of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and that of MPLAD Funds for enhancement of resources available to the Veterinary Healthcare Sector, the Committee had raised concerns with the fact that three States viz. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, out of the ten major Veterinary Infrastructure deficient States had failed to submit proposals for receiving funds under RKVY-State Level Sanctioning Committee (RKVY-SLSC). Consequently, the Committee had recommended the Department to devise ways to encourage States and Union Territories (UTs) to not only submit proposals for funds but also to utilize these in the best possible manner to upgrade or establish necessary Veterinary Infrastructure. The Department, in its Action-taken reply, has informed that under RKVY-SLSC, during the year 2021-22, proposals amounting to Rs.434.906 crore have been recommended for different States including Rs.19.38 crore for Gujarat, Rs.10.30 crore for Maharashtra and Rs.2.59

crore for Rajasthan among other States. The Department has, however, also stated that in the case of proposals under the RKVY (General), it is up to the States to prioritize their funding requirements for Veterinary Infrastructure as funds under RKVY are released from the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW) and State Agriculture Departments often garner funds under this Scheme for their own priorities rather than for Veterinary Infrastructure. Expressing concern over the replies of the Department, the Committee reiterate that the Department work towards employing measures for positive reinforcements to encourage States and UTs to not only submit proposals for funds but also to utilize these in the best possible manner to upgrade or establish necessary Veterinary Infrastructure. The Committee would also like to apprise of action taken and progress made by the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan with respect to utilization of proposed amount and establishment of Veterinary Infrastructure so far.

**D. Veterinary Council of India (VCI) and Veterinary Education
(Recommendation No. 14)**

1.14 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

“Expressing concerns over the problems of inadequate autonomy and lack of resources in the functioning of Veterinary Council of India and State Veterinary Councils, the Committee feel that the presence of Field Veterinarians, Academicians and Technical Experts as Members of the VCI and SVCs will enable these Bodies to have adequate representation and take a holistic view of situations, thus helping them to function more efficiently. The Committee feel discontent to note that the Department has not been able to go beyond conducting elections within the Councils for the posts of President and Vice President. Though the Department, in its written replies, has assured about addressing in a time bound manner the issues pertaining to greater involvement of VCI and SVCs in delivery of veterinary services, harmonization of Veterinary Education especially for para-veterinarians and sourcing of funds etc., there has been no headway in this direction. The Committee are further disappointed with the lack of a dedicated facility or an alternative body for regulation of para-veterinarians in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to work towards drafting a roadmap to address issues concerning the VCI and SVCs while also coming

up with a framework to establish as a capacity within the VCI or as an alternative body, a Regulator for governing and adequate representation of Para-veterinary professionals in the country. The Committee would like to be apprised of actions taken and progress made by the Department in these areas.”

1.15 In its Action taken reply, the Department has stated as below:-

“VCI and State Veterinary Councils as well some of the State Administrative Departments have taken serious concern about the service conditions and services offered by the para-veterinarians. The VCI has already constituted an expert committee to draft a road map to address issues concerning to Para-veterinarians and Minor Veterinary Practices. Necessary guidelines are being framed and will be communicated to concerned authorities for compliance. It is expected that the role of para-veterinary professionals will be duly considered at appropriate levels.”

1.16 While recognising the need for Field Veterinarians, Academicians and Technical Experts as Members of the Veterinary Council of India (VCI) and State Veterinary Councils (SVCs) to ensure their representation, to resolve the problems of inadequate autonomy and lack of resources in the functioning of these bodies and to address the lack of a dedicated facility for regulation of Para-veterinarians in the country, the Committee had recommended the Department to draft a roadmap to address issues concerning the VCI and SVCs while also coming up with a framework to establish, as a capacity within the VCI or as an alternative body, a Regulator for governing and adequate Representation of Para-veterinary professionals in the country. The Department, in its Action-taken replies, has informed that the Veterinary Council of India (VCI) has constituted an Expert Committee to draft a road map to address issues concerning Para-veterinarians and Minor Veterinary Practices and that the role of Para-veterinary professionals will be considered at appropriate levels and necessary guidelines being framed will be communicated to concerned authorities. The Committee desire to be apprised of the recommendations of the Expert Committee regarding service conditions of Para-veterinarians in the country. The Committee, however, are dissatisfied to note the silence of the Department on their recommendations regarding addressing issues concerning the VCI and SVCs and about having a framework to establish a Regulator for governing and adequate representation of

Para-veterinary professionals in the country. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should take necessary action to address the aforementioned issues and apprise them of the final outcome.

**E. Ethno-Veterinary Medicine (EVM)
(Recommendation No. 15)**

1.17 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

“The Committee are pleased to note that the application of Indigenous Medicinal Knowledge to manage ailments in animals is being taken up by the Department as a separate curriculum in the name of Ethno-veterinary Medicine (EVM) as part of the B.V.SC. & A.H. Graduate Course. This Branch of Veterinary Medicine has the potential of preventing economic losses to Livestock Owners by providing simple and sustainable remedies for common ailments of Livestock and Poultry and thus reducing instances of drug overuse and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Applauding the efforts of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in propagating the concept of EVM through the social media, booklets and posters in local vernaculars, the Committee also appreciate the attempts of the Department to form a Committee in collaboration with the AYUSH Ministry and NDDB for formalizing this discipline in Veterinary Science. During the evidence, the Representative of the Department informed the Committee about launching an e-Gopala App to educate Livestock and Poultry Farmers to identify and treat common ailments in animals using simple and effective remedies. While acknowledging the attempts of the Department to encourage sustainable methods of diseases management in animals, the Committee desire to be updated of progress made on this front and of the regulations formulated to facilitate the idea of Ethno-veterinary practices in Veterinary Science with a focus to stall antimicrobial resistance in Livestock and Poultry. The Committee would like to be apprised of action taken in this direction.”

1.18 In its Action taken reply, the Department has stated as below:-

“The concept of Ethnoveterinary Medicine (EVM) as a part of the BVSc & AH graduate course is well taken by the VCI. This matter will be deliberated in the Council for making provisions to consider this subject as a part of study programmes at graduation level. It will also be explored to have the collaboration with the Ministry of

AYUSH to explore the possibilities to develop a “suitable course module” which can be explored in veterinary institutes.”

1.19 While appreciating the efforts of the Department in propagating the concepts of Indigenous Medicinal Knowledge as a separate curriculum – ‘Ethno-veterinary Medicine (EVM)’, and the collaboration between the Department, the AYUSH Ministry and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to form a Committee for formalizing this discipline in Veterinary Sciences, the Committee had desired to be updated of the progress made regarding formulation of regulations to facilitate EVM practices in Veterinary Sciences. The Department, in its Action-taken replies, has informed that the idea regarding treating the concept of Ethno-veterinary Medicine (EVM) as a part of the Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (B.V.Sc. & A.H.) Graduate course will be deliberated by the Veterinary Council of India (VCI) for making provisions to consider this Subject as a part of study programmes at the Graduation level and that collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH will also be explored to develop a ‘suitable course module’ for the Veterinary Institutes. The Committee have noted the reply of the Department regarding deliberations by the VCI and collaboration with the AYUSH Ministry for introducing EVM as a Subject in the curriculum of B.V.Sc. & A.H. The Committee desire to be apprised of the action taken and progress made by the Department with regard to induction of this course module in the Veterinary Institutes and also about the response of these Institutes thereto.

**F. Veterinary Research
(Recommendation No. 19)**

1.20 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that research in Veterinary Sciences is mostly carried out by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, UP along with ICAR Institutes and Veterinary Colleges affiliated to Veterinary Universities or Agricultural Universities. The Department also informed that under the PED Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme funds are provided to Veterinary Council of India (VCI) and the State / UT Veterinary Councils (SVCs) for their establishment, cost of administration and for Continuous Veterinary Education (CVE) for VCI, SVCs and also for State

Veterinary/Agriculture Universities. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that on being asked about area identified by VCI for collaboration and capacity building for Organizations to improve Veterinary Services delivery, the Department denied having taken any action to that effect. The Committee feel that accuracy and efficiency in our Veterinary Services can only be ensured by a sturdy Research base and this would not just require sincere efforts on the part of the Government but also the active involvement of Academicians, Research Institutes and the Private sector along with steady financial support for research activities. Applauding the efforts of the Government of India over the Budget Announcement of Rs.50,000 crore over 5 years for the National Research Foundation with a focus on Identified National-priority thrust areas, the Committee feel that inclusion of research activities in Veterinary Sciences within the thrust areas would not just foster the growth and output of the Livestock Sector but also contribute to the objectives of the 'One Health' concept in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to develop a pointed approach to encourage and support Veterinary Research Institutions in the area of academic and field research and to pursue with the Government of India to include R&D activities in Veterinary Sciences under the National-priority Thrust Areas and provide financial support accordingly. The Committee would like to be apprised of steps taken and progress made by the Department in this direction.”

1.21 In its Action taken reply, the Department has stated as under:-

“Research and education are the mandate of ICAR. However, under the revised LH&DC scheme there is provision of 100% financial support to ICAR Institutes/other institutes for Research & Innovation, Publicity & Awareness, Training etc. The state are advised to submit the annual action plan as per the Technical guidelines of ASCAD for Research & Innovation, Publicity & Awareness, Training, etc. as per their requirements.

The Department is also providing financial assistance to Disease Control Programs including Zoonotic and Highly Communicable Diseases under Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD). Programme provides support to governments of states and union territories for control of economic important disease including zoonotic diseases, which are not covered under the central programs. This is a more flexible component that could be directed towards better vaccine coverage or towards ramping up support capabilities. The programme also covers surveillance and

monitoring, strengthening of Disease Diagnostic Laboratories, Biological Production Unit, immunization for animal diseases and surveillance of exotic and emerging diseases in animals. Further, the National Animal Disease Control Programme for FMD and Brucellosis (NADCP) is one of the flagship programmes, besides FMD, it also includes intensive Brucellosis Control programme in animals is envisaged for controlling Brucellosis which will result in effective management of the disease in both animals and in humans. Department also provides financial assistance to ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal and ICAR-NIVEDI, Bangalore, which are involved in surveillance of the disease like Avian Influenza and Brucellosis respectively.”

1.22 Recognizing the need to foster a sturdy research base in Veterinary Sciences in order to improve Veterinary Services delivery, the Committee had recommended the Department to develop a pointed approach to encourage and support Veterinary Research Institutions in the area of Academic and Field research and to pursue with the Government of India to include R&D activities in Veterinary Sciences under the ‘National-priority Thrust Areas of the National Research Foundation’ in order to gain financial support for Veterinary Research. The Department, in its Action-taken Reply, has informed about the provision of 100% financial support to ICAR Institutes/other Institutes for Research & Innovation, Publicity & Awareness, Training etc. under the revised Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) Scheme; about the Scheme on National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis as one of the flagship programmes for effective management of FMD & Brucellosis in animals; and also about providing financial assistance to ICAR- National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD), Bhopal and ICAR- National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI), Bangalore, which are involved in surveillance of the disease like Avian Influenza and Brucellosis, respectively. The Committee, however, note with concern that the Department has failed to furnish any reply about action taken with respect to inclusion of Veterinary Research in the National-priority Thrust Areas of the National Research Foundation while also remaining silent on the present status of R&D in Veterinary Sciences in the country. Expressing dissatisfaction with the action taken by the Department, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation that in order to have a robust R&D structure in

Veterinary Sciences in the country, the Department must pursue with the Government of India to include this area under the National-priority Thrust Areas of the National Research Foundation so that adequate financial support can be provided to Veterinary Research. The Committee would like to be apprised of the details and outcome of steps taken by the Department in this regard. They also desire to be apprised of the specific reasons for the Department refraining from acting on the recommendation of the Committee.

**G. Manufacture and Availability of Animal Vaccines
(Recommendation No. 22)**

1.23 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

“The Committee applaud the efforts and achievements of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and its fully-owned subsidiary Indian Immunologicals Ltd. (IIL) in the areas of manufacture of Veterinary Biologicals including Animal Vaccine, its R&D collaborations with Premier Institutes within the country and abroad, its endeavours regarding awareness programmes for livestock farmers and Continued Veterinary Education (CVE) Programmes for Veterinarians and also its networking with Dairy Cooperatives which ensure delivery of Veterinary and input services at the farmers’ doorstep. The Committee also appreciate the detailed and well-defined procedure followed by the Department regarding Licensing for Manufacture and Marketing of Animal Vaccines.

The Department has informed about 20 State Veterinary Biological Production Centres, which are under the control of States and which produce vaccines. However, total self-dependence in the area of manufacture of Animal Vaccine is still elusive as shortfall in Vaccine production for Brucellosis and Classical Swine Fever still persists in the country and there is also a need to develop thermo-stable, long-duration immunity vaccine for FMD for which research is required. This problem is further exacerbated by the lack of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) compliance of some of the State Biological Units. Moreover, there exists a shortage of Veterinary Drugs in the country, as also admitted by the Representative of the Department during the evidence. The Committee observe that Animal Husbandry being a State subject, the onus of spreading awareness about Vaccination Programmes among Livestock Owners lies with the State Governments and so does the responsibility of drawing up Vaccination Plans based on

Livestock Population and disease prevalence. However, manufacturing of Veterinary Drugs and Animal Vaccines is jointly undertaken by States, Central agencies and Private manufacturers and there still exists a shortage of these in the country and hence an issue of availability. Furthermore, despite the Department claiming to release Central share of funds to States for Centrally sponsored schemes like LH&DC after assessing their physical performance and monitoring the 60% of Central share, there still remain lacunae in the performance of Schemes affecting their implementation. Expressing concerns over such deficiencies, the Committee recommend the Department to thoroughly review the situation with all stakeholders such as State Governments, Regulating Agencies, Private manufacturers, etc. and work towards coming up with effective solutions to the problems of administrative delays, testing issues and GMP compliance so that issues related to manufacturing and availability of animal vaccine and veterinary drugs in the country can be effectively resolved. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken in this direction. The Committee would also like the Department to provide a 'Brief Report' on this matter.”

1.24 In its Action taken reply, the Department has stated as below:-

“The Department is taking efforts in order to mitigate problems of administrative delays, testing issues and GMP compliance so that issues related to manufacturing and availability of animal vaccine and veterinary drugs in the country can be effectively resolved.

Department has launched critical Control Disease Programme along with NADCP where vaccination against 4 economically important animal diseases viz. FMD, Brucellosis, PPR & CSF is envisaged with 100% central assistance. The vaccines are tested for quality as per SOP prepared by ICAR before their application in the field. The SOPs are also discussed and harmonization exercise is envisaged with the manufacturers. Further, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, GOI has constituted Empowered Committee for Animal Health (ECAH) for policy inputs on veterinary vaccines / biologicals and drugs.”

