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STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING

(2025-26)

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2026-27)
(DEMAND NO. 2)

TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI
16 MARCH, 2026/ PHALGUNA 25, 1947 (Saka)

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(DEMAND NO. 2)

Presented to Lok Sabha on *16.03.2026*

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on *16.03.2026*

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NEW DELHI
16 MARCH, 2026/ PHALGUNA 25, 1947 (Saka)

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18th Lok Sabha (2025-26)

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI – CHAIRPERSON

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1.	Shri Dhiraj Kumar	—	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Maheshwar	—	Director
3.	Shri Prem Ranjan	—	Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2025-26), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty Eighth Report on the Demands for Grants (2026-2027) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

2. The Committee under Rule 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha considered the Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education), which were laid on the table of the House on 10th February, 2026. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) at their sitting held on 17th February, 2026. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 13th March, 2026.

3. For facility of reference and convenience, the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part-II of the Report.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the information that they desired in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Department.

5. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

NEW DELHI;
16 March, 2026
25 Phalguna, 1947 *(Saka)*

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

REPORT

PART- I

CHAPTER - I

Introductory

1.1 The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) was established in the Ministry of Agriculture in December 1973. DARE coordinates and promotes Agricultural Research and Education in the country.

Mandate of DARE

i. Fundamental, applied and operational research and higher education including coordination of such research and higher education.
ii. Coordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education or research and scientific and technical institutions.
iii. International cooperation and assistance in the field of agricultural research and education including relations with foreign and international agricultural research and education institutions and organizations.

It has the following four autonomous bodies under its administrative control:

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi
- Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar
- Rani Laxmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

1.2 The DARE provides the necessary government linkages for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the premier research Organisation for coordinating, guiding and managing research, education and extension in Agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country. Besides, it has Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) as an Attached Office and Agrinnovate India Limited (AgIn), a Government of India enterprise under its control.

1.3 The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an apex scientific research Organization for planning, promotion, execution and coordination of agriculture research and education in the country. Formerly known as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it was established on 16 July, 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on the recommendations of the Royal Commission of Agriculture. It was reorganized in 1965 and again in 1973, with its Headquarters located in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi with support facilities in Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan 1 and 2 and NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi. It functions at a national level through networks of institutes, projects (All-India Coordinated/ Networks) comprising of eight Subject Matter Divisions operating 8 Central Sector Schemes and has linkages with State Agriculture Universities and other Departments of the Central and State Governments.

Organizational Set up of ICAR

1.4 The ICAR, as a vibrant organization, continues to generate technologies for sustainable development of Agriculture. The ICAR is the guiding and monitoring entity of the country for National Agriculture Research System (NARS) consisting of 113 Research and Educational Institutes, 77 Agricultural Universities and 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras spread across the country having responsibility of developing technologies in various fields of agriculture and allied sectors.

There are eight Subject Matter Divisions, *viz*. i) Crop Science, ii) Natural Resource Management iii) Horticultural Science, iv) Animal Science, v) Fisheries Science, vi) Agricultural Engineering vii) Agricultural Education, and viii) Agricultural Extension and they are entrusted with the overall responsibility for the preparation, scrutiny, review, and technical supervision and guidance of the research schemes, educational and extension programs and projects within their respective disciplines.

Vision of ICAR

Advancing Agri-Food System Science, Participatory innovations, Partnership and enhanced Stakeholders' Capacity for building resilient Food, Land and Water Systems to ensure nutritious and healthy food for all while protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystem even in a climate crisis.

Mandate of ICAR:

- Plan, Undertake, Coordinate and Promote Research and Technology Development for Sustainable Agriculture.
- Aid, Impart and Coordinate Agricultural Education to enable Quality Human Resource Development.
- Frontline Extension for technology application, adoption, knowledge management and capacity development for agri-based rural development.
- Policy, Cooperation and Consultancy in Agricultural Research, Education and Extension.

Goal of ICAR

1.5 The goal of ICAR is to promote sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth and development in the country by interfacing education, research and extension initiatives complemented with efficient and effective institutional, infrastructure and policy support, for ensuring livelihood and environmental security.

ICAR has rationalized its earlier Central Sector Schemes into 8 Central Sector Schemes. The list of the Schemes is as follows:

Sl. No	**Central Sector Schemes**
	Scheme
1.	Natural Resource Management
2.	Agriculture Production and Post-Production Mechanisation Augmented with Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture Development (Agricultural Engineering)
3.	Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security
4.	Technology based support in improvement and management of horticulture crops towards enhanced and sustainable productivity for nutritional security (Horticultural Science)
5.	Research, Education and Technology Development for Sustainable Livestock Health and Production towards Nutritional Security (Animal Science)
6.	Fisheries and Aquaculture for Sustainable Development
7.	Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)
8.	Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management & Social Sciences

1.6 The DARE along with ICAR has played a pivotal role in making agriculture sustainable through use of eco-friendly management and innovative technologies which helped the country to enhance the production of food grains, horticultural crops, milk, fish and eggs. This has enabled the nation not only to be food and nutrition secure but also improved livelihood of the farmers.