1.25 Expressing concerns over the shortfall of total self-dependence in the area of manufacture of Animal Vaccine, the lack of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) compliance of some of the State Biological Units and about the shortage of

Veterinary Drugs in the country, the Committee had recommended the Department to resolve issues of administrative delays, testing issues and GMP compliance in consultation with stakeholders and had also asked the Department to provide them with a 'Brief Report' on the matter, as was assured by the Representative of the Department during the evidence. The Department, in its Action-taken Reply, has stated that it is making efforts to tackle the aforementioned issues and alongside its National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), has launched a Critical Control Disease Programme to provide vaccination to livestock against 4 economically important animal diseases, i.e., Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD), Brucellosis, Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF). The Department has also informed about the constitution of an Empowered Committee for Animal Health (ECAH) for policy inputs on Veterinary vaccines / Biologicals and Drugs.

The Committee are, however, displeased with the response of the Department and desire to know the details of concrete steps taken and the outcome of the efforts made by the Department to off-set the damage done to manufacturing of Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Biologicals due to delays owing to administrative reasons, testing issues and GMP non-compliance. The Committee also wish to be apprised of the recommendations given by the Empowered Committee for Animal Health (ECAH) for policy inputs on Veterinary vaccines / Biologicals and Drugs and whether the Department has followed up on the recommendations of the ECAH with any ground work. Further, the Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of the Critical Control Disease Programme of the Department and would also urge the Department to submit, at the earliest, the 'Brief Report' on the Action Plan of the Department to tackle issues related with increasing manufacturing capacity of Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Drugs in the country.

H. Quality Control in Animal Vaccines (Recommendation No. 23)

1.26 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar and the Chaudhary Charan Singh National Institute of Animal Health (CCSNIAH), Baghpat are Designated Centers for testing and quality control of Veterinary vaccines in the country. Though self-sufficiency in manufacture of Animal Vaccine has been attained except for Brucellosis and CSF Vaccines, the Committee are concerned to note that out of the 20 State Veterinary Biological Units, only 9 have been strengthened to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards. Besides, the quality testing of the unique Indian trivalent FMD Vaccine is a costly and time taking procedure. The Department informed the Committee about research regarding thermostability of the FMD Vaccine and that it is expected to enhance the quality of the Vaccine by increasing its shelf-life and immune response while reducing loss of virus antigen on disruption of cold-chain. The Department also briefed about Sero-surveillance report of FMD during the last few years showing a decreasing trend in many regions indicating reduced prevalence of the disease, however, this could turn out to be a painfully slow procedure if quality testing of the Vaccine is not expedited. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to facilitate R&D activities at the Designated Testing Centres and also at ICAR to enable them to develop a faster quality testing mechanism for FMD and other Animal Vaccines so that more samples of Vaccine can be tested within less time and quality control measures can be exercised efficiently. The Committee would like to be apprised of progress made by the Department in this regard.”

1.27 In its Action taken reply, the Department has stated as below:-

“The Department plans to facilitate R & D activities at the designated laboratories (vaccine testing centres) as well as at ICAR institutes to enable them to develop faster quality testing mechanism for FMD and other animal vaccines so that more samples of vaccines can be tested within lesser time and quality control measures can be exercised efficiently.

In light of the above, the Department in collaboration with World Reference Laboratory for FMD, Pirbright, UK to make in-vitro testing protocol for FMD vaccine so that more

sample of vaccine can be tested with in less time and quality control measures can be exercised efficiently.”

1.28 Expressing concern with the time being taken for quality testing mechanism of Animal Vaccines and with only 9 out of 20 State Veterinary Biological Units having been strengthened to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Standards, the Committee had recommended the Department to facilitate R&D activities at Designated Testing Centres and also at the ICAR to enable them to develop a faster quality testing mechanism for FMD and other Animal Vaccines to enable more samples of Vaccine to be tested within less time. The Department, in its Action-taken Reply, has informed that in collaboration with World Reference Laboratory for Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD), Pirbright, UK it has been working to make in-vitro testing protocol for FMD vaccine so that more samples of the vaccine can be tested within less time and quality control measures can be exercised efficiently. The Committee, while appreciating the efforts of the Departments in this regard, desire to be apprised of the final outcome of the collaboration and whether any success has been achieved in reducing the time taken for quality testing of Animal Vaccine and also whether the research regarding thermo-stability of the FMD Vaccine has yielded any results.

**I. Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)
(Recommendation No. 25)**

1.29 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) has been created with a corpus of Rs.15000 crores for incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs and private companies, etc. to focus on processing and value addition in Livestock produce like dairy & meat and in cattle feed and fodder. The Committee, however, believe that the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund can also be used to foster stronger public-private partnerships (PPP) in the area of Veterinary Services. The Department has often mentioned about the importance of making Veterinary Services a profitable enterprise by attracting private sector investments, which in turn, would increase the employability of the service. Further, private sector involvement in Veterinary Biologicals, Research,

Education and Infrastructure, can be in terms of manufacture of veterinary drugs and animal vaccine, funding research initiatives, opening Veterinary Colleges, investing in Mobile Veterinary Units on the basis of PPP model and in upgradation of existing Veterinary Infrastructure etc. The Committee are delighted with the mere prospect of utilization of AHIDF to engage the private sector in Veterinary Services and therefore, recommend the Department to explore the possibility of employing resources from the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund in Veterinary Services. The Committee would like to be apprised of developments in this regard.”

1.30 In its Action taken reply, the Department has stated as under:-

“The suggestions are noted. However, the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package is approved for incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs, private companies, MSME, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies to establish (i) the dairy processing and value addition infrastructure, (ii) meat processing and value addition infrastructure and (iii) Animal Feed Plant.

Objectives:

- To help increase milk and meat processing capacity and product diversification thereby providing greater access for unorganized rural milk and meat producers to organized milk and meat market.
- To make available increased price realization for the producer.
- To make available quality milk and meat products for the domestic consumer.
- To fulfil the objective of protein enriched quality food requirement of the growing population of the country and prevent malnutrition in one of the highest malnourished children population in the world.
- Develop entrepreneurship and generate employment.
- To promote exports and increase the export contribution in the milk and meat sector.
- To make available quality concentrated animals feed to the cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig and poultry to provide balanced ration at affordable prices.”

1.31 Acknowledging the need for Private Sector Investments in the area of Veterinary Services, the Committee had recommended the Department to explore the possibility of employing resources from the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) in this area. The Department, in its Action-taken Reply, has however, failed to consider the idea put forth by the Committee and has merely reproduced the objectives envisaged under the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) while noting the Committee's suggestion. Discontent with this attitude of the Department, the Committee feel that despite there being an enormous scope for utilization of AHIDF for engaging Private Sector in Veterinary Services, the Department has failed to show any interest in working out ways to utilize allocations under AHIDF to enhance participation of the Private Sector in Veterinary Services. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge the Department to examine ways in which resources from the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund can be utilized to encourage the involvement of the Private Sector in Veterinary Services and to take this up at the appropriate levels within the Government. The Committee also desire to be apprised of the roadblocks, if any, being faced by the Department in working towards this possibility or in pursuing this matter with the Government.

**J. One Health Initiative
(Recommendation No. 27)**

1.32 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

“While noting that the concept of ‘One Health’ envisages an integrated approach towards Animal Health, Human Health and the environment, the Committee recognise the efforts made by the Department by way of enacting legislation regarding prevention and control of infectious animal diseases, Web-based Animal Diseases Reporting System – NADRS, encouraging use of Ayurvedic medicines in place of harmful antibiotics, etc. The Committee, however, realize that more work needs to be done regarding coordination and collaboration with other Ministries and Departments to optimise the role of Programmes and Policies with a focus on prevention of zoonosis; improved safety of animal origin foods; prevention and management of Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR) / Anti-microbial Use (AMU); conducting a study to determine the ill-

effects of animal drug abuse in Poultry Farming and Livestock Rearing on human health; bringing in a legislation on Animal Welfare; and promotion of biosafety measures in all laboratories. The objectives defined by the Department under the Network Programme on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Surveillance in Food, Animals and Aquaculture form the core of the activities directed toward prevention of zoonoses and ill-effects of drug overuse. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to pursue with all seriousness the objectives laid down by the Indian Network for Fisheries and Animal Antimicrobial Resistance (INFAAR) while also continuing its efforts to tackle issues related to spread of zoonotic diseases in the country in order to fulfil aspirations envisaged under the 'One Health' concept. The Committee would like to be apprised of action taken by the Department in this direction.”

1.33 In its Action taken reply, the Department has stated as below:-

“Department has taken following efforts to tackle issues related to spread of zoonotic diseases in the country in order to fulfill aspirations envisaged under the 'One Health' concept.

- a. The Department is also providing financial assistance to Disease Control Programs including Zoonotic and Highly Communicable Diseases under Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD). Programme provides support to governments of states and union territories for control of economic important disease including zoonotic diseases, which are not covered under the central programs. The programme also covers surveillance and monitoring, strengthening of Disease Diagnostic Laboratories, Biological Production Unit, immunisation for animal diseases and surveillance of exotic and emerging diseases in animals. Further, the National Animal Disease Control Programme for FMD and Brucellosis (NADCP) is one of the flagship programmes, besides FMD, it also includes intensive Brucellosis Control programme in animals is envisaged for controlling Brucellosis which will result in effective management of the disease in both animals and in humans. Department also provides financial assistance to ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal and ICAR-NIVEDI, Bangalore, which are involved in surveillance of the disease like Avian Influenza and Brucellosis respectively.

Under the revised LH&DC scheme there is provision of 100% financial support to ICAR Institutes/other institutes for Research & Innovation, Publicity & Awareness, Training

etc. The state are advised to submit the annual action plan as per the Technical guidelines of ASCAD for Research & Innovation, Publicity & Awareness, Training as per their requirements.

- b. A Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India was signed on 7th April, 2021 to introduce the concept of Ayurveda and its allied disciplines into veterinary science by their promotion in research and development including research on new formulations in quality drugs for veterinary science through medicinal herbs. The objective of this cooperation is to develop a regulatory mechanism for the use of Ayurveda in the veterinary sector for the benefit of animal health, livestock owners' community and the society at large.

It would provide an extremely cost-effective, simple and efficacious management option to farmers to manage many common ailments in their animals that seriously dent their income. This would also help rationalize the use of drugs, especially antibiotics, and thereby stall the emergence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Further, a Committee on education responsible for developing the course curriculum for Ayurvedic Veterinary Medicine (AVM) and other traditional forms for basic understanding of the subject is being constituted in the Department to prepare the teaching material consisting of Veterinary Ayurveda and also to prepare course curriculum consist of both the theory part as well as practical applicability of the ayurvedic medicine in the veterinary field.

- c. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sustainably improving India's livestock sector to support the nation's food and nutritional security.

Developing the livestock sector envisages strengthening animal husbandry infrastructure, entrepreneurship development and implementing 'One Health' framework. Through this collaboration, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide technical assistance for the design and delivery of new technologies and implementation of best practices that are relevant in the local context.”

1.34 While noting the importance of the 'One Health' concept, the Committee had recommended the Department to take appropriate action to attain the objectives laid down by the Indian Network for Fisheries and Animal Antimicrobial Resistance (INFAAR) and to work towards coordinating and collaborating with other Ministries and Departments for prevention of zoonosis. The Department, its Action-taken Reply, has informed about the Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) Scheme components on Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD) and National Animal Disease Control Programme for Foot and Mouth Diseases (FMD) and Brucellosis (NADCP) for providing financial assistance to Disease Control Programs and for animal vaccination, respectively. The Department has also informed the Committee about signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, with the objective of developing a regulatory mechanism for the use of Ayurveda in the Veterinary Sector for countering instances of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and about the constitution of a Committee on Education for developing the course curriculum for Ayurvedic Veterinary Medicine (AVM) to enable applicability of Ayurvedic medicine in the Veterinary field. The Department has further stated that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), aimed at sustainably improving India's Livestock Sector.

The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Department regarding fostering the ideas envisaged under the 'One Health' concept. They, however, desire to be apprised of the outcomes and also about the strategy devised to act on attaining the objectives proposed under the Memoranda of Understanding signed by the Department with the Ministry of AYUSH and with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, respectively. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the status of action taken by the Department on the recommendations of the Committee on Education as constituted under the MoU with the Ministry of AYUSH.

CHAPTER - II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Status of Veterinary Infrastructure in the Country **(Recommendation No. 2)**

While noting the increase in total number of Veterinary Institutions in the country from 64,990 in 2019-20 to 65,894 in 2020-21, the Committee observe that the total number of Veterinary Institutions in the country have increased from 2019-20 to 2020-21, however, the number of Veterinary Hospitals / Polyclinics, Veterinary Dispensaries and Veterinary Aid Centers / Mobile Veterinary Dispensaries have been inconsistent in various States / UTs during these two years. While Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala and Jammu Kashmir have seen a reduction in the number of Veterinary Hospitals / Polyclinics from 2019-20 to 2020-21, States like Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have seen a decrease in the number of Veterinary Dispensaries in the year 2020-21 as compared to the previous year. Moreover, a number of States including Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, West Bengal, Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu show decrease in the number of Veterinary Aid Centres / Mobile Veterinary Dispensaries during 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20. Additionally, Delhi and Chandigarh do not possess a single Veterinary Aid Centre / Mobile Veterinary Unit to cater to the needs of the Livestock Owners. Though the Department informed the Committee that such reduction in figures is due to a few States revising the number of Veterinary Institutions based on their types as well as their nomenclature, the Committee express dissatisfaction over the present status of inadequacy of the Veterinary Infrastructure in the country.

Reply of the Government

The observations of the Committee are noted for future reference. However, Animal Husbandry is a State subject and States establish veterinary hospitals and dispensaries as per their local needs and requirements considering the number of animals in the area, disease situation, type of animal rearing, etc. In order to reach out to the animal owners in remote and far flung areas of the country, the Department has revised the extant Livestock Health and Disease Control component for mobile

veterinary units (ESVHD-MVUs). The funding pattern is 100% central assistance for non-recurring components of MVUs and 60:40 between Central and State (90:10 for hilly and NE States and 100% for UTs) for recurring expenditure. MVUs will aid in clinical diagnosis, treatment, vaccination, minor surgical interventions, audio-visual aids and provide extension services to farmers / animal owners at their doorstep in far flung area. MVUs may also act as one-stop centre for solutions to veterinary issues and dissemination of information to remote parts of the country.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD)
(Recommendation No.4)**

The Committee note that the Department provides financial assistance to States / UTs to set up Infrastructure for new Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries and to strengthen / equip the existing ones as well as run Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) under the Sub-component on 'Establishment & Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD)' of the LH&DC Scheme. In this context, the Committee note that an amount of Rs.351.20 crore was provided to different States/UTs under the ESVHD Sub-component since inception of LH&DC Scheme in August, 2010, a sum of Rs.27.14 crore was provided for the duration from 2017-18 up to 2020-21. However, a closer look at the State and UT-wise details of funds released under ESVHD from 2017-18 to 2019-20 reveals that less than one-fourth the total number of States/UTs received an allocation under the ESVHD Sub-component of LH & DC Scheme during each of these years. The Committee further note that although a countrywide achievement of establishing and/or strengthening 154 Veterinary Hospitals / Dispensaries was made from 2017-18 to 2019-20 against a cumulative target of 170, individual figures for States and UT paint a totally different picture. Whereas for the year 2017-18, 'Zero Veterinary Hospitals/Dispensaries' were established against a target of 70, during 2018-19, however, as against a target of 70 there was an establishment of 112 Veterinary Hospitals/Dispensaries. Nevertheless, this was limited to just one fourth the total number of States/UTs - with the remaining showing 'Zero Achievements'.

Furthermore, a total of 42 Veterinary Hospitals/Dispensaries were strengthened or established during 2019-20 against a target of 30 and less than one fourth the number of States/UTs formed part of this achievement. It is clearly evident that cumulative figures for Financial Allocations and physical achievements under ESVHD Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme are not only misleading but also in stark contrast to the allocation and Physical achievements of individual States/UTs. The Committee note that while the responsibility of setting up Veterinary Hospitals / Dispensaries lies with individual State Governments, that of ensuring complete utilization of released funds and assessment of Physical Performance corresponding to each State/UT lies with the Department. Deprecating the current status of implementation of the ESVHD Sub-component in individual States and UTs, the Committee strongly recommend the Department to take necessary action to ascertain that funds released to States/UTs under ESVHD Sub-component are used for the intended purpose and that accountability is ensured in case of poor performance with regard to Physical Targets under this Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme. The Committee would like to be apprised of actions taken in this regard and also of the State and UT-wise details of latest achievements there under.

Reply of the Government

The Department, in order to strengthen the veterinary infrastructure in the States so as to cater to the needs of providing adequate veterinary healthcare, provides central funds to State / UT Governments under “Establishment and Strengthening of existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries” (ESVHD), a component of Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH & DC) scheme. Funds are released based on Action Plans of States and utilization of funds released earlier. The Department also, from time to time, insists on physical progress reports in addition to the utilization certificates thereby garnering evidences towards utilization of targeted funds. In fact, it is observed that although UCs were received from States regarding construction and repair of veterinary hospitals / dispensaries, absence of physical reports revealed that work was still underway albeit by a third party. UC was given by the state basis transfer of funds to implementing agency and work is still underway. Follow up with states for matching UCs with physical progress reports is undertaken periodically either through letters/emails/ telephones/ VCs etc.

Further, for proper implementation and monitoring, State/UT are required to submit their proposals (along with Financial and Physical Progress Report and Fund Utilization Certificates) to DAHD through their State Monitoring Unit (SMU). The proposal, after appraisal will be put up before the National Steering Committee (NSC, chaired by Secretary DAHD) for approval and consideration for release of funds. After getting funds released from the Central Government, the State Monitoring Unit shall regularly submit Monthly Progress Reports to the Department. NSC will oversee activities of the LH&DC Scheme, give overall direction and guidance, monitor and review its progress and performance.

Based on State / UT Action Plans, the details of MVUs sanctioned and fund released therefor during 2021-22, so far, are as under –

Sl. No	State/UTs	Fund released during 2021-22 (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of MVUs Sanctioned (procurement & customization)
1	Andhra Pradesh	5440	340
2	Bihar	4912	307
3	Chhattisgarh	2608	163
4	Jharkhand	3776	236
5	Karnataka	4400	275
6	Kerala	464	29
7	Madhya Pradesh	6496	406
8	Maharashtra	1280	80
9	Odisha	2896	181
10	Punjab	1120	70
11	Uttar Pradesh	8320	520
12	Uttarakhand	960	60
13	Arunachal Pradesh	400	25
14	Assam	2544	159
15	Manipur	528	33
16	Meghalaya	272	17
17	Mizoram	416	26
18	Nagaland	256	16
19	Sikkim	96	6
20	Tripura	208	13
21	Ladakh	144	9
22	Lakshadweep	144	9
	TOTAL	47680.00	2980

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs)
(Recommendation No.6)**

While recognizing the need for increasing accessibility of Veterinary Services even to the remotest areas in the country, the Committee note that some of the States with difficult terrains such as the North Eastern States and West Bengal received an amount of Rs.69.67 crore and Rs.16.95 crore, respectively, under the ESVHD Sub-component since inception of the LH&DC Scheme. However, for the duration of three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20, three of the North Eastern States along with West Bengal received Zero allocation. The Committee are perplexed to note this disparity in figures and desire the Department to explain the reasons behind such a contrast and also its effect on the viability of Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) within these States. Currently, there are 1284 Mobile Veterinary Units operational within the country and managed by respective States/UTs. The Committee note that a Mobile Veterinary Unit has a basic diagnostic and treatment facility for animals along with a provision for sample collection / transportation from the field and is thus, capable of functioning as a Veterinary Aid Center at the grassroot level while also providing doorstep delivery of Veterinary Services especially in remote/border and inaccessible areas. The Committee are, however, disconcerted to note that despite their immense potential, Mobile Veterinary Units continue to remain at a nascent stage of planning and execution as the Department has failed to evolve a method regarding maintenance, upgradation and utilization of MVUs while also being unable to ascertain the specific role of MVUs regarding disbursing important information related to vaccination and livestock management. The Committee are dissatisfied with this half-hearted approach of the Department and recommend that a fully-functional pragmatic and holistic Plan be evolved keeping in mind the aforementioned issues with respect to Mobile Veterinary Units.

During the evidence, the Representative of the Department apprised the Committee of a Scheme proposed for setting up of MVUs under the LH&DC Programme and about the need for a separate allocation to this effect. Recognizing the

importance of having a focused Scheme for Mobile Veterinary Units in the country, the Committee feel that lack of resources would not only pose hindrances in implementation of the Scheme but also impede the progress of the Department in enhancing the accessibility of Veterinary Services in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry of Finance to provide separate allocation to the Department for its proposed Scheme on Mobile Veterinary Units and desire to be apprised of the serious efforts made by the Department in this direction.

Reply of the Government

The Department has revised the LH&DC scheme with the component for setting up of MVUs under the LH&DC Programme. The features of the revised component of ESVHD-MVU are as under -

a) In order to increase accessibility of veterinary services at farmer's doorsteps, funds for Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) will be provided to the States/UTs under this scheme for @ 1 MVU approximately for one lakh livestock population

b) These MVUs will be customized fabricated vehicles for veterinary healthcare with equipment for diagnosis, treatment & minor surgery, audio visual aids and other basic requirements for treatment of animals. The vehicle would preferably be a four-wheeler van with space enough to accommodate required equipment for diagnosis 10 of 47 (microscope, portable X-ray machines, etc. wherever required), medicines, surgical equipment, sample collection and animal handling paraphernalia, working space for 1 veterinarian, 1 para-veterinarian and a driver-cum-attendant along with necessary equipment. However, depending upon the terrain, the State/UT may propose alternate vehicles which suit the outreach.

c) Veterinary & public awareness paraphernalia - The MVU will have equipment for sample collection like vials, vacutainers, syringes, small refrigerator/ vaccine carrier/ active cool box, medicines for treatment - including lifesaving drugs, antibiotics etc., cotton, bandages and minor surgery equipment. and audio-visual aids like microphones, amplifiers, charts/ photographs/ slides of diseases and importance of prevention etc., pamphlets announcing vaccination campaigns, small projector/ OHP, screen, if required etc.

- d) Each MVU will have one Veterinarian, one para veterinarian and one driver-cum-attendant
- e) The Mobile Veterinary Unit could run on PPP mode with the Government providing for the infrastructure but manpower is outsourced by Implementing Agency (including cooperatives and milk unions, etc.).
- f) These MVUs will provide veterinary services at the farmers' doorstep basis the phone calls received at the Call Centre from farmers of respective State/UT. The MVUs will be positioned at strategic locations in order to minimize travel time and to provide service within targeted time.
- g) A State/UT level Call Centre will be set up / aligned with the existing Call Centre in each State/ UT. Such Call Centres will be under the control of the State/ UT Animal Husbandry Department with a Nodal Officer nominated by the State. The Call Centre will function as the pivot whilst rendering the mobile veterinary services. It will receive calls from livestock rearers / animal owners and transmit them to the Veterinary doctor at the Call Centre. The Call Centre will also be responsible for monitoring the movement and use of the MVUs. The Call Centre will also confirm actual services through the UID and mobile number of the animal owner and share the data with the State concerned. The Call Centre will also be responsible for communication with the local Veterinary Surgeon for follow up treatment and registered local AI technician for AI. MVUs will also provide extension service through audio-visual aids contained in the MVUs to the local population so as to spread awareness of animal diseases, their prevention and control, requisite bio-security measures, economic advantages of livestock farming and efforts of the Government in this direction.
- h) Each State level Call Centre unit shall constitute of 1 veterinarian and 3 call executives for around every 20 MVUs. For 100 MVUs, there will be 2 veterinarians along with 6 Call Executives and for additional each one hundred of MVUs, 1 veterinarian & 3 Call Centre executives will be required.
- i) There will be provision for Mobile Van customized for veterinary healthcare (equipment for diagnosis, treatment and minor surgery including audio-visual aids) (@ Rs.16.00 lakh / van). This non-operating cost (i.e. cost of MVU) would be through 100% central funding.

j) The recurring cost for running of MVUs is pegged at @ Rs.18.72 lakh / MVU and Office expenses of running Call Centre will be @ Rs.5000/- pm for Call Centre consisting of 1 veterinarian & 3 Call Executives and an additional Rs.2000 pm for each addition of 1 Veterinarian & 3 Call Executives. These will be on a Centre-State sharing basis as applicable (60-40 for all other states / 90-10 for NE & Himalayan States/ 100% for UTs).

k) Both, the recurring and the one-time capital cost given (of MVUs) are indicative and is subject to the tendered rates. Flexibility for transfer of funds from one component to any other component is envisaged as per exigencies.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs)
(Recommendation No.7)**

The Representative of the Department informed the Committee about the investments made by Milk Unions, Milk Federations and Cooperative Societies in augmenting Veterinary Infrastructure, such as in case of Mobile Dispensaries in Gujarat. Nevertheless, such instances are only few and far between as Private Sector Investments in Veterinary Services continue to be negligible. While realizing the scope of advantages from involvement of Private Sector in operation and maintenance of MVUs, the Committee feel that sincere efforts need to be made by the Department to attract and involve Private players in this area of Veterinary Services. Steps like increasing expenditure on running Mobile Dispensaries and experimenting with PPP models in MVUs on pilot basis in a few States/UTs would encourage the participation of private players. The Committee, therefore, recommends the Department to formulate an action plan and take necessary measures to draw Private Sector Investments in Veterinary Services and Infrastructure, particularly in the area of Mobile Veterinary Units. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this direction.

Reply of the Government

The Department is not funding any investments by the private sector in the veterinary services and Animal Healthcare sector as Animal Husbandry is a State subject. However, under RGM Scheme of the Department, fund are released to the States for training of Multipurpose AI Technicians in Rural India (MAITRI's) in order to deliver breeding inputs at farmers' doorstep as well as carry out first aid veterinary service. The Mobile Veterinary Unit shall run on PPP mode with the Government providing for the infrastructure but manpower is to be outsourced by Implementing Agency (including cooperatives and milk unions, etc.). It is envisaged to support one MVU per 1 lakh livestock population in the country. Further, the central Government also recognizes the Government and the Private colleges in the states on the recommendations of Veterinary Council of India (VCI) as per VCI (Procedure for Recognition and De-Recognition of Veterinary Colleges and Veterinary Qualifications) Rules, 2017 and Minimum Standards of Veterinary Education (MSVE) Regulations, 2016.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Disease Investigation and Reporting (Recommendation No.8)

The Committee observe that at present there are 256 State Laboratories, 50 Veterinary College Laboratories, 33 ELISA laboratories, 5 Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (RDDDLs) and 1 Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (CDDL) for the purpose of animal disease investigation and reporting in the country. The Committee further note that at the village level, some States/UTs have a provision for Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) providing basic diagnosing facilities, however, percolation of MVUs across all villages in all States/UTs still remains an issue and this further translates to a lack of basic diagnostic services at the village level in most States/UTs. Even for those villages having access to MVUs, detailed disease investigation of Livestock Disease is still time taking with collected samples being transported to the Block/District/State level testing facility. The procedure thus involved is not only inconvenient to the Livestock Owners but also time consuming and could lead to

potential threats of disease spread or delayed treatment post disease investigation. Taking a concerned view of the matter, the Committee feel that recruiting trained manpower and specialized facilities at the grassroot level will not only lessen the burden on the Diagnostic facilities at the District/State level but also ensure effective utilization of precious time and limited resources which can then be directed towards treatment and management of animal diseases. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department work towards ensuring availability of MVUs at the village level and to enable differential diagnostic facilities within these MVUs along with availability of trained staff and technicians to cater to the specialized nature of the job. The Committee would like to be apprised of actions taken by the Department in this direction and State/UT-wise details of progress made therein.