A. Summary of Demand for Grant

1.7 Department of Agricultural Research and Education has been allocated Rs.9967.40 Crore for financial year 2026-27 under Demand No.2 presented to the Lok Sabha on 10th February, 2026. Allocation of Funds to the Department under different Heads of Account alongwith Actuals for 2024-25 and BE and RE for 2025-26 are as follows:-

			Revenue	**Capital**	**Total**	***(In ₹ Crore)***
		Charged :	*...*	*...*	*...*	
		Voted:	*9964.94*	*2.45*	*9967.40*	
		Major Head	2024-2025 Actuals	2025-2026 Budget Estimates	2025-2026 Revised Estimates	2026-2027 Budget Estimates
	REVENUE SECTION					
	Secretariat-Economic Services	3451	22.94	35.02	29.81	30.62
	Agricultural Research and Education	2415	10007.47	9772.86	9625.51	9266.27
	North Eastern Areas	2552	…	654.18	623.02	668.06
	Total-Revenue Section		**10030.41**	**10462.06**	**10278.34**	**9964.95**
	CAPITAL SECTION					
	Capital Outlay on Other General Economic Services	5475	3.15	4.33	2.49	2.45
	Total-Capital Section		3.15	4.33	2.49	**2.45**
	GRAND TOTAL		**10033.56**	**10466.39**	**10280.83**	**9967.40**
Note: The above estimates do not include the recoveries shown below which are adjusted in reduction of expenditure						
	Revenue Section					
	Agricultural Research and Education	2415	-222.87	...	...	...
	Secretariat-Economic Services	3451	-0.16	...	...	...
	Total-Revenue Section		**-223.03**	**...**	**...**	**...**
The expenditure provisions, net of the above recoveries, will be as under:						
		Revenue	9807.38	10462.06	10278.34	9964.95
		Capital	3.15	4.33	2.49	2.45
		Total	**9810.53**	**10466.39**	**10280.83**	**9967.40**

1.8 The Head-wise Budget Estimates for 2026-27 of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education are:

(Rs. in Crore)

Major Head	Budget Estimates
Central Sector Schemes	
Natural Resource Management + NICRA	232.05
Agricultural Engineering	96.50
Crop Science	969.50
Horticulture	220.00
Animal Science	416.95
Fisheries Science	170.25
Agriculture Extension	210.00
Agricultural Universities and Institutions	514.87
Total Central Sector Schemes	**2830.12**
Non-Scheme (Establishment)	
DARE Secretariat + ASRB	41.01
ICAR Headquarter	6275.00
Central Agricultural Universities	821.27
National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (DARE- NAAS & IAUA)	0.00
Total Non-Scheme (Establishment)	**7137.28**
Grand Total (Scheme + Non-Scheme)	**9967.40**

1.9 The allocation of Rs. 9967.40 crores in BE 2026-27 for the Department is less than the allocations of Rs. 10466.39 crore in BE 2025-26 and Rs. 10280.83 crore in RE 2025-26. On being asked about the reasons for the reduction in the allocation in BE 2026-27, the Department stated:

> *'During the Pre- Budget meeting held at MoF with Secretary, Expenditure on 28.10.2025, an amount of Rs. 11427.51 crore was proposed by DARE towards the BE for 2026-27. After review, the BE 2026-27 for DARE was pegged at Rs. 9967.40 crore by DEA, MoF in view of the fact that the EFC of the Central Sector Schemes of DARE for the period 2026-31, was yet to be finalized. It was suggested that the BE 2026-27 would be reviewed in the Pre - Budget Meeting of FY 2026-27 at the RE 2026-27 stage on the basis of the budget utilization as obtaining at that time.'*

1.10 When the Committee asked about the reasons for delay in finalization of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of the Central Sector Schemes of DARE for the period 2026-31 and what time, it is expected to be finalized, the Department stated:

'The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) document of the Central Sector Schemes of DARE for the period 2026-31 has been prepared and Department has planned to submit the same just after receiving the report of third party evaluation of Central Sector Schemes and the Inter- Ministerial consultation.'

1.11 When the Committee asked whether the funds allocated in BE 2026-27 are sufficient to meet the requirements of the Department for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department stated:

'The Department proposed an allocation of Rs. 11427.51 crore in BE 2026-27, whereas Ministry of Finance allocated only Rs. 9967.40 crore. The present allocation in BE 2026-27 shall impact the schemes and programs planned by various subject matter divisions and over all working of the Institutes. However, Department made concerted efforts toward optimum utilization of available fund and resources to achieve the desired goals and objectives.'

1.12 Further on being asked to furnish any other suggestions/information to the Committee in connection with examination of Demands for Grants (2026-27), the Department submitted:

'Budget allocation of the Department is required to be enhanced to the tune of 1% of Agri-GDP to address the priority and challenging issues of agriculture through Agricultural Research, Education and Extension.'

1.13 The Department has also apprised the Committee that India's public agricultural R&D spending is about 0.5 – 0.6% of Agri-GDP (AgGDP) which is below the global average (~0.93% of agricultural GDP across countries).

B. An Analysis of Demand No. 2

1.14 The Sector-wise Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure (upto November 2025) for the financial year 2025-26 and Budget Estimates for the financial year 2026-27 are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Major Head	*Budget Estimates (2025-26)*	*Revised Estimate (2025-26)*	*Expenditure (upto November 2025)*	*Budget Estimates (2026-27)*
Central Sector Schemes				
Natural Resource Management + NICRA	*229.09*	*198.09*	*127.37*	*232.05*
Agricultural Engineering	*95.74*	*89.00*	*51.20*	*96.50*
Crop Science	*965.46*	*965.46*	*451.58*	*969.50*

Horticulture	*318.91*	*262.91*	*154.07*	*220.00*
Animal Science	*504.04*	*417.04*	*233.92*	*416.95*
Fisheries Science	*192.81*	*167.81*	*110.97*	*170.25*
Agriculture Extension	*204.23*	*182.23*	*123.66*	*210.00*
Agricultural Universities and Institutions	*708.94*	*645.00*	*394.53*	*514.87*
Total Central Sector Schemes	***3219.22***	***2927.54***	***1647.30***	***2830.12***
Non-Scheme (Establishment)				
DARE Secretariat + ASRB	*47.17*	*40.12*	*19.02*	*41.01*
ICAR Headquarter	*6425.83*	*6559.42*	*4728.95*	*6275.00*
Central Agricultural Universities	*774.17*	*753.75*	*580.63*	*821.27*
National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (DARE- NAAS & IAUA)	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
Total Non-Scheme (Establishment)	***7247.17***	***7353.29***	***5328.60***	***7137.28***
Grand Total (Scheme + Non-Scheme)	***10466.39***	***10280.83***	***6975.90***	***9967.40***

1.15 According to the Department the BE and RE proposed by the Department and allocations made by Ministry of Finance are as under:

'(Rs. in Crore)

Year	***BE Proposed***	***BE allocated***	***RE Proposed***	***RE allocated***
2021-22	*10241.68*	*8513.62*	*9330.53*	*8513.62*
2022-23	*9698.91*	*8513.62*	*9943.07*	*8658.89*
2023-24	*10390.53*	*9504.00*	*10665.71*	*9876.60*
2024-25	*11173.21*	*9941.09*	*10435.25*	*10156.35*
2025-26	*11253.07*	*10466.39*	*10904.83*	*10280.83*
2026-27	*11427.51*	*9967.40*	*-*	*-*

As per the information shown in the table above, it is submitted that Department has been seeking enhanced budget allocations from Ministry of Finance during past previous years. Also, Department has submitted proposal for the current financial year in the UBIS Module of MoF for increasing the Scheme budget of DARE as per the EFC provisions as well as Non-Scheme budget allocation. The higher authorities of the Department have also

expressed the need of additional funds before the Ministry of Finance during the pre-budget meeting held for finalization of expenditure ceilings. Further, on different occasions and platforms, Department has made sincere efforts to impress upon the MoF for enhancing the budget allocation.'

1.16 When the Committee asked about the reasons for difference between funds proposed by the Department and the funds allocated to the Department in BE 2026-27, the Department stated that *it sought allocation based upon its planned programmes and research activities, the actual allocation made by Ministry of Finance has been less than what was proposed by the Department*.

1.17 The Department has stated that the proportion (%) of budgetary allocation (BE) made to DARE out of the total budget (BE) for GoI for the last 5 years are:-

Year	**Outlay (BE) of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (Rs. in Crore)**	**Total Outlay (BE) of GoI (Rs. in Crore)***	**% of the Total Outlay**
2021-22	8513.62	3483236.00	0.24%
2022-23	8513.62	3944909.00	0.22%
2023-24	9504.00	4503097.00	0.21%
2024-25	9941.09	4820512.00	0.21%
2025-26	10466.39	5065000.00	0.21%
2026-27	9967.40	5347315.00	0.19%

**As per data of Indiabudget.gov.in*

1.18 As per the information furnished by the Department, the proportion (%) of budgetary allocation (RE) made to DARE out of the total budget (RE) for GoI for the last 5 years are:-

Year	**Outlay (RE) of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (Rs. in Crore)**	**Total Outlay (RE) of GoI (Rs. in Crore)***	**% of the Total Outlay**
2021-22	8513.62	3770000.00	0.22%
2022-23	8658.89	4187000.00	0.20%
2023-24	9876.60	4490000.00	0.21%
2024-25	10156.35	4716000.00	0.21%
2025-26	10280.83	4965000.00	0.20%

**As per data of Indiabudget.gov.in*

1.19 The allocation of funds to the Department in RE 2025-26 has been reduced to Rs. 10280.83 crore from the allocation of Rs. 10466.39 crore made in BE 2025-26. However, in previous years, allocations to the Department at RE stage are higher than the allocations made in BE of the respective financial years. On being asked about the reasons for the less allocation to the Department in RE 2025-26 vis-à-vis BE 2025-26. The Department stated:

> *'The BE 2025-26 for DARE was Rs. 10466.39 crore. In the Pre- Budget discussions held at MoF on 28.10.2025, a Revised Estimate of Rs. 10904.83 crore was projected by DARE for FY 2025-26. After reviewing the pace of expenditure of FY 2025-26, the RE 2025-26 for DARE was pegged at Rs. 10280.83 crore by DEA, MoF. During the pre budget discussion, the senior officials of the department emphasized on enhancing the budget allocation as projected to meet the research and development activities of the department on realistic basis for the remaining period of the FY 2025-26.'*

1.20 When the Committee asked whether the Department faced any financial difficulty/constraints in discharge of any of its responsibilities/functions during the year 2025-26, the Department stated:

> *'During the CFY 2025-26, MoF has sanctioned the budget allocation of Rs.2927.54 crores under Scheme Budget against the proposed RE of Rs.3216.93 which is Rs.289.39 crores lower as compared to the RE proposed by the Department. Similarly, under Non-Scheme MoF has sanctioned the budget allocation of Rs.7353.29 crores against the proposed RE of Rs.7687.90 crores, which is Rs.334.61 crores lower as compared to the RE proposed by the Department. As a result of reduced budget allocation under Scheme and Non-Scheme, Department has faced challenges towards the schemes and programmes planned by various SMDs and overall working of Research Institutes and carrying out its administrative and maintenance activities. Department is making concerted efforts to ensure optimum utilization of available resources towards meeting the objectives of these programmes in an effective manner.'*