Reply of the Government

In order to fill the gaps in veterinary services rendered through veterinary hospitals / polyclinics / dispensaries, the impetus and priorities is given for establishment of Mobile Veterinary Units in the component of Establishment and Strengthening of existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD) of the revised LH&DC Scheme. MVUs will provide diagnosis treatment, vaccination, minor surgical interventions, audio-visual aids and extension services to farmers / animal owners at their doorstep. It is envisaged to support one MVU per 1 lakh livestock population in the country. Under this component, 100% Central assistance is provided for the non-recurring expenditure on the customized mobile van / vehicle, fully equipped with equipment for diagnosis, treatment, sample collection, minor surgery and audio- visual aids, etc. for extension activities. The recurring expenditure on running the mobile vans / vehicles, call centres and the outsourced manpower services shall however have a Central-State fund sharing pattern of 60-40/90-10 for NE& Himalayan States/100% for UTs. Each MVU will have one Veterinarian, one para veterinarian and one driver-cum attendant and will run on PPP mode with the Government providing for the infrastructure but manpower is outsourced by Implementing Agency (including cooperatives and milk unions, etc.). These MVUs will provide veterinary services at the farmers' doorstep on basis of the phone calls received at the Call Centre from farmers of respective State/UT. The MVUs will be positioned at strategic locations in order to minimize travel time and to provide service within targeted time. In fact, this will utilize services of veterinarians and para-veterinarians who are not in actual State / UT

Government services, in the PPP mode. State /UT Governments are responsible for filling up their vacancies of veterinarians and para-veterinarians. Advisories are issued by the Department in this regard.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**Disease Investigation and Reporting
(Recommendation No.9)**

While appreciating the efforts of the Department regarding upgradation of the Web-based platform of National Animal Disease Reporting System (NADRS) to an android based mobile application NADRS 2.0, the Committee feel that this was a much needed step to enable real time reporting of animal diseases and quick flow of information facilitating quick action. The Committee are, however, perturbed to note that the financial allocation for NADRS Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme went from Rs.6.79 crore in 2019-20 to Zero in 2020-21 and despite being upgraded to NADRS 2.0, the number of Active Nodes for updating information at the Block level remained at 7032 in 2019-20 and 2020-21. The Committee therefore, recommend the Department to take necessary measures to ensure adequate financial allocation and consistent development of physical parameters of the National Animal Disease Reporting System. The Committee desire to be apprised of the reasons behind 'Nil Allocations made to NADRS in 2020-21 and would also like to be informed about progress made in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The Department, on receipt of the Annual Action Plans or proposals from the States/ UTs, considers these proposals as per prescribed technical guidelines for release of funds. The budget utilization/release depends on the proposed deliverables by the state under the action plan, utilization of the earlier released funds and requirement of the state. The release of funds is also against submission of physical achievements. States are advised to take timely action in respect of sending their annual action plans and to utilize the funds released. The central share, if released late during the financial year, States/UTs are given the opportunity to use the released funds

during the next financial year to complete the targets through automatic revalidation issued by the Department. Further, in the revised LH&DC Scheme, the NADRS component is merged with ASCAD component for funding while it is being considered for integration with INAPH for easy and better reporting and avoid data duplication. During 2021-22, based on the proposals received from the States, Rs. 16.48 lakh has already been released to States.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**Disease Investigation and Reporting
(Recommendation No.10)**

The Committee are pleased to note the additional and highly skilled Laboratory facilities for animal disease diagnosis and surveillance available at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar and International Center for Foot and Mouth Diseases (IC-FMD), Mukteshwar; National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), Baghpat; National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal; Directorate on FMD, Mukteshwar; National Institute for Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI), Bengaluru; National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Anand; and the Regional centres of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on FMD under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The Committee also feel content to note that these institutes provide for robust forewarning systems for animal diseases based on data integration with Statistical Models. These Institutes along with the Regional and Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratories provide a solid base for efficient investigation and reporting of animal disease in the country. The Committee, however, feel that there is a need for Specialized Institutions to cater to the demands pertaining to Livestock residing in high altitude and arid regions of the country and also the need for a designated Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory for the same. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to explore the possibility of setting up Veterinary Infrastructure to cater to the aforementioned objectives and would like to be apprised of initiatives taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

There are 5 Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (RDDLs) under the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying located region-wise at Bangalore (Southern), Pune (Western), Jalandhar (Northern), Kolkata (Eastern) and Guwahati (North-Eastern). Besides, there is a Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (CDDL), located at Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly. The goal of establishing these laboratories is to provide facilities at the regional level for early confirmatory diagnosis of animal diseases as per OIE approved test procedure. These RDDLs have been of great help to the country for surveillance and diagnosis of various livestock and poultry diseases.

Further, the Department has revised components under LH & DC Scheme so that the State / UTs can be assisted in proper way in order to control the animal diseases and strengthening of veterinary infrastructure. In this regard, the revised LH&DC scheme focuses providing door-step veterinary services by Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs). MVUs will provide diagnosis treatment, vaccination, minor surgical interventions, audio-visual aids and extension services to farmers / animal owners at their doorstep. In the revised component of Assistance to States for control of , there is increased focus on vaccination against economically important diseases of livestock and backyard poultry. To strengthen the vaccination architecture, support to State biological production units and disease diagnostic laboratories are extended for supplementing production of disease diagnostic kits/vaccines and for disease diagnosis respectively with a Central-state for 'Strengthening of disease diagnostic laboratories and biological production units' under ASCAD.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Veterinary Council of India (VCI) and Veterinary Education (Recommendation No.12)

The Committee observe that a total of 54 Veterinary Colleges currently operational within the country have been providing admissions to the Professional Degree course on B.V.Sc. & A.H. through 4320 seats, 15% of which are filled through

the All Indian Quota and the remaining 85% through respective 'State/UT Quota'. However, considering the increasing population of Livestock and requirement of trained manpower for providing Veterinary Services, the present number of seats and Veterinary Colleges in the country are grossly inadequate and the Committee are of the opinion that merely increasing the number of seats in the Graduation course will not solve the problem of shortage of trained manpower. The Committee, therefore, recommend the VCI and SVCs to take actionable measures not only towards increasing the number of seats in existing colleges but also to towards recognising more number of Veterinary Colleges in the country while also taking steps for ensuring strict compliance to MSVE Regulations within the Colleges. The Committee would like to be informed about actions taken by the Department in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Presently, 54 recognized Veterinary Colleges in India are functioning and imparting veterinary education as per provisions under Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984. In addition to these 54 colleges, the Department has granted provisional recognition from 2017 to 2020 to the following veterinary colleges -

- (1) Veterinary College, Gadag Karnataka
- (2) College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Nagaland
- (3) Veterinary College, Mamnoor, Warangal,
- (4) Faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Varanasi
- (5) College of Veterinary Science, Lakhimpur
- (6) College of Veterinary Science, Garividi, A.P.,
- (7) M.B. Veterinary College, Dungarpur, Rajasthan
- (8) College of Veterinary Science, Rampura Phul, Bhatinda, Punjab

Further, during 2021-22, proposals for opening of 07 more Veterinary Colleges have been considered and following is the list of such colleges -

- (1) Sri Ganganagar Veterinary College, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan
- (2) R.R. College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Udaipur Rajasthan
- (3) Mahatma Gandhi Veterinary College, Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- (4) Veterinary College & Research Institute, Theni, Tamil Nadu
- (5) Veterinary College at Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu

(6) Veterinary College & Research Institute, Salem, Tamil Nadu

(7) Sanskaram College of Veterinary Science, Jhajjar, Haryana

It is expected that by recognition of more number of veterinary colleges would enable for increase in number of seats/admissions in veterinary graduation courses; thereby more number of qualified professionals to take care of the requirements.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**Veterinary Manpower
(Recommendation No.16)**

The Committee note that the responsibility for providing basic infrastructure and recruiting qualified manpower in the Veterinary Services lies with the State Governments and that the Department, in its bid to ensure availability of Trained Veterinary Manpower, has increased the number of recognised Veterinary Colleges to 54. Though the total number of annual Veterinary Graduates has gone up to 4320, the actual strength of field Veterinarians in the country remains at 28,328 against a sanctioned strength of 36,623. Further, the Actual Strength of Para-veterinarians in the country stands at 54,928 against a requirement of 78,013. This dire shortage of manpower has burdened the existing workforce such that there are 4915 cattle head units per registered Veterinarian and 8948 cattle head units per Veterinary Institute. The Committee also note that two of the significant reasons for this shortage of manpower can be attributed to the unprofitability of the area on Veterinary Services and also to the negligible involvement of private sector therein. Despite there being 5 Private Veterinary Colleges among the 54 that were recognized by the Central Government, Private Sector investments in the field remain inconsequential. Besides, the lack of motivation to join Veterinary Services may also arise from the seeming lack of demand in this Sector, which can be increased through restructuring the policies of the Central and State Governments and by considering the actual needs and tasks of sanctioned vacancies against a long term vision for the Veterinary Services Sector. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to employ corrective measures after undertaking rigorous Independent Evaluation of Schemes and Programmes run by the Centre and States

with respect to output and cost effectiveness in terms of attracting Public Private Partnerships in Veterinary Services and bridging the gap between demand and availability of qualified manpower in the Sector. The Committee would like to be apprised of actions taken and progress made in this regard.

Reply of the Government

As brought out, shortage of veterinarians against the actual strength is well taken by the VCI and necessary actions have been initiated by the VCI to recognize veterinary Colleges which are private sponsored. In this regard already 8 (Eight) veterinary colleges have been granted provisional recognition and 07 (seven) more veterinary colleges are under consideration for grant of letter of intent. Further, proposals received from Haryana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana are under consideration for recognition for the academic year 2022-23.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Training of Veterinarians & Para-Veterinarians (Recommendation No.17)

The Committee note that the Scheme on Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC), through its Sub-component on Professional Efficiency Development (PED), is responsible for providing 100% funds for functioning of Veterinary Council of India (VCI) and 50% funding to State Veterinary Councils (SVCs) for their operations including running their Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE) Programmes for training Veterinarians on latest technical developments; while the component on Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD) provides for in-service training to Veterinarians and Para-veterinarians. The Committee, however, are distressed to note that as per data submitted by the Department, 'Zero expenditure or financial progress' was made under the PED Sub-component during the year 2020-21 and the Physical Target in terms of CVE Trainings conducted during the year was also Zero. Moreover, State and UT-wise details of CVE Trainings conducted under PED Sub-component from the year 2017-18 to 2020-21 show that while no States/UTs conducted any training

during the year 2020-21, those that did conduct CVE trainings from 2017-18 to 2019-20 were miniscule in number with Kerala being the only State to have conducted CVE Training Programmes continuously during all the three years. The Committee are further agitated with the reply of the Department that VCI lacks Guidelines or provisions specific to the CVE Training Programmes; and also with the ambiguity in the replies of the Department where, on one hand it has informed that VCI could not conduct CVE Programmes after 2008-09 due to manpower constraints and on the other, it has stated that VCI has not conducted CVE Programmes during the last three years. Programmes like CVE focus on improving staff competencies and capabilities through formal training and the Veterinary Council of India along with the State Veterinary Councils have been tasked with conducting Continued Veterinary Education Programmes in the country but the performance of both these Bodies with regard to CVE has been dismal and the vagueness in the replies of the Department has only exacerbated the situation. Disapproving this half-hearted approach of the Department, the Committee strongly recommend that Proper Guidelines specific to CVE Trainings to be conducted by VCI and SVCs be laid down with a focus on incentivising State Veterinary Councils to conduct CVE Trainings routinely and that the Department take necessary steps to ensure that appropriate funds are released timely under the PED Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme. The Committee would like to be informed about action taken by the Department in this direction.

Reply of the Government

The Committee's concern in this regard is well noted. VCI/SVCs have been entrusted with the activities of implementation of Continuous Veterinary Education (CVE) programmes as a nodal agency. However, during the period in question, VCI could not implement CVE due to administrative constraints. As VCI has been rejuvenated after election and nomination of its members in 2021, the guidelines would be reviewed and SVCs would be incentivised to conduct CVE trainings for upgrading knowledge of veterinary profession.

It is pertinent to submit that Department has revised the LH&DC scheme and the activities of PED, a component of the earlier LH & DC Scheme, has now been merged with the ASCAD component. Specific focus has been laid on training wherein 100% central assistance to States is envisaged. The grants-in-aid to Veterinary Council of

India (VCI) would now be continued in the present LH & DC scheme under the ASCAD component.

States/UTs will provide/arrange for continuous veterinary education (CVE) programmes for trainings of veterinarians, para veterinarians, others / training of trainers, training of laboratory diagnostic specialists / mock drills for bird flu, etc. Monitoring of the scheme will be through National Steering Committee (NSC) headed by Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD). NSC will oversee activities of the LH&DC Scheme, give overall direction and guidance, monitor and review its progress and performance.

Due to COVID 19 pandemic situation and the pursuant lockdown in 2020-21, this activity was adversely impacted. Under the revised ASCAD component of the LH& DC scheme, funds have been released to states for training based on their action plan and status of their pending unspent balances.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**Training of Veterinarians & Para-Veterinarians
(Recommendation No.18)**

The Committee note that the VCI does not regulate Para-veterinarians, hence, the responsibility for in-service training and skill upgradation of Para-veterinarians lies on the ASCAD Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme, which receives 100% Assistance for conducting Training Programmes. The Department also informed the Committee that under the ASCAD Sub-component, financial assistance is provided to the Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (RDDDLs) to impart training to Veterinarians and Para-Veterinarians for extension of Veterinary Services / technologies to Livestock Owners at the field level. Appreciating the efforts of the Department regarding upkeep and management of high altitude animals through regular TSP Programmes being implemented by ICAR-IVRI in the Himalayan and North Eastern States, the Committee, however, express concern over the fact that despite having rampant annual occurrences of Avian Influenza in the country, the Department has failed to lay down separate and specific guidelines or provisions for VCI regarding training and education

in the field of Poultry Farming, Poultry Health and Vaccination. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take necessary action to design Training Programmes based on prevailing situations in the country along with developing a robust framework for regular trainings to in-service Veterinarians and Para-veterinarians through ASCAD Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme. The Committee would like to be informed about steps taken by the Department in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Department has developed the National Action Plan and advisory on Preparedness, Control and Containment of zoonotic as well as important diseases like Avian influenza, Glanders, Rabies, African Swine Fever and Lumpy Skin Disease where in line with the protocols prescribed by the OIE. These action plan and advisories include disease control and prevention strategies, sensitization of general public, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns through Information along with general guidelines and disease control information for Veterinarians and other stake holders. The veterinarians and scientist involved in various disease control programmes and disease diagnosis are regularly nominated for various training programmes conducted by National and International organizations like OIE, FAO, WHO. Under the revised LH&DC scheme there is provision of 100% financial support to ICAR Institutes/other institutes for research & innovation, publicity & awareness, training etc. States/ UTs are advised to submit the annual action plan as per the technical guidelines of ASCAD for research & innovation, publicity & awareness, training as per their local needs, geographical condition, type of animal population, disease status and available infrastructure including manpower status and capabilities.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Components of LH&DC Scheme Focusing on Veterinary Vaccine (Recommendation No.20)

The Committee note that Sub-components of the LH&DC Scheme focusing on Veterinary vaccination are Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases

(ASCAD) which provides assistance to States / UTs for control of economically important diseases of livestock and poultry by way of immunization and strengthening of existing State Veterinary Biological Production Units, Peste des Petits Ruminants Control Programme (PPR – CP) - which involves vaccinating all susceptible goats & sheep and three subsequent generations and Classical Swine Fever Control Programme (CSF – CP) - which focuses on vaccination of the pig population of the North Eastern States of the country. Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) and Brucellosis Control Programme (B-CP) were also two Sub-components under the LH&DC until 2019 but were later included in the new Central Sector Scheme on National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP). The Committee further note that Vaccination of animals against various Animal Diseases is carried out by the State / UT Governments with the Department supplements their efforts towards Vaccine and Vaccination Cost by providing funds under the LH & DC Scheme. However, achievements of Physical Targets under the Sub-components in terms of vaccination in million doses during the year 2019-20, raise concerns with the Committee. Under FMD-CP, against a target of 456 million only 182.5 million doses were administered; under ASCAD only 71.2 million doses were administered against a target of 150 million; under PPR-CP 38.9 million doses were administered against a target of 50 million and under CSF-CP only 0.3 million doses of Vaccine in total were administered. The Committee are further constrained to note that despite the North Eastern States of the country being worst hit by the Classical Swine Fever, Vaccination doses administered under CSF-CP during the year 2020-21 stood at Zero and that the Department is yet to take a decision regarding technology transfer of Lapinized Cell Culture CSF Vaccine technology to Vaccine Manufacturers other than the Indian Immunologicals Ltd. (IIL), Hyderabad. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take necessary steps to ensure timely Vaccination of Livestock in keeping with the targets set under LH&DC Sub-components and that Vaccine Manufacture may not be hampered due to Administrative Delays. The Committee would like to be apprised of steps taken in this direction.