1.21 As per the information furnished by the Department, the allocation made and expenditure incurred under 'Capital Section (Capital Outlay on other General Economic Services)' of the Department for the last five years are as follows:

'(Rs. in Crore)

Year	***BE***	***RE***	***Actual Expenditure***
2021-22	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
2022-23	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
2023-24	*10.41*	*9.96*	*3.39*
2024-25	*6.50*	*3.82*	*3.15*
2025-26	*4.33*	*2.49*	*-*
2026-27	*2.45*	*-*	*-'*

1.22 It is evident that Actual Expenditure under Capital Section has been quite low for the last three years against the BE and RE allocations of the respective financial years. On being asked about the reasons for low actual expenditure under Capital Section and what steps the Department is taking for optimum utilization of the allocated fund under the Capital Section, the Department stated:

'Actual Expenditure under Capital Section has been low for the last three years against the BE and RE allocations due to the fact that Letter of Authority (LOA) issued by Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board, an attached office of this Department, to various public works organisations like CPWD, remained underutilised on account of non- submission of bills by the said organisations within the concerned financial years. In order to avoid low utilization of Capital, all stakeholders have been directed to closely monitor utilization of issued LOAs to avoid unspent funds under Capital Section. Also, re-appropriation of funds is carried out to ensure proper utilization of funds under Capital Section.'

1.23 Rs. 4.33 crore allocated in BE 2025-26 under 'Capital Section' was reduced to Rs. 2.49 crore in RE 2025-26. On being asked by the Committee about the status of utilization of allocated fund, the Department stated:

'The amount allocated under 'Capital Section' of the department is utilized as given in table below:-

(I) DARE Secretariat: (Rs. in lakhs)

Budget Head	***RE 2025-26***	***Expenditure till Jan, 2026***
Machinery and Equipment	*10.50*	*10.37*
Information, Computer, Telecommunication Equipment	*25.00*	*9.68*
Furnitures and Fixtures	*3.50*	*2.18*
Total Capital	***39.00***	***22.23***

(II) Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board: (Rs. in lakhs)

Budget Head	***RE 2025-26***	***Expenditure till Jan, 2026***
Machinery & Equipment	*16.00*	*15.13*
Information, Computer, Telecommunication Equipment	*42.00*	*35.70*
Buildings & Structures	*95.00*	*21.14*
Furniture & Fixtures	*37.00*	*1.73*

Other Fixed Assets	*20.00*	*7.53*
Total Capital	***210.00***	***81.23***

Department is making concerted efforts to ensure optimum utilization of available resources towards meeting the objectives of these programmes in an effective manner.'

1.24 When the Committee asked about the reasons for less allocation under 'Capital Head' in BE 2026-27 as compared to BE 2025-26, the Department stated:

'The details of allocation of BE 2025-26 and BE 2026-27 is given below.

(I) DARE Secretariat: (Rs. in lakhs)

The details of allocation of BE 2025-26 and BE 2026-27 is given below.

Budget Head	***BE-2025-26***	***BE 2026-27***
Machinery and Equipment	*8.00*	*11.00*
Information, Computer, Telecommunication Equipment	*25.00*	*20.00**
Furnitures and Fixtures	*6.00*	*4.00**
Total Capital	***39.00***	***35.00***

(II) Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board: (Rs. in lakhs)

Budget Head	***BE-2025-26***	***BE 2026-27***
Machinery & Equipment	*16.00*	*25.00*
Information, Computer, Telecommunication Equipment	*80.00*	*45.00**
Buildings & Structures	*240.00*	*90.00**
Furniture & Fixtures	*50.00*	*40.00**
Other Fixed Assets	*8.00*	*10.00*
Total Capital	***394.00***	***210.00***

**Indicates decrease in allocation in BE 2026-27 as compared to BE 2025-26.*

The decrease in capital demand is due to less expected expenditure in BE 2026-27 mainly for information, Computer, Telecommunication Equipment and Buildings & Structures of Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) as new building of ASRB is almost complete.'

C. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

1.25 The Year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) of the Department since 2021-22 are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	% Utilization of RE
2021-22	8513.62	8513.62	8439.94	99.13%
2022-23	8513.62	8658.89	8374.15	96.71%
2023-24	9504.00	9876.60	9804.39	99.27%
2024-25	9941.09	10156.35	10033.56	98.79%
2025-26	10466.39	10280.83	7242.06*	70.44%*
2026-27	9967.40			

* *As on 31st January 2026.*

1.26 About the utilization of allocated funds during the financial year 2025-26, the Department has stated that *the Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025-26 is Rs. 7242.06 Crore upto 31.01.2026 against the RE 2025-26 allocation of Rs.10280.83 Crore. The Department will make efforts and strive to utilize the allocated fund by the end of the Financial Year 2025-26.*

1.27 The Department has also stated that it *follows the Department of Economic Affairs approved MEP/QEP as circulated vide their OM No 12(13)-B(W&M)/2020 dated 25.05.2022. The expenditure for FY 2025-26 has been within the approved QEP/MEP.*

1.28 On being categorically asked whether the utilization pattern of the Department regarding RE stage funds in the last quarter of the year 2025-26 adhered to the expenditure ceiling for the last quarter laid down by the Department of Economic Affairs, the Department stated:

> *'The Department adheres to the expenditure ceilings for the last quarter as laid down by the Department of Economic Affairs.'*

D. ALLOCATION UNDER SCHEME HEAD

1.29 The Year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under Schemes Head since the year 2021-22 are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	2686.00	2347.00	2244.49
2022-23	1995.83	1995.61	1966.48
2023-24	2423.41	2574.36	2530.33
2024-25	2780.39	3011.82	2914.40
2025-26	3219.22	2927.54-	1876.40*
2026-27	2830.12		

*Upto 31st January, 2026.

1.30 The Department sought Rs. 3015.07 crore for Scheme Head in BE 2026-27 which is less than the allocation of Rs. 3219.22 crore made in BE 2025-26. On being asked why the Department sought less allocation for its Scheme Head in BE 2026-27, it stated:

'The Department has sought ₹3,015.07 crore under the Scheme Head in BE 2026–27, which is lower than the allocation of ₹3,219.22 crore in BE 2025–26. The year 2025–26 was the concluding year of the 15th Finance Cycle, whereas 2026–27 marks the first year of the 16th Finance Cycle. Allocations in the initial year of a new Finance Cycle are typically lower due to delays in the approval of capital items/EFC Memo.'

1.31 Against Rs. 3015.07 crore proposed/sought by the Department, Rs. 2830.12 crore has been allocated in BE 2026-27 under Scheme Head of the Department which is less than the allocations made in BE 2025-26 and RE 2025-26. On being asked about the reasons for reduction in the allocation in BE 2026-27, the Department stated:-

'….During the pre budget discussion, the ceilings were provided by MoF after reviewing the pace of expenditure.'

1.32 When the Committee asked whether the allocation made in BE 2026-27 is sufficient to meet the requirements of the Department, it stated:

'….Department will need to prioritize its research and development activities and optimize administrative expenses to achieve the desired goals and objectives.'

1.33 About the allocation in RE 2025-26 under Scheme Head and its impact on research and development activities, the Department stated that *it proposed an allocation of Rs. 3216.93 crore in RE 2025-26 whereas Ministry of Finance allocated only Rs. 2927.54 crore. As a result of reduced budget allocation under Scheme Budget, Department had to prioritize*

its research and development activities and optimize administrative expenses to achieve the desired goals and objectives. The programs and activities of low emergent type are deferred for the coming financial years.

1.34 As per the information furnished by the Department, the allocation/utilization of funds under Scheme Head are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

"Scheme	Revised Estimate (RE 2025-26)	Utilization (upto Jan 2026	BE (2026-27)	% change
1. Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security	965.46	589.43	969.50	0.42
2. Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management & Social Sciences	645.00	271.02	514.87	-20.00
3. Sustainable Livestock Health and Production	417.04	313.45	416.95	-0.02
4. Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras	182.23	150.35	210.00	15.20
5. Natural Resource Management	198.09	152.66	232.05	17.14
6. Improvement and management of horticulture crops	262.91	198.75	220.00	-16.32
7. Fisheries and Aquaculture for Sustainable Development	167.81	140.98	170.25	1.45
8. Agriculture Production and Post-Production Mechanization	89.00	59.76	96.50	8.42
Total	**2927.54**	**1876.40**	**2830.12**	**-3.33**"

E. ALLOCATION UNDER NON-SCHEME HEAD

1.35 The Year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under Non- Scheme head since the year 2021-22 are as follow:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	5827.62	6166.62	6116.81
2022-23	6517.79	6663.28	6588.78
2023-24	7080.59	7302.24	7273.85
2024-25	7160.70	7144.55	7129.01
2025-26	7247.17	7353.29	5365.66*
2026-27	7137.28	-	-

**Upto 31st January, 2026*

1.36 When the Committee asked about the reasons for less allocation in BE 2026-27 vis-à-vis BE 2025-26 and RE 2025-26 under Non-Scheme Head and whether the allocation is sufficient to meet the requirements, the Department stated:

> *'With respect to Non Scheme budget, MoF has allocated RE 2025-26 of Rs. 7353.29 crore and BE 2026-27 of Rs. 7137.28 crore. During the pre budget discussion, the ceilings were provided by MoF after reviewing the pace of expenditure. The Department had sought Rs. 8412.44 crore under Non scheme as BE 2026-27 against which MoF allocated Rs. 7137.28 crore. The allocation stands inadequate to meet the establishment and administrative expenses of the Department.'*

1.37 About the utilization of allocated funds during the financial year 2025-26, the Department stated:

> *'The Department utilized Rs.5365.66 Crore under Non-Scheme Head upto 31.01.2026 as per records of Pr.AO out of the allocated RE 2025-26 of Rs.7353.29 Crore.'*

F. REVENUE RECEIPTS

1.38 According to the information furnished by the Department, the revenue generation target and achievement in respect of ICAR for the previous years are as under:

'*(Rs. in Crore)*

Year	*Target*	*Achievement*
2021-22	*76.00*	*73.16*
2022-23	*78.96*	*75.15*
2023-24	*84.91*	*91.63*
2024-25	*106.50*	*119.63*
*2025-26**	*200.01*	

[*]Actual achievement of revenue generation target for the year 2025-26 will be prepared after completion of CFY.'