Reply of the Government

An Empowered Committee for Animal Health (ECAH) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA), Government of India for policy

inputs on health programs including on veterinary vaccines / biologicals and drugs, capacity building of veterinary services, veterinary infrastructure, assessing threats of emerging diseases, disease control and review of ongoing livestock health programmes.

As mentioned earlier, under the realigned and revised scheme under LH&DC, It is planned to achieve 100% coverage of the eligible sheep and goat population for carpet vaccination against PPR. Similarly, 100% eligible pig population is planned for coverage under vaccination against CSF. For this, 100% central assistance for all States / UTs shall be provided for critically important diseases viz. PPR, CSF, besides FMD and Brucellosis, which have been already provided with 100% central assistance under NADCP. This will help implementation of vaccination programme on ground by overcoming hindrances due to delayed release / inadequate provision of State share in State budget.

DAHD will engage the services of a Program Logistic Agency as done under National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for ensuring timely vaccination of livestock in keeping with targets set under LH & DC sub-components to ensure smooth logistics so that it may not hamper manufacturers due to administrative delay. Further, the PLA will coordinate with Central Programme Management Agency to assess the requirement of vaccine dosages, schedule of vaccination and supply of vaccines timely to the States/ UTs. The States/ UTs will be contacted beforehand to assess their preparedness to undertake vaccination and receive the supply of vaccine. Accordingly, the vaccines will be supplied as per the schedule.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)
(Recommendation No.21)**

The Committee note that NADCP is a Central Sector Scheme that envisages 100% Vaccination coverage of cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs in the country for biannual vaccination against FMD and also envisages 100% Vaccination of female cattle and buffalo calves (4-8 months of age) once in a life time against Brucellosis. The

Committee, however, are constrained to note that against a proposed allocation of Rs.2705.00 crore for the year 2020-21, the Department was allocated only Rs.1300.00 crore which was further reduced to Rs.858.00 crore at the RE stage. Further, for the year 2021-22, against a proposed allocation of Rs.1560.00 crore, the Department was allocated only Rs.1100.00 crore for NADCP. The Committee are also dissatisfied to note that despite having sufficient vaccine availability to carry out the first round of FMD Vaccination of Cattle and Buffaloes, the first round of FMD Vaccination that was already delayed due to COVID-related lockdown since March, 2020 was further suspended due to the fact that the quality control test results of the vaccines against FMD did not comply with the set criteria. The Committee are also displeased with the 'Nil Achievements' made by the Department with regard to Brucellosis Vaccination. Further, the Representative of the Department informed the Committee that due to research hurdles, testing of Individual Batches of Vaccines is not possible. Expressing disappointment with the pace of implementation of the vaccination drive under the NADCP, the Committee recommend that the Department employ stringent measures with regard to Quality Testing and Vaccine Procurement while also setting realistic targets for Vaccination and focusing on their achievements within the given timeframe. The Committee would like to be apprised of action taken by the Department in this direction.

Reply of the Government

Under NADCP, both vaccines (against FMD and Brucella) are mandated to undergo an extensive quality testing procedure, ensuring that only good quality vaccines are to be supplied to the field. After the quality testing results of Round 1 of FMD vaccination, the Department has taken multiple steps not only to diagnose the issues at the manufacturers' end but also to ensure the availability of quality vaccine for the next round which is as under:

- Secretary (DAHD) held number of rounds of discussions with vaccine manufacturers, starting from mid-October 2020, followed by interaction between scientists of ICAR and vaccine manufacturers.
- In the efforts to get the desired quality results for the FMD vaccine, the Department has shared the test results and reference materials with the

manufacturers (which were also shared earlier while finalizing the procurement process with manufacturers)

- Provided training to the manufacturers' scientists on the extant vaccine quality testing protocol.
- A technical committee has also reviewed the production processes of all the manufacturers.
- The Department and ICAR are also making all-out efforts to ensure the availability of required numbers of seronegative calves for undertaking quality testing by laboratories and fast-tracking quality testing despite movement and other related challenges of the COVID19 pandemic.
- With close support from the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, Department is collaborating with BMGF and WRL, Pirbright Institute, who are not only providing technical help to our FMD vaccine manufacturers to produce quality vaccine but also working together to develop an alternative in-vitro testing method which is expected not only to reduce the overall period for testing considerably but avoid the use of animals of target species, which is logistically challenging.
- Further, the Department is being advised by an empowered committee with independent experts on animal health matters to the Ministry and the sector.
- Also, the department is exploring the prospect of procuring FMD vaccines through foreign manufacturers to meet the requirement of vaccines without compromising the QC testing parameters.
- M/s IIL has started supplying FMD vaccine meeting the criteria set by DAHD and FMD vaccine has been supplied 17 States/UTs of which 12 States /UTs have already started vaccination.

The position with regard to the vaccine against Brucella is as under -

- In 2021, an MoA has been signed between PLA (NAFED) and the manufacturer (Sanvita Biotechnologies Pvt Ltd) for the supply of Brucella vaccine.
- The vaccines undergo QC testing before supply to the field.
- Till November'21, Brucella vaccine has been supplied to 20 States/UTs of which vaccination has already commenced in 15 States/UTs.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**Legislative Back-up in Animal Health
(Recommendation No.24)**

The Committee note that there exist two Central Acts, 'The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009' and 'The Livestock Importation Act, 1898', which respectively deal with compulsory reporting of Scheduled Animal Diseases along with Prevention and Spread of Economically Important Infectious and Contagious Diseases from one part of the country to another; and with regulation, restriction or prohibition of import of Livestock and Livestock Products into the country in order to prevent ingress of exotic animal disease. The Committee, however, sense the need for more Government legislation on some key areas related to Veterinary Services in the country, that, according to the Committee, interalia include indiscriminate use of veterinary drugs and hormones with minimal veterinary supervision giving rise to their residual accumulation in dairy and poultry products and also posing problems like Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR); policies on animal welfare and unethical treatment of animals for sale, at abattoirs, crossing State boundaries, etc. along with targeting & addressing cases of non-compliance; protocol for disposal of fallen animals and diseased cattle to prevent it from becoming a source of infection, etc. that require watertight legislation by the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take a holistic view of the problems plaguing Animal Health and work towards drafting relevant laws with a holistic approach. The Committee would like to be apprised of measures taken in this direction.

Reply of the Government

The Central Act namely, 'The Prevention and Control of Infectious & Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009' with the following objectives:

- To prevent spread of economically important infectious and contagious diseases from one part of the country to another
- To establish “Controlled” and “Eradicated areas” within the country in order to reduce economic losses on account of major economically important infectious and contagious diseases of livestock
- To control animal diseases of public health significance on a national basis and promote import and export of animals and animal products by meeting India’s international obligations

The Act provides legislative back up for the control and eradication of livestock and poultry diseases, including zoonotic diseases. The central legislation “*The Livestock Importation Act 1898*” further amended as *Livestock and Livestock Products Importation Act (2001)* controls all import and export of livestock and livestock products in the country. Under section 3A of this Act, the Central Government has powers to regulate, restrict or prohibit entry of livestock and livestock products, which may adversely affect human and animal health.

Further, Department is taking the following steps to tackle the issues related to spread of zoonotic diseases in the country.

- a. Advisories have been issued to States/ UTs from time to time to take necessary measures to prevent the spread of zoonotic and other diseases.
- b. The Department has issued bio-security manual for the poultry farms to prevent zoonosis. Further, the Department has also developed action plan and advisories for Prevention control and containment of diseases like Avian Influenza, Glanders, African Swine Fever and Lumpy Skin Disease
- c. The Department in collaboration with the US Centres of Disease Control and Prevention has been organising One Health Table top exercise on emerging zoonotic diseases involving officers from human health and animal health sectors
- d. In addition to this, multi-sectoral coordination approach is being adopted for prevention, control and containment of the diseases. Efforts has been made by the Department to establish Well co-ordinated Surveillance for Zoonotic diseases like Avian Influenza and Pandemic Influenza (H1N1), Glanders, Rabies, CCHF etc. with the other Department through the following joint mechanism:

- i. Joint Monitoring Group on Avian Influenza with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare having representative from DADF, WHO, NCDC, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, ICMR etc.
- ii. Task Force on Swine Influenza
- iii. Joint Action Committee on Rabies.
- iv. Joint working group on AMR

In case of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), FSSAI being the regulatory body and National Codex Control Point in respect of food safety and standards, regularly notifies and develops tolerance limits of drugs and antibiotics and MRLs (Maximum Residual Limits) of pesticides in foods and Animal Feed. Moreover, ICAR, Directorate of Poultry Research, Hyderabad is conducting research on medicinal plants to use as replacement of antibiotic growth promoters. ICAR with the support of FAO has started a network programme on AMR surveillance in food animals and aquaculture since 2017, with 21 labs (12 in animal sciences and 9 in fisheries sciences) working in technical collaboration with FAO. ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Kolkata / Izatnagar and ICAR- National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow are functioning as the coordinating centres/institutes for veterinary and fishery sectors, respectively. Successful implementation of the program will be a key component of the National Action Plan on AMR for protection of human health, animal health and food safety in India and can also be a component under One Health. The objectives of INFAAR are –

- a) To improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance through effective communication, education and training;
- b) To strengthen the knowledge and evidence base through surveillance and research;
- c) To reduce the incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene and infection prevention measures;
- d) To optimize the use of antimicrobial medicines in human and animal health; and
- e) To develop the economic case for sustainable investment that takes account of the needs of all countries and to increase investment in new medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines and other interventions.

Presently the network laboratories are working on following key/indicator microbes:

Livestock sector: *E. coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*

Fisheries sector: *E. coli*, *Aeromonas*, *Vibrio*

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) framed The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 (As amended up to the 31st December, 2016) which include Manufacture, Sale and Distribution of Drugs And Cosmetics including the use and withdrawal period of a veterinary medicine to animals under the normal conditions of use and the production of food stuff from such animals to ensure that food stuffs do not contain residues in quantities in excess of the maximum residue limits laid down. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) also framed the Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011 which also include microbial analysis of livestock products. Animal Welfare board of India under the Department in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. (59 of 1960), have the rules related to animal welfare, prevention of cruelty to animals (slaughter house), prevention of cruelty to animals (registration of cattle premises), livestock markets, care and maintenance of animals etc.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**Performance Of Veterinary Services (PVS) Evaluation Of India Conducted By OIE – World Organization For Animal Health (OIE - PVS)
(Recommendation No.26)**

The Committee observe that the evaluation of performance of Veterinary Services in the country by the World Organization for Animal Health led to a number recommendations which came to be included in the OIE-PVS Report and which have been put together after an overall assessment of our Veterinary Services. The Committee observe that apart from the many recommendations of the OIE-PVS Report, emphasis is to be laid on the key recommendations along with some other areas including proper training and recruitment of human resource at every level; employing premier Veterinary Institutes like National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) Bhopal, Chaudhary Charan Singh National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) Baghpat, Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), etc. for training in-service Veterinary and Para-veterinary professionals for skill upgradation and Continued

Veterinary Education (CVE) Programmes; animal tagging for the purpose of traceability and Block-level formation of a database for Livestock Population on the lines of National Population Register (NPR) for which the Private Sector may also be involved; and the need to strive to maintain uniformity in implementation of Schemes and Programmes so that multiple channels of policy implementation do not result in unnecessary confusion. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take necessary steps to meet the aforementioned objectives and to treat the OIE-PVS Report as a Guidebook to follow and implement with regard to the Veterinary Services. The Committee would like to be apprised of actions taken by the Department in this regard and would also like to be provided with the detailed Report on actions taken by the Department on recommendations of the OIE-PVS Report.

Reply of the Government

The Committee's recommendation in this regard is noted. The Department is also taking necessary measures for other recommendations in the OIE-PVS report including training, welfare, zoonoses and public awareness etc. It has revised the LH&DC scheme and the activities of PED, a component of the earlier LH & DC Scheme, has now been merged with the ASCAD component. Specific focus has been laid on training wherein 100% central assistance to States is envisaged. The grants-in-aid to Veterinary Council of India (VCI) would now be continued in the present LH & DC scheme under the ASCAD component.

States/UTs will provide/arrange for continuous veterinary education (CVE) programmes for trainings of veterinarians, para veterinarians, others / training of trainers, training of laboratory diagnostic specialists / mock drills for bird flu, etc. Monitoring of the scheme will be through National Steering Committee (NSC) headed by Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD). NSC will oversee activities of the LH&DC Scheme, give overall direction and guidance, monitor and review its progress and performance.

Further, DAHD is collaborating with National Rural Livelihood Mission, Ministry of Rural Development for a wider outreach to the farmers through development of village level self-employed veterinary service providers by the name of A-HELP (Accredited Agent for Animal Health and Extension of Livestock Production) from among NRLMSHG members. These will mainly be trained women who would undertake basic

livestock health services under the supervision of the block veterinary officer, and other activities related to livestock on behalf of the Central or State Government, and would also provide services to local livestock farmers on payment basis, also generating a livelihood for themselves.

Animal tagging is presently employed by the Department to support all its livestock vaccination programmes for identification of vaccinated as well as animals where Artificial insemination is undertaken. The Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH) portal of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) serves as the central database for animals registered uniquely on INAPH. 100% central funding is provided to NDDB for registering the animals (vaccinated) and the State/UT Implementing Agencies/ Livestock Development Board for capturing the animal data through animal health module of INAPH and ear-tagging for maintaining the INAPH database under National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP). Liaison of INAPH with the Call centre set up centrally enable verification of implementation of the programmes at the ground level under NADCP and NAIP.

The requirement of ear-tags and tagging schedule are worked out district wise at least well before the start of vaccination campaign and procured centrally. At the Block level, BVOs ensure that technicians involved in ear-tagging are aware of the procedure and enter the relevant details required as per the animal health module of INAPH.

National Digital Livestock Mission, which is envisaged to be a farmer-centric system where modern information infrastructure and applications will enable farmers to seamlessly access services and information, help improved participation of the private sector so that both the farmer and market can seamlessly access each other; create robust closed-loop breeding systems, disease surveillance, control and traceability programmes for the livestock sector; promote linkage between the research and development systems to the field along with better alignment between various national and state programmes.

Provision for Publicity & Awareness is exclusively provided for in the vaccination programmes (FMD, Brucellosis, PPR and CSF) and also under ASCAD wherein all States/UTs will emphasize on publicity & awareness programmes at block level for creation of awareness of the farmers about the animal disease control programmes of the government, risk of zoonotic diseases.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**'One Health' Initiative
(Recommendation No.27)**

While noting that the concept of 'One Health' envisages an integrated approach towards Animal Health, Human Health and the environment, the Committee recognise the efforts made by the Department by way of enacting legislation regarding prevention and control of infectious animal diseases, Web-based Animal Diseases Reporting System – NADRS, encouraging use of Ayurvedic medicines in place of harmful antibiotics, etc. The Committee, however, realize that more work needs to be done regarding coordination and collaboration with other Ministries and Departments to optimise the role of Programmes and Policies with a focus on prevention of zoonosis; improved safety of animal origin foods; prevention and management of Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR) / Anti-microbial Use (AMU); conducting a study to determine the ill-effects of animal drug abuse in Poultry Farming and Livestock Rearing on human health; bringing in a legislation on Animal Welfare; and promotion of biosafety measures in all laboratories. The objectives defined by the Department under the Network Programme on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Surveillance in Food, Animals and Aquaculture form the core of the activities directed toward prevention of zoonoses and ill-effects of drug overuse. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to pursue with all seriousness the objectives laid down by the Indian Network for Fisheries and Animal Antimicrobial Resistance (INFAAR) while also continuing its efforts to tackle issues related to spread of zoonotic diseases in the country in order to fulfil aspirations envisaged under the 'One Health' concept. The Committee would like to be apprised of action taken by the Department in this direction.

Reply of the Government

Department has taken following efforts to tackle issues related to spread of zoonotic diseases in the country in order to fulfil aspirations envisaged under the 'One Health' concept.

- a. The Department is also providing financial assistance to Disease Control Programs including Zoonotic and Highly Communicable Diseases under Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD). Programme provides support to governments of states and union territories for control of economic important disease including zoonotic diseases, which are not covered under the central programs. The programme also covers surveillance and monitoring, strengthening of Disease Diagnostic Laboratories, Biological Production Unit, immunisation for animal diseases and surveillance of exotic and emerging diseases in animals. Further, the National Animal Disease Control Programme for FMD and Brucellosis (NADCP) is one of the flagship programmes, besides FMD, it also includes intensive Brucellosis Control programme in animals is envisaged for controlling Brucellosis which will result in effective management of the disease in both animals and in humans. Department also provides financial assistance to ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal and ICAR-NIVEDI, Bangalore, which are involved in surveillance of the disease like Avian Influenza and Brucellosis respectively.

Under the revised LH&DC scheme there is provision of 100% financial support to ICAR Institutes/other institutes for Research & Innovation, Publicity & Awareness, Training etc. The state are advised to submit the annual action plan as per the Technical guidelines of ASCAD for Research & Innovation, Publicity & Awareness, Training as per their requirements.

- b. A Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India was signed on 7th April, 2021 to introduce the concept of Ayurveda and its allied disciplines into veterinary science by their promotion in research and development including research on new formulations in quality drugs for veterinary science through medicinal herbs. The objective of this cooperation is to develop a regulatory mechanism for the use of Ayurveda in the veterinary sector for the benefit of animal health, livestock owners' community and the society at large.

It would provide an extremely cost-effective, simple and efficacious management option to farmers to manage many common ailments in their animals that seriously dent their income. This would also help rationalize the use of drugs, especially antibiotics, and thereby stall the emergence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Further, a Committee on education responsible for developing the course curriculum for Ayurvedic Veterinary Medicine (AVM) and other traditional forms for basic understanding of the subject is being constituted in the Department to prepare the teaching material consisting of Veterinary Ayurveda and also to prepare course curriculum consist of both the theory part as well as practical applicability of the ayurvedic medicine in the veterinary field.

- c. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sustainably improving India's livestock sector to support the nation's food and nutritional security.

Developing the livestock sector envisages strengthening animal husbandry infrastructure, entrepreneurship development and implementing 'One Health' framework. Through this collaboration, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide technical assistance for the design and delivery of new technologies and implementation of best practices that are relevant in the local context.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee, please refer to **Para 1.34 of Chapter – I** of the Report.

Other Issues Regarding Veterinary Services and Animal Health (Recommendation No.28)

The Committee observe that some lesser discussed problems within the Veterinary Services in the country include lack of facilities to provide free veterinary aid to livestock owners, grievance redressal & easy availability of information for livestock owners and inclusivity in Veterinary Services. The Department lacks any Facility / Health Scheme / Panel for reimbursement of costs borne by Livestock or Poultry Owners while availing treatment for their diseased cattle or poultry and instead only provides for free vaccination and deworming to livestock and poultry. The Committee,

however, note that in case of vaccination with doses that failed the quality test, the Livestock owner is not liable for any compensation in case this leads to any serious health issue in the cattle or livestock. Further, regarding the issue on grievance redressal, the Committee note that an online web-based system called the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (*CPGRAMS*) has been developed by NIC over NICNET, in association with Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG) and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), which facilitates Ministries / Departments / Organizations to receive, forward and monitor grievance from various sources. Additionally, the States routinely organize Farmers' Contact Meetings to discuss and redress the needs of Livestock Owners at Block Level in the form of Raitha Samparka Sabha. However, there is no platform for providing relevant information to Livestock and Poultry owners about feed / fodder, vaccination or other general queries and instead there is an UMANG portal wherein Online Information in respect of location of Veterinary Hospitals / Dispensaries, etc. is available. The Committee feel constrained to note that the Department has no provisions for reimbursement to Livestock Owners losing their livestock to failed vaccination doses or deadly livestock diseases. The Committee are also disappointed to note that there is no proper channel of communication between the Department and the Livestock / Poultry Owners. Taking cognizance of these seemingly minor issues, the Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to introduce a mechanism to ascertain aid to Livestock and Poultry Farmers losing their Livestock or Poultry to animal diseases or faulty vaccination doses while also working towards ensuring a direct channel of communication with stakeholders at the grassroot level and to provide a 'One-stop Centre' for solutions to veterinary issues and dissemination of information to the remotest areas of the country. The Committee would like to be apprised of action taken in this direction.

Reply of the Government

Animal Husbandry is a State subject and the Department do not have any scheme for reimbursement of costs borne by Livestock or Poultry owners while availing treatment for their diseased cattle or poultry. Department revised the Livestock Health and Disease Control scheme with the aim of reducing risk to animal health by prophylactic vaccination against diseases of livestock and poultry, capacity building of Veterinary services, disease surveillance and strengthening veterinary infrastructure

which include assistance to States for control of other economically important, exotic, emergent and zoonotic livestock and poultry diseases (ASCAD) and establishment and strengthening of mobile veterinary units (ESVHD). The funding pattern is 100% central assistance for non-recurring components of ESVHD (MVUs) and 60:40 between Central and State and 90:10 for hilly and NE States and 100% for UTs under ASCAD.

MVUs will provide diagnosis treatment, vaccination, minor surgical interventions, audio-visual aids and extension services to farmers / animal owners at their doorstep. It is envisaged to support one MVU per 1 lakh livestock population in the country and inadequate reach and penetration of veterinary services can be tackled to some extent through initiating door-step delivery of veterinary services. MVUs will fill the gap in veterinary services rendered through veterinary hospitals/polyclinics/dispensaries and may also act as one-stop Centre for solutions to veterinary issues and dissemination of information to the remotest areas of the country. MVUs will be equipped with equipment for diagnosis, treatment, sample collection, minor surgery and audio- visual aids, etc. for extension activities. The recurring expenditure on running the mobile vans / vehicles, call centres and the outsourced manpower services shall however have a Central-State fund sharing pattern of 60-40/90-10 for NE& Himalayan States/100% for UTs. Each State/UT will establish a Call Centre having call executives and veterinarians. The Call Centre unit shall be constituted of 1 veterinarian and 3 call executives for every 20 MVUs. For 100 MVUs, there will be 2 veterinarians along with 6 Call Executives and for additional each hundred MVUs, 1 veterinarian & 3 Call Executives will be required. Animal owner / family could call on the designated number of the Call Centre. A State/UT level Call Centre would be set up / aligned with the existing Call Centre in each State/ UT. Such Call Centers would be under the control of the State/ UT Animal Husbandry Department with a Nodal Officer nominated by the State. The Call Centre would function as the pivot whilst rendering the mobile veterinary services. The Call Centre would receive calls from livestock rearers / animal owners and transmit them to the Veterinary doctor at the Call Centre.

The decision of directing the MVU would be on the emergent nature of the veterinary case as decided by the Veterinary doctor at the Call Centre. Call Centre Executive will collect information from caller and will enter in the system. The system will generate a unique ID for each case. The veterinarian at the Call will prioritize the cases. The calls will be followed up with the identified vehicle and the available MVU will be deployed (expected time of arrival automatically displayed in the system) to the

caller's place. Veterinary Doctor / para-veterinarian will provide the necessary veterinary service and advice.

The Call Centre would be responsible for monitoring the movement and use of MVUs and confirming the actual services provided through the UID and mobile number of the animal owner and share the data with the State concerned.

The Call Centre would be responsible for communication with the local Veterinary Surgeon for follow-up treatment and registered local AI technician for AI. Call Centre veterinarian will take a call on escalation from Call Executives or AI technician or MAITRI or para veterinarian for online advice to the farmers

There is provision of sero-monitoring, sero-/ clinical surveillance and vaccine testing in the scheme involving vaccination against FMD, Brucellosis, PPR and CSF. The designated/ identified Central/ State/ ICAR/ University laboratories will carry out sero-monitoring, sero-/ clinical surveillance and vaccine testing, wherever required. The detailed SOPs for quality control of vaccines etc. with subject matter specialists have been shared with the relevant stakeholders. district. The information related to common Disease and Cure, Benefits of Artificial Insemination (AI), major breeds, major vaccinations, central vaccination are made live on Umang Portal.

Under ASCAD component of LH&DC scheme, assistance is provided to state governments in case of disease incidences / outbreaks and financial assistance is provided by the Centre to meet the expenses on compensation to farmers and operational cost. Assistance is also provided to the states/UTs for publicity & awareness programmes at block level for creation of awareness of the farmers about the animal disease control programmes of the government, risk of zoonotic diseases etc. States are advised in operational guidelines to give wide publicity about the programme so that the message of importance of vaccination, disease control and prevention reach the target beneficiaries. Emphasis is given on the economic impact of livestock health on the rural economy. Both print and electronic media such as television, radio, community radio, newspapers, posters, leaflets, wall painting-banners etc., are used both for general awareness and for awareness of the incoming vaccination campaign, especially, vaccination dates, movement control of animals, importance of disease etc. Private agencies/ State Cooperatives/ NGOs may also be utilized for implementing change behaviour strategies in the communities

In addition to compensation paid for compulsory depopulation of livestock and poultry, Livestock Insurance is undertaken in the realigned National Livestock Mission

(NLM). The objective is to manage life risk and uncertainties by providing protection mechanisms to farmers against any eventual loss of their animals due to death and to demonstrate the benefit of the insurance of livestock to the people. DAHD is implementing this Centrally Sponsored scheme through the State Implementing Agencies (SIAs) such as State Livestock Development Board/Agency. Accordingly, subsidy in payment of premium is provided to the farmers (beneficiaries).

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

**Other Issues Regarding Veterinary Services and Animal Health
(Recommendation No.29)**

Regarding the lack of inclusivity in Veterinary Services, the Committee feel constrained to note that the Department has no specified mechanism to cover those animals under Veterinary Healthcare Services and Vaccination programmes that form unconventional sources of milk such as camel, yak, etc. and that still fail to be included within policies and programmes of mainstream Veterinary Infrastructure, Education and Services. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to work towards evolving an inclusive approach focused on increasing services, awareness and outreach in far flung areas of the country, especially the Himalayan States, the North Eastern States and the border areas. The Committee would like to be apprised of the efforts made by the Department in this direction.

Rely of the Government

Animal Husbandry is a State subject and states have the provision to cover animals like camel, yak etc. under veterinary health care depending on the ecology, geographical conditions and disease prevalence in the area. Department vaccination programme covers the diseases like FMD, brucellosis, PPR and CSF which are of trade and economic importance. However, under ASCAD component states may seek assistance for control and vaccination of any economically important, exotic, emergent and zoonotic livestock and poultry diseases depending on the animal and disease

incidence in particular area. Assistance is also provided to the states/UTs for publicity & awareness programmes at block level for creation of awareness of the farmers about the animal disease control programmes of the government, risk of zoonotic diseases etc. Department revised the Livestock Health and Disease Control scheme with component establishment and strengthening of mobile veterinary units (ESVHD-MVUs). The funding pattern is 100% central assistance for non-recurring components of ESVHD (MVUs) and 60:40 between Central and State and 90:10 for hilly and NE States and 100% for UTs for recurring expenditure. MVUs will provide diagnosis treatment, vaccination, minor surgical interventions, audio-visual aids and extension services to farmers / animal owners at their doorstep in far flung area. MVUs may also act as One-stop Centre for solutions to veterinary issues and dissemination of information to the remotest areas of the country. MVUs will be equipped with equipment for diagnosis, treatment, sample collection, minor surgery and audio-visual aids, etc. for extension activities.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

CHAPTER - III

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES**

-NIL-

CHAPTER - IV

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Scheme on Livestock Health & Disease Control (LH&DC) (Recommendation No.1)

The Committee note that the Scheme on Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) was formulated with a view to provide financial assistance as the Central share to States / UTs for control & containment of animal diseases, with a funding pattern of 60:40 between Centre and State (90:10 for North Eastern & Himalayan States and 100% for UTs). The Committee, however, are concerned to note the huge difference between figures on BE proposed and Budget allocated under the LH&DC Scheme from the year 2017-18 up to 2021-22. Against a proposed allocation of Rs.1553.03 crore, the Department was allocated a mere Rs.298.77 crore at the BE Stage in 2017-18 and this trend of drastic reduction at the BE Stage has continued up to the year 2021-22 with allocated BE being Rs.370.00 crore as against a proposed amount of Rs.909.39 crore. Moreover, funds allocated at RE Stage were further reduced from the years 2018-19 up to 2020-21. While expressing satisfaction over the total percentage expenditure of funds allocated to the Department, that has constantly been over 98% from 2017-18 to 2019-20, the Committee note with discontent that under some sub-components of LH&DC Scheme nil financial progress and zero physical achievements have been made at some point during the period from 2015-16 up to 2020-21.