1.39 On being asked about the details of fee received by all Institutions of ICAR for Consultancy / Training Services provided to other Organizations and utilization of revenue generated during the last five fiscal years, the Department stated:

'*The revenue generated from Consultancy Services and Training Programmes in the last five years are given as under:*

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	*Revenue generated from Consultancy Services and Training Programme*
2020-21	*5.00*
2021-22	*5.07*
2022-23	*6.25*
2023-24	*8.42*
2024-25	*11.11*

The utilization of the revenue generated by ICAR during the last five years are given as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	*Utilization of revenue*
2020-21	*0.86*
2021-22	*62.79*
2022-23	*0.00*
2023-24	*76.77*
2024-25	*113.35'*

CHAPTER – II

ANALYSIS OF SECTORAL SCHEMES

A. Natural Resource Management and National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)

The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE), under the head of Natural Resource Management and National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) since the year 2021-22 are as follows:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	250.00	215.00	211.67
2022-23	185.77	185.77	182.14
2023-24	240.00	239.98	239.97
2024-25	252.16	252.16	248.89
2025-26	229.09	198.09	-
2026-27	232.05		

2.2 On being asked about the reasons for decrease in allocation in RE 2025-26 vis-à-vis BE 2025-26, the Department stated:

> *'The Division sought allocation based upon planned programmes and research activities for 2025-26. The overall cut imposed on allocations of the Department in RE 2025-26 by Ministry of Finance has impacted the proportionate reduced RE 2025-26 allocations of the Division.'*

2.3 About the status of utilization of allocated fund during the financial year 2025-26, the Department stated:

> *'The Division has utilized 83.60% (till 31st January 2026) of the allocation in RE 2025-2026 and has planned for full utilization of allocated funds by the end of the financial year 2025-2026.'*

2.4 On being asked about the steps taken for optimum and prudent utilization of the allocated funds under the Division, the Department stated:

'In order to ensure optimum utilization of the allocated funds regular monitoring is done by Secretary, DARE/ DG-ICAR along with Additional Secretary, and AS&FA, DARE/ICAR during the monthly senior officer's committee meetings. Based on the comments / inputs, DDG (NRM) conducts follow up meetings with the institute Directors and Finance Officers. Further, DDG (NRM) periodically reviews the financial and administrative reasons for low expenditure to ensure the optimum utilization of the allocated funds.'

2.5 The allocation in BE 2026-27 vis-à-vis BE 2025-26 under the head of Natural Resource Management and National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) has been enhanced to Rs. 232.05 crore from Rs. 229.09 crore. When the Committee asked how the Department is planning to utilize/spend the increased allocation during the financial year 2026-27, the Department stated:

'The Division has planned to extend the demonstrations and capacity building programs of climate resilient technologies to 50 more villages among the 151 climatically vulnerable districts of the country with enhanced allocation. The Division has also planned for strengthening of Climate research infrastructure in all the core institutes of ICAR where such facilities have been established.'

2.6 On being asked regarding shift in the Agricultural Activities observed in the country due to change in climatic pattern or weather fluctuation and efforts made by the Department during the last five years for soil conservation, and enhancing water holding capacity to enhance resilience of soil towards climate variability in the country, the Department in its reply has submitted the following:

'The ICAR under NICRA assessed the vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to climate change, placed agricultural contingency plans of 650 agriculturally predominant districts to sensitize developmental departments for climate sensitization, preparedness and adaption of real time measures. The interface meetings were conducted in the states facing significant weather fluctuations and climate resilient technologies including soil and water conservation are demonstrated in 446 villages of 151 clusters. Further, agro-forestry models have been developed and promoted to enhance resilience, livelihood and income security in different agro-ecologies. In the last five years nearly 214 technical supports/ consultancy services were provided on all these aspects covering different agro-ecological regions of India. So far, ICAR has capacitated more than 30,000 state departmental officials and farmers from different states on various aspects of soil & water conservation / watershed management using modern tools and techniques. The All India Coordinated Research Project for Dryland

Agriculture (AICRPDA) at 28 centres across diverse rainfed agro-ecological regions has the focus on rainwater management, cropping systems, nutrient management, energy management, alternate land use/agroforestry. The centres are focused on development of location-specific technologies and integrated into the package of practices of the state government.'

2.7 On being asked whether the Department has any mechanism to advice farmers on crop selection taking into account the fluctuations in weather patterns, the Department stated:

'Twenty-five centres of "AICRP on Agro-meteorology" studied a shift in climatic pattern in major agricultural regions. ICAR issues agromet advisories (weather-based agro advisories) twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) to the farmers for farm level interventions considering prevailing weather forecast and fluctuations. Presently, more than 3 crore farmers are receiving agromet advisories through the Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva. The district level efficient alternate cropping systems have been developed, which has emphasis on seasonal crop selection depending upon the climatic suitability for the particular region. Under On-farm research programme of AICRP on IFS, around 3300 farmers are covered for farmer participatory refinement of farming systems in which suitable advisories are given at the local level for crop selection.'

2.8 When the Committee asked about the climate resilient technologies of farming developed by the Department and their applicability to different regions of the country and target set to create awareness among farmers about successful climate resilient practices and technologies under NICRA projects, the Department stated:

'National Agricultural Research System (NARS) under the aegis of ICAR is developing region specific, high yielding, climate resilient crop varieties regularly along with matching package of practices as per the need of the farming community. Out of 3236 varieties developed since 2014 to 2025, 2996 varieties are climate resilient and are tolerant to one or more biotic and/or abiotic stresses, amongst which 587 are extreme climate tolerant varieties. Out of these 587 varieties, 341 are drought tolerant / less water consuming varieties; 89 are flood tolerant / water logging tolerant varieties; 80 are salinity / sodicity tolerant varieties, 59 are heat stress tolerant varieties and 18 are cold tolerant varieties and developed using the precision phenotyping tools. A total of 286 climate resilient technologies have been developed for the benefit of stakeholders/ farmers of 22 states and 3 Union Territories (UTs). The climate resilient technologies including crop varieties, intercropping systems, conservation agriculture, crop diversification, agroforestry systems, zero till drill sowing of wheat to escape terminal heat stress, alternate methods of rice cultivation (system of rice intensification, aerobic rice and direct seeded rice), in-situ moisture conservation etc. have been disseminated among the farmers/ stakeholders in 151 vulnerable districts across the country.

During the past fifteen years, a total of 25,501 training programs were conducted against the target of 20,000 training programs to educate farmers of the Country on various aspects of climate change and resilient technologies. So far 7,57,270 farmers covered to enable wider adoption of climate resilient technologies and minimize the agricultural loss.'

2.9 When specifically asked about the steps being taken by the Department to promote Climate smart Farming practices in the country, the Department stated:

'To promote climate-smart farming practices in the country, NICRA under Technology Demonstration Component (TDC) have tested and validated various location-specific promising climate resilient technologies at on-farm sites of 448 villages in 151 climatically vulnerable districts for adoption by the farmers. The climate-smart farming technologies are shared with the respective State Governments for further upscaling. So far, the program has been implemented in 448 villages involving an area of about 2.9 lakh hectares with 6.46 lakh households distributed in 28 States and five Union Territory.'

2.10 About the Research Projects undertaken in various Research Institutes under NICRA Project during the last five financial years, the Department stated:

'The ICAR institutes under strategic research component, 16 projects under competitive grants and one project under sponsored grant have been undertaken under NICRA project during the past five years across the Country (Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Thoothukudi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Meerut, Patna, New Delhi, Karnal, Ludhiana, Kashmir, Kozhikode, Bhimtal, Meghalaya, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Jodhpur, Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin, Barrackpore, Hyderabad, Vaniyanchavadi, Maruteru, Baramati, Dapoli, Goa).'

2.11 According to the Department the Land Resource Atlases have been prepared for Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh; Vidarbha Region, Maharashtra; Arunachal Pradesh; South and central Region of Gujarat; Bikaner Subdivision of Rajasthan; Kuchch district of Gujarat and Goa. The Department has planned to map entire country during next 15 years. Besides, Soil resource inventory map (LRI) at district level is prepared based on priority / need. So far LRI for 95 districts at 1:50,000 scale has been prepared and released in public domain. The LRI maps are prepared by state soil survey department, and ICAR-NBSS&LUP has already trained them to take up district level (high resolution) LRI. Using the revised methodology developed by ICAR-NBSS&LUP, all the districts of the country, represented by 62 Agro-Ecological Sub-Regions (AESR) may be covered in the next 10-15 years (by 2040).

2.12 When the Committee asked how preparation of the Land Resource Atlas and LRI would help Farmers of the country and make Indian Agriculture Climate Resilient, the Department stated:

'The land resource inventory is helpful to estimate strength, weakness and potential of land units. This enables the agriculture experts to suggest soil management practice, choice of crops, conservation strategies for mitigating adverse effects of climate change. In addition, effective use of soil data helps farmers and development planners to efficiently address local and region-specific climatic vagaries. For example, watershed development plans executed in Karnataka base on LRI have performed better than all other watershed programs.'

B. AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

2.13 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under the Head of Agricultural Engineering Division since the year 2021-22 are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

YEAR	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	65.00	55.00	54.72
2022-23	48.30	48.30	48.01
2023-24	65.00	70.09	70.08
2024-25	91.24	91.24	91.04
2025-26	95.74	89.00	-
2026-27	96.50		

2.14 When the Committee asked about the reasons for decrease in fund allocation in RE 2025-26 vis-à-vis BE 2025-26 under the head of Agricultural Engineering, the Department stated:

'The Ministry of Finance reduced the total funds of the Department in RE 2025-26, which imposed proportionate reduction in the funds of the Agricultural Engineering Division at RE stage. The Allocations in BE 2026-27 has been 96.50 crore, has a marginal increase over BE 2025-26.'

2.15 About the utilization of fund for the financial year 2025-26 under this head, the Department stated:

'The Division has utilized 73.66 % (65.66 crore) of the allocated (Rs 89.00 crore) funds for the financial year 2025-26 till now and has planned for fully utilisation of funds by the end of financial year 2025-26.'

2.16 On being asked by the Committee about the contributions made by the Department for promoting Farm Mechanization particularly for Small and Marginal Farmers in the country, the Department stated:

> *'The Agricultural Engineering Division has promoted farm mechanization for small and marginal farmers in the country, the contribution made in the last five years includes development of 132 new machines/ equipment/ technology for improving pre and post production mechanization and 94 Process protocols and value-added products. fabricated 14854 farm machines prototypes and provided to stakeholders, encouraged custom hiring of the farm machinery among rural youth. Organized 14 Entrepreneurship Development Programmes on Custom Hiring of Agricultural Machinery, benefitting about 400 rural youth and conducted demonstrations for 314 different equipment/machinery covering 11,450 hectares area. Total 1390 farmers were given hands-on Training on improved agricultural implements and machinery. Established 126 Agro-processing Centres (APC), Makhana processing plants (05 nos), kinnow grading and waxing plants (50 nos), millet processing plants (05 nos), honey processing unit (02 nos), jaggery processing plant (01 no) in production catchment for benefit of farmers/entrepreneurs. Tested 723 commercial farm and post-harvest machines and 1880 samples of food, fibre, yarn, fabric etc. Backstopped establishment of 11 food testing laboratories.'*

2.17 As per the Economic Survey 2025-26, *fragmented landholdings and rising labour shortages continue to hinder the adoption of mechanisation, underscoring the need for appropriate, affordable machinery, supported by R&D, and for strengthening collective ownership models through FPOs, PACS, and SHGs to enhance access and utilisation of mechanisation at the farm level.* On being asked about steps taken by the Department in this direction, the Department stated:

> *'The Agricultural Engineering Division has promoted mechanization and value addition of agricultural produces. The steps/ action of the Division in this direction includes development of the technologies/machines/equipment for small and marginal farmers for pre and post production mechanization of different crops/crop operations, development of process protocols and value-added food, fibre and other agricultural allied products, reorientation of research projects for development of machines/technologies with fusion of sensors/AI, studies on status of farm mechanization in different states, development of functional textiles and agro-textiles from cotton, jute and other natural fibers, frontline demonstrations of improved equipment/ machinery in farmers fields, training for establishment of custom hiring centres of farm machines, training and awareness of the improved farm equipment/machines among farmers and licensing of new developed technologies/machines to manufactures/entrepreneurs for commercialization.'*

2.18 During the evidence of the representatives of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education held on 17.02.2026 in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants (2026-27), the Member of the Committee pointed out:

'...देश में फार्म मैकेनाइजेशन में किसानों के पास इतने ट्रैक्टर हो गए कि अब किसानों की जमीन जब्त हो रही है। पता नहीं किसने रिकमेंड कर दिया कि दो एकड़ में भी ट्रैक्टर दे देना चाहिए। उसकी इकोनॉमिक वाइबिलिटी नहीं है। इसके लिए इकोनॉमिक वाइबिलिटी को चैक करना होगा। फार्म मैकेनाइजेशन किसानों के लिए फांसी का फंदा बन गया है। आप ड्रोन्स में सब्सिडी बढ़ाइए और चेन वाला हार्वेस्टर जो गीले खेत में चलता है, उसे थोड़ा और इम्प्रूव करने की जरूरत है।...'

2.19 On this issue, Department stated:

'The labour availability in agriculture is reducing day-by-day and cost of cultivation is increasing. There is need for mechanization of Indian agriculture. Tractors are primary source of farm power for carrying out different farm operations Therefore, farmers are purchasing the tractors for ease of doing agricultural operations and maintaining timeliness in farm operations. The farmers owning even less than two hectares are purchasing tractors under subsidy schemes primarily to provide custom hiring services, which serve as an important source of income and livelihood in addition to supporting their won farm operations.'

C. CROP SCIENCE

2.20 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under the Head of Crop Science since the year 2021-22 are as follows:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	708.00	615.00	599.66
2022-23	526.08	526.04	521.23
2023-24	714.41	962.78	930.62
2024-25	930.22	930.22	890.89
2025-26	965.46	965.46	-
2026-27	969.50	-	-

2.21 When the Committee asked how the Department is planning to utilize the increased allocation under this Division during the financial year 2026-27, the Department stated:

'There is a marginal increase of Rs.4.04 crore in BE 2026-27 in comparison to BE 2025-26, which is already distributed across 63 components of six sub-schemes of Crop Science Division. Major part of this enhanced budget has been earmarked for various activities of Global R&D Hub for millets in India and ICAR-Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology, Ranchi, the newly established Institute.'

2.22 On being asked about the reasons for less Actual Expenditure vis-à-vis Allocation in RE during previous years, the Department stated:

'Expenditure during 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 was 94.47%, 97.51%, 99.09% and 96.66%, respectively. The restriction imposed after outbreak of Covid-19 had impacted the allocations at RE and subsequent utilization of the funds during 2020-21 and 2021-22. The major unspent expenditure during 2023-24 was under capital head for the works of the newly launched budget announcement schemes components namely; i). Enhancing climate resilience and ensuring food security with genome editing and ii). Global R&D Hub for millets in India.'

2.23 When the Committee asked about the steps undertaken by the Department for bringing about improvement in the Seeds of various types of crops like pulses, food grains and oilseeds so as to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of Agricultural Produce during last five financial years, the Department stated:

'During last five years (2021-22 to 2025-26) total 1847 varieties of 65 field crops have been released which include cereals (874), oilseeds (242), pulses (257), forage crops (114), fibre crops (284), sugarcane (47) and other crops (29). Department made systematic efforts to produce breeder seed of the newly released varieties, wherein a total of 5,35,689 q of breeder seed of more than 2400 varieties across 62 crops was produced. The Varietal Replacement Rate (less than 5 years old varieties in seed chain) during 2018 - 19 to 2025 - 26 had significant gain in all major field crops over the past five years (share was 55.2% during 2025 - 26 as compared to 23.1% during 2018 - 19). The varietal mismatches have been reduced to 11.9% during 2024 - 25 from 19.30% during 2018 - 19. Further, the inclusion of newly released high yielding varieties in the seed chain has led to enhancement in the varietal replacement rates leading to significant increase in the productivity across the crops over the years.'

2.24 Further, when asked whether the ICAR has any system in place to monitor performance and productivity of New Crop Varieties and Hybrids released by their institutes, the Department stated:

'Newly developed varieties and hybrids are demonstrated at farmers' field through front line demonstrations (FLDs) to evaluate the performance of varieties and hybrids outside the research farm. Survey