The Committee are constrained to note that the Sub-components on Professional Efficiency Development (PED), National Animal Disease Reporting System (NADRS) and Classical Swine Fever Control Programme (CSF-CP) show 'Zero Allocations' for the year 2020-21. The Nil achievement of Physical Targets regarding vaccination doses to pigs in NE States under CSF-CP during 2020-21 and Zero Trainings conducted under PED during the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and also during 2020-21 further add to the displeasure of the Committee. The Committee further express utter dismay while taking note of the most significant fact that no Veterinary Hospitals / Dispensaries were strengthened or established under the Establishment and Strengthening of existing Veterinary Hospitals / Dispensaries (ESVHD) Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme

during the years 2017-18 and 2020-21 as well as nil achievements made regarding searching of village/stock routes under the Sub-component on National Project on Rinderpest Surveillance and Monitoring (NPRSM) during the years 2015-16 and 2017-18. While the expenditure pattern of the Department with respect to the LH&DC Scheme, in totality, shows near 100% utilization of allocated funds, the status of financial progress and physical achievements under the aforementioned sub-components raise serious concerns with the Committee. Taking a negative view of such a misleading approach of the Department, the Committee strongly desire that necessary explanation be furnished with regard to non-achievement of Physical and Financial Targets with respect to States and UTs under the LH&DC Sub-components so far and also recommend the Department to take stock of the situation regarding effective implementation of the Scheme Sub-components at the grassroot level. On the issue of drastic cuts under the Scheme at the BE Stage, the Committee recommend the Ministry of Finance to bear in mind the proposed allocation projected by the Department and make fund allocations commensurate with the needs of this Department so that important Schemes and Programmes do not suffer for want of funds. The Committee would like to be apprised of the actions taken by the Department in each of these areas and the progress made therein.

Reply of the Government

The Department, on receipt of the Annual Action Plans or proposals from States / UTs, appraises them as per prescribed technical guidelines for release of budgeted funds. The budget utilization / release depends on the proposed deliverables by States /UTs under their action plans, utilization of funds released earlier and requirement of funds.

Further, it is mentioned that till 2019-20, most of the funds from LH&DC scheme was allocated towards FMD-CP and balance towards PPR-CP, Brucella-CP, CSF-CP, ASCAD, ESVHD, NADRS, NPRSM etc.(all components of erstwhile LH&DC scheme). However, from 2019-20, NADCP, a Central sector scheme was carved out of LH&DC taking both FMD-CP and Brucella-CP from it. Again, release of State share is often delayed or there is non-provision in state budget. This adversely impacts utilization of the released central funds which depends on the release of state share, as per funding pattern (60:40 or 90:10 for Himalayan and NE states).

Accordingly, from 2021-22, Department has revised Livestock Health and Disease Control (LHDC) scheme with the aim of reducing risk to animal health by prophylactic vaccination against diseases of livestock and poultry, capacity building of Veterinary Services, disease surveillance and strengthening veterinary infrastructure. The major activities supported are eradication and control of two major diseases namely Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and classical swine fever (CSF), establishment and strengthening of mobile veterinary units (ESVHD-MVU) and Assistance to States for control of other economically important, exotic, emergent and zoonotic livestock and poultry diseases (ASCAD). The funding pattern is 100% central assistance for eradication and control of PPR and CSF, respectively, and is 60:40 or 90:10 for non-recurring components of ESVHD as well as for some components of ASCAD.

In the revised LH&DC Scheme, components of the hitherto LH& DC scheme such as NADRS, NPRSM and PED have been merged with the ASCAD component. States / UTs will however continue to report incidences of livestock & poultry diseases as earlier, periodically, for reporting to OIE and financial assistance will now be provided under the “strengthening of disease diagnostic laboratories” a component of ASCAD. NADRS component has also been considered for integration with INAPH for easy and better reporting and to avoid data duplication.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee, please refer to **Para 1.7 of Chapter – I** of the Report.

Status of Veterinary Infrastructure in the Country (Recommendation No.3)

The Committee further note that though the the average number of villages per Veterinary Institution in the country stood at 9.86 until 2018-19, a closer look at such data for individual States reveals a different picture. Jharkhand has as many as 36.3

villages per unit Veterinary Institution, Meghalaya has 28.5 villages per Veterinary Unit whereas Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have 21.6, 20.2 and 18.2 villages per Veterinary Unit, respectively. Moreover, according to the recommendation of the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) in 1976, there ought to be at least one Veterinary Doctor / Institution for 5000 cattle units by the year 2000. With the present population of livestock in the country being 535.78 million, going by the recommendation of the NCA, there is a need for approximately 1,07,156 Veterinary Institutions in the country as opposed to the present number of 65,894. Evidently, an exponential increase in the population of Livestock has far outstripped the number of centres offering veterinary care in the country. This inadequacy in Veterinary Infrastructure not only affects the quality of Livestock and outreach of Government Schemes and Programmes to intended beneficiaries but also hampers the growth potential of the Livestock Sector, thus dampening its economic output. Dismayed to note this massive shortfall in Veterinary Infrastructure in the country, the Committee strongly recommend the Department to employ strict measures in cooperation with States and UTs, aimed at increasing the strength of Veterinary Institutions not just at the macrolevel but also at the microlevel in terms of villages per unit Veterinary Institution in each of the States and UTs and aspire to have at least one multi-speciality Veterinary Hospital in each district of the country. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action plan along with the timeline drawn up by the Department to tackle all the aforesaid issues highlighted by the Committee.

Reply of the Government

Animal Husbandry is a state subject. However, in order to strengthen veterinary infrastructure in States so as to cater to the needs of providing adequate veterinary healthcare, the Central Government provided funds to the State/UT Governments under “Establishment and Strengthening of existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries” (ESVHD), as a component of Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH & DC) scheme where the funds were released based on the action plan of the state and utilization of earlier released funds. State Governments are responsible for providing the basic infrastructure and necessary qualified manpower for veterinary health care in respective States. To bridge the gap between the demand for and availability of veterinary professionals as well as veterinary infrastructure in the country, states are continuously

advised to strengthen their veterinary infrastructure. As stated above, the revised and realigned components of Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying schemes wherein Disease Control programme, renamed as Livestock Health & Disease Control (LH & DC) programme, includes the component for establishment and strengthening of mobile veterinary units (ESVHD-MVUs). MVUs will aid in clinical diagnosis, treatment, vaccination, minor surgical interventions, etc. as well as be used for extension services to farmers / animal owners at their doorsteps even in far flung areas. Initially, one MVU per 1 lakh animals will be funded from the centre with funding for around 5000 MVUs, the revised LH & DC scheme would be in place from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee, please refer to **Para 1.10 of Chapter – I** of the Report.

**Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD)
(Recommendation No.5)**

While appreciating the efforts of the Department regarding dovetailing of funds under ESVHD Sub-component with that of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and that of MPLAD Funds to enhance resources to cater to Veterinary Health Services in States/UTs, the Committee feel that efforts of the Department need to be focused on identifying the most vulnerable States/UTs and encouraging them to avail funds for strengthening Veterinary Infrastructure under the said arrangement. While observing the release of Rs.1636.70 crore towards proposals under RKVY-State Level Sanctioning Committee (RKVY-SLSC), the Committee are constrained to note that of the 10 major deficient States in Veterinary Infrastructure identified in January, 2019, only 7 have submitted proposals for receiving such funds. The remaining three States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan witnessed a percentage deficit of 82.7%, 57.9% and 54.3% respectively, with Gujarat being the top-most deficient in Veterinary Infrastructure among the 10 States in January, 2019. The Committee feel that such a huge deficit in Veterinary Infrastructure

and Services not only hampers the quality and output of the Livestock Sector of these States but also deprives individual Livestock Owners of basic facilities regarding health, upkeep and maintenance of cattle, poultry and other Livestock while also denying them the opportunity to optimize their output potential. The Committee, therefore, recommend that measures for positive reinforcements be devised to encourage States and UTs to not only submit proposals for funds but also to utilize these in the best possible manner to upgrade or establish necessary Veterinary Infrastructure. The Committee would like to apprised of actions taken and progress made by the Department in this direction.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations and observations have been noted.

The Department is pursuing with States to ensure optimum utilization of allocated funds. State Implementing Agencies/ State Governments are followed up continually through review meetings to liquidate the pending Utilization Certificates and submit proposals for release of fund so as to achieve the desired targets. In the case of proposals under RKVY (General), it is up to the States to prioritize their funding requirements for veterinary infrastructure as funds under RKVY are released from Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW). Further, State Agriculture Departments often garner funds under this scheme for their own priorities rather than for veterinary infrastructure.

During 2021-22, Rajasthan was funded Rs. 1852.53 lakh for establishment and strengthening of hospitals and dispensaries. Further under RKVY-SLSC during this year 2021-22, the proposals amounting Rs.434.906 crores have been recommended for different states including Rs. 93.95 crores for Andhra Pradesh, Rs.8.5 crore for Bihar, Rs.10.24 crores for Chhattisgarh Rs.14.91 for Goa, Rs.19.38 crores for Gujarat, Rs. 21.58 for Haryana, Rs. 6.71 crores for Himachal Pradesh, Rs.12.00 crores for Karnataka, Rs.10.30 crores for Maharashtra, Rs.30.52 crores for Punjab, Rs.2.59 cores for Rajasthan, Rs.5.15 cores for Tamil Nadu, Rs. 39.63 cores for Uttar Pradesh, Rs. 48.31 crores for West Bengal, Rs. 93.30 crores for Arunachal Pradesh, Rs. 6.36 crores for Assam, Rs. 1.81 crores for Mizoram, Rs. 0.066 crores for Nagaland, Rs. 2.03 crores Sikkim, and Rs. 7.57 crores for Tripura. Additionally, the Department has also allotted Rs. 254.64.00 crore to various states including Rs. 62.26 for Andhra Pradesh, Rs.

150.06 for Karnataka and Rs. 42.32 for Assam under RKVY-Animal Health sub-Scheme during 2021-22 for canine-Rabies control programme by vaccination of dogs.

The Department has revised components under LH & DC Scheme so that States / UTs can be assisted in a focussed way in order to control the animal diseases and strengthening of veterinary infrastructure through 1 MVU per lakh animals which will help increase the outreach of veterinary services to a large extent. So far, Maharashtra has been funded for 80 MVUs in 2021-22, as per its requirement.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee, please refer to **Para 1.13 of Chapter – I** of the Report.

**Veterinary Research
(Recommendation No.19)**

The Committee note that research in Veterinary Sciences is mostly carried out by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, UP along with ICAR Institutes and Veterinary Colleges affiliated to Veterinary Universities or Agricultural Universities. The Department also informed that under the PED Sub-component of LH&DC Scheme funds are provided to Veterinary Council of India (VCI) and the State / UT Veterinary Councils (SVCs) for their establishment, cost of administration and for Continuous Veterinary Education (CVE) for VCI, SVCs and also for State Veterinary/Agriculture Universities. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that on being asked about area identified by VCI for collaboration and capacity building for Organizations to improve Veterinary Services delivery, the Department denied having taken any action to that effect. The Committee feel that accuracy and efficiency in our Veterinary Services can only be ensured by a sturdy Research base and this would not just require sincere efforts on the part of the Government but also the active involvement of Academicians, Research Institutes and the Private sector along with steady financial support for research activities. Applauding the efforts of the Government of India over the Budget Announcement of Rs.50,000 crore over 5 years for the National Research Foundation

with a focus on Identified National-priority thrust areas, the Committee feel that inclusion of research activities in Veterinary Sciences within the thrust areas would not just foster the growth and output of the Livestock Sector but also contribute to the objectives of the 'One Health' concept in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to develop a pointed approach to encourage and support Veterinary Research Institutions in the area of academic and field research and to pursue with the Government of India to include R&D activities in Veterinary Sciences under the National-priority Thrust Areas and provide financial support accordingly. The Committee would like to be apprised of steps taken and progress made by the Department in this direction.

Reply of the Government

Research and education are the mandate of ICAR. However, under the revised LH&DC scheme there is provision of 100% financial support to ICAR Institutes/other institutes for Research & Innovation, Publicity & Awareness, Training etc. The state are advised to submit the annual action plan as per the Technical guidelines of ASCAD for Research & Innovation, Publicity & Awareness, Training, etc. as per their requirements.

The Department is also providing financial assistance to Disease Control Programs including Zoonotic and Highly Communicable Diseases under Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD). Programme provides support to governments of states and union territories for control of economic important disease including zoonotic diseases, which are not covered under the central programs. This is a more flexible component that could be directed towards better vaccine coverage or towards ramping up support capabilities. The programme also covers surveillance and monitoring, strengthening of Disease Diagnostic Laboratories, Biological Production Unit, immunization for animal diseases and surveillance of exotic and emerging diseases in animals. Further, the National Animal Disease Control Programme for FMD and Brucellosis (NADCP) is one of the flagship programmes, besides FMD, it also includes intensive Brucellosis Control programme in animals is envisaged for controlling Brucellosis which will result in effective management of the disease in both animals and in humans. Department also provides financial assistance to ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal and ICAR-NIVEDI, Bangalore, which are involved in surveillance of the disease like Avian Influenza and Brucellosis respectively.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee, please refer to **Para 1.22 of Chapter – I** of the Report.

**Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)
(Recommendation No.25)**

The Committee note that the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) has been created with a corpus of Rs.15000 crores for incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs and private companies, etc. to focus on processing and value addition in Livestock produce like dairy & meat and in cattle feed and fodder. The Committee, however, believe that the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund can also be used to foster stronger public-private partnerships (PPP) in the area of Veterinary Services. The Department has often mentioned about the importance of making Veterinary Services a profitable enterprise by attracting private sector investments, which in turn, would increase the employability of the service. Further, private sector involvement in Veterinary Biologicals, Research, Education and Infrastructure, can be in terms of manufacture of veterinary drugs and animal vaccine, funding research initiatives, opening Veterinary Colleges, investing in Mobile Veterinary Units on the basis of PPP model and in upgradation of existing Veterinary Infrastructure etc. The Committee are delighted with the mere prospect of utilization of AHIDF to engage the private sector in Veterinary Services and therefore, recommend the Department to explore the possibility of employing resources from the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund in Veterinary Services. The Committee would like to be apprised of developments in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The suggestions are noted. However, the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) under *Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* stimulus package is approved for incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs, private companies,

MSME, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies to establish (i) the dairy processing and value addition infrastructure, (ii) meat processing and value addition infrastructure and (iii) Animal Feed Plant.

Objectives:

- To help increase milk and meat processing capacity and product diversification thereby providing greater access for unorganized rural milk and meat producers to organized milk and meat market.
- To make available increased price realization for the producer.
- To make available quality milk and meat products for the domestic consumer.
- To fulfil the objective of protein enriched quality food requirement of the growing population of the country and prevent malnutrition in one of the highest malnourished children population in the world.
- Develop entrepreneurship and generate employment.
- To promote exports and increase the export contribution in the milk and meat sector.
- To make available quality concentrated animals feed to the cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig and poultry to provide balanced ration at affordable prices.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee, please refer to **Para 1.31 of Chapter – I** of the Report.

CHAPTER - V

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Veterinary Council of India (VCI) and Veterinary Education (Recommendation No.11)

The Committee observe that the Veterinary Council of India (VCI) is a statutory body established under the Indian Veterinary Council (IVC) Act, 1984 and is responsible for regulating veterinary practice and ensuring uniform standards of Veterinary Education in the country. The IVC Act of 1984 also provides for establishment of State Veterinary Councils (SVCs) with a similar mandate as that of VCI within individual States. The Committee further note that regulation of uniform standards in Veterinary Education is ensured through the Minimum Standards of Veterinary Education (MSVE) Regulations, 2016. Course curriculum pertaining to the Professional Degree course on Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry (B.V.Sc. & A.H.) is revised by way of amendments to the MSVE Regulations, as recommended by an Executive Committee to the VCI, which, after consulting SVCs and State Governments are forwarded to the Department, that, post consultation with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) goes to approve and adopt such legislations into the MSVE Regulations, which were last amended thus in 2016. The Committee are pleased to note that revision of Course Curriculum for B.V.Sc. & AH is a well-thought out and elaborate procedure and that the Curriculum also includes a Compulsory Internship of one year duration to enable graduates to learn and pick practical skills on the field. The Committee, however, feel that the Degree course needs to be designed and remodelled as per International Standards of Veterinary Education and Services so that modern veterinary practices can be incorporated in the system early on. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take steps to enable the VCI to identify and adopt International Standards in Veterinary Education followed by timely inspection of course curriculum. The Committee would like to be informed about action taken by the Department in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Veterinary Council of India is responsible for setting up of Minimum Standards of Veterinary Education (Regulations, 2016) which is being implemented from the academic year 2016-17 across all the recognized veterinary colleges in India. The Indian Veterinary Council Act 1984 also provides procedure for recognition of new Colleges as well for de-recognition of existing recognized veterinary colleges and veterinary qualifications, as the need be. The suggestion for re-modelling and designating the standards as per International standards of veterinary educational services will be explored by VCI in consultation with experts in this line.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Veterinary Council of India (VCI) and Veterinary Education (Recommendation No.13)

Veterinarians perform a crucial role in applying their skills to cater to a wide range of animals from livestock and companion animals to wildlife, essential for sustenance of the present-day world. At present, there is no such pre-eminent Veterinary College in the country to which other colleges can look to set the standards nor are there any Academic Staff Colleges to improve the skills and competency of University Teaching Staff and Field Veterinarians. Sensing the need to set a standard for Veterinary Education, Training and Practice, the Committee feel the need for having at least 4 Regional Academic Staff Colleges for every region to help develop skills of Academicians and Field Veterinarians, especially those at the start of their careers. The Committee also wish to have at least one Veterinary College established in the country with 100% funding from Central Government and which follows International Standards in Graduate Veterinary Education similar to those followed by Indian Institutes of Technology in the fields of Science and Engineering. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to work towards establishing at least one Academic Staff College for Teaching Staff and Field Veterinarians and a Model Veterinary College that is Autonomous, follows International Standards of Veterinary Education and is directly

under the control of the Department. The Committee would like to be apprised of initiatives taken and the progress made by the Department in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The proposal for setting up of veterinary education institutes similar to IIT with Central Government funding is noted. It will be explored in the Council to propose such referral institutes/regional academic staff colleges in the country. However, the requirements of framing of separate Act; will also be examined in this regard.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Veterinary Council of India (VCI) and Veterinary Education (Recommendation No.14)

Expressing concerns over the problems of inadequate autonomy and lack of resources in the functioning of Veterinary Council of India and State Veterinary Councils, the Committee feel that the presence of Field Veterinarians, Academicians and Technical Experts as Members of the VCI and SVCs will enable these Bodies to have adequate representation and take a holistic view of situations, thus helping them to function more efficiently. The Committee feel discontent to note that the Department has not been able to go beyond conducting elections within the Councils for the posts of President and Vice President. Though the Department, in its written replies, has assured about addressing in a time bound manner the issues pertaining to greater involvement of VCI and SVCs in delivery of veterinary services, harmonization of Veterinary Education especially for para-veterinarians and sourcing of funds etc., there has been no headway in this direction. The Committee are further disappointed with the lack of a dedicated facility or an alternative body for regulation of para-veterinarians in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to work towards drafting a roadmap to address issues concerning the VCI and SVCs while also coming up with a framework to establish as a capacity within the VCI or as an alternative body, a Regulator for governing and adequate representation of Para-veterinary professionals

in the country. The Committee would like to be apprised of actions taken and progress made by the Department in these areas.

Reply of the Government

VCI and State Veterinary Councils as well some of the State Administrative Departments have taken serious concern about the service conditions and services offered by the para-veterinarians. The VCI has already constituted an expert committee to draft a road map to address issues concerning to Para-veterinarians and Minor Veterinary Practices. Necessary guidelines are being framed and will be communicated to concerned authorities for compliance. It is expected that the role of para-veterinary professionals will be duly considered at appropriate levels.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee, please refer to **Para 1.16 of Chapter - I** of the Report.

Ethno-Veterinary Medicine (EVM) (Recommendation No.15)

The Committee are pleased to note that the application of Indigenous Medicinal Knowledge to manage ailments in animals is being taken up by the Department as a separate curriculum in the name of Ethno-veterinary Medicine (EVM) as part of the B.V.SC. & A.H. Graduate Course. This Branch of Veterinary Medicine has the potential of preventing economic losses to Livestock Owners by providing simple and sustainable remedies for common ailments of Livestock and Poultry and thus reducing instances of drug overuse and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Applauding the efforts of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in propagating the concept of EVM through the social media, booklets and posters in local vernaculars, the Committee also appreciate the attempts of the Department to form a Committee in collaboration with the AYUSH Ministry and NDDB for formalizing this discipline in Veterinary Science. During the evidence, the Representative of the Department informed the Committee about

launching an e-Gopala App to educate Livestock and Poultry Farmers to identify and treat common ailments in animals using simple and effective remedies. While acknowledging the attempts of the Department to encourage sustainable methods of diseases management in animals, the Committee desire to be updated of progress made on this front and of the regulations formulated to facilitate the idea of Ethno-veterinary practices in Veterinary Science with a focus to stall antimicrobial resistance in Livestock and Poultry. The Committee would like to be apprised of action taken in this direction.

Reply of the Government

The concept of Ethnoveterinary Medicine (EVM) as a part of the BVSc &AH graduate course is well taken by the VCI. This matter will be deliberated in the Council for making provisions to consider this subject as a part of study programmes at graduation level. It will also be explored to have the collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH to explore the possibilities to develop a “suitable course module” which can be explored in veterinary institutes.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee, please refer to **Para 1.19 of Chapter – I** of the Report.

Manufacture and Availability of Animal Vaccines (Recommendation No.22)

The Committee applaud the efforts and achievements of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and its fully-owned subsidiary Indian Immunologicals Ltd. (IIL) in the areas of manufacture of Veterinary Biologicals including Animal Vaccine, its R&D collaborations with Premier Institutes within the country and abroad, its endeavours regarding awareness programmes for livestock farmers and Continued Veterinary Education (CVE) Programmes for Veterinarians and also its networking with

Dairy Cooperatives which ensure delivery of Veterinary and input services at the farmers' doorstep. The Committee also appreciate the detailed and well-defined procedure followed by the Department regarding Licensing for Manufacture and Marketing of Animal Vaccines.

The Department has informed about 20 State Veterinary Biological Production Centres, which are under the control of States and which produce vaccines. However, total self-dependence in the area of manufacture of Animal Vaccine is still elusive as shortfall in Vaccine production for Brucellosis and Classical Swine Fever still persists in the country and there is also a need to develop thermos-stable, long-duration immunity vaccine for FMD for which research is required. This problem is further exacerbated by the lack of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) compliance of some of the State Biological Units. Moreover, there exists a shortage of Veterinary Drugs in the country, as also admitted by the Representative of the Department during the evidence. The Committee observe that Animal Husbandry being a State subject, the onus of spreading awareness about Vaccination Programmes among Livestock Owners lies with the State Governments and so does the responsibility of drawing up Vaccination Plans based on Livestock Population and disease prevalence. However, manufacturing of Veterinary Drugs and Animal Vaccines is jointly undertaken by States, Central agencies and Private manufacturers and there still exists a shortage of these in the country and hence an issue of availability. Furthermore, despite the Department claiming to release Central share of funds to States for Centrally sponsored schemes like LH&DC after assessing their physical performance and monitoring the 60% of Central share, there still remain lacunae in the performance of Schemes affecting their implementation. Expressing concerns over such deficiencies, the Committee recommend the Department to thoroughly review the situation with all stakeholders such as State Governments, Regulating Agencies, Private manufacturers, etc. and work towards coming up with effective solutions to the problems of administrative delays, testing issues and GMP compliance so that issues related to manufacturing and availability of animal vaccine and veterinary drugs in the country can be effectively resolved. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives taken in this direction. The Committee would also like the Department to provide a 'Brief Report' on this matter.

Reply of the Government

The Department is taking efforts in order to mitigate problems of administrative delays, testing issues and GMP compliance so that issues related to manufacturing and availability of animal vaccine and veterinary drugs in the country can be effectively resolved.

Department has launched critical Control Disease Programme along with NADCP where vaccination against 4 economically important animal diseases viz. FMD, Brucellosis, PPR & CSF is envisaged with 100% central assistance. The vaccines are tested for quality as per SOP prepared by ICAR before their application in the field. The SOPs are also discussed and harmonization exercise is envisaged with the manufacturers. Further, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, GOI has constituted Empowered Committee for Animal Health (ECAH) for policy inputs on veterinary vaccines / biologicals and drugs.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee, please refer to **Para 1.25 of Chapter – I** of the Report.

Quality Control in Animal Vaccine (Recommendation No.23)

The Committee note that Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar and the Chaudhary Charan Singh National Institute of Animal Health (CCSNAH), Baghpat are Designated Centers for testing and quality control of Veterinary vaccines in the country. Though self-sufficiency in manufacture of Animal Vaccine has been attained except for Brucellosis and CSF Vaccines, the Committee are concerned to note that out of the 20 State Veterinary Biological Units, only 9 have been strengthened to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards. Besides, the quality testing of the unique Indian trivalent FMD Vaccine is a costly and time taking procedure. The Department informed the Committee about research regarding thermostability of the FMD Vaccine and that it is expected to enhance the quality of the Vaccine by increasing

its shelf-life and immune response while reducing loss of virus antigen on disruption of cold-chain. The Department also briefed about Sero-surveillance report of FMD during the last few years showing a decreasing trend in many regions indicating reduced prevalence of the disease, however, this could turn out to be a painfully slow procedure if quality testing of the Vaccine is not expedited. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to facilitate R&D activities at the Designated Testing Centres and also at ICAR to enable them to develop a faster quality testing mechanism for FMD and other Animal Vaccines so that more samples of Vaccine can be tested within less time and quality control measures can be exercised efficiently. The Committee would like to be apprised of progress made by the Department in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The Department plans to facilitate R & D activities at the designated laboratories (vaccine testing centres) as well as at ICAR institutes to enable them to develop faster quality testing mechanism for FMD and other animal vaccines so that more samples of vaccines can be tested within lesser time and quality control measures can be exercised efficiently.

In light of the above, the Department in collaboration with World Reference Laboratory for FMD, Pirbright, UK to make in-vitro testing protocol for FMD vaccine so that more sample of vaccine can be tested with in less time and quality control measures can be exercised efficiently.

**[Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
Letter No. K-11053/81/2017-LH Dated: 24.11.2021]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee, please refer to **Para 1.28 of Chapter – I** of the Report.

**NEW DELHI;
06 December, 2022
15 Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)**

**P.C. GADDIGOUDAR
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing.**

**Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing
(2022-23)**

Minutes of the Second Sitting of the Committee

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 15th November, 2022, from 1100hrs. to 1245 hrs. in Committee Room No. 3, Block A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar – *Chairperson*

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri A Ganeshamurthi
3. Shri Kanakmal Katara
4. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
5. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
6. Shri Devendra Singh *alias* Bhole Singh
7. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

Rajya Sabha

8. Shri Masthan Rao Beeda
9. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
10. Shri S.Kalyansundaram
11. Shri Kailash Soni
12. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala
13. Shri Ram Nath Thakur

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri Shiv Kumar | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Naval K. Verma | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Uttam Chand Bhardwaj | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri Prem Ranjan | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Shri N. Amarathiagan | - | Under Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Standing Committee and informed them that as directed by the Hon'ble Speaker, LAARDIS will make a presentation before the Committee so as to make the Members aware of the new initiatives taken towards capacity building for augmentation of research, new initiatives in the Parliament Library, creating awareness about the rich resources/repositories of the Parliament Library, training programmes by PRIDE etc. Thereafter, Officers of LAARDIS made their Power Point Presentation.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the following Action Taken Reports:

(i) Draft Action Taken Report on Action-taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on the Subject 'Status of Veterinary Services and Availability of Animal Vaccine in the Country', pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying);

* (ii) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

* (iii) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

* (iv) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

(v) Draft Action Taken Report on Action-taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23)', pertaining to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying);

* (vi) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

4. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the Draft Action Taken Reports without any modifications and the Committee authorised the Chairperson to finalise and present these Reports to the Parliament.

*5. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*6. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*7. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*8. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to this Report.

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

***ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE THIRTIETH REPORT OF
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2020-21) (17th LOK SABHA)***

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	29
(ii)	Recommendations / Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Recommendation Nos.	2,4,6,7,8,9,10,12,16,17,18,20,21,24,26,27,28 and 29
	Total	18
	Percentage	62.06%
(iii)	Recommendations / Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Recommendation No.	0
	Total	00
	Percentage	00.00%
(iv)	Recommendations / Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Recommendation Nos.	1, 3,5,19 and 25
	Total	05
	Percentage	17.24%
(v)	Recommendations / Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Recommendation Nos.	11, 13,14,15,22 and 23
	Total	06
	Percentage	20.68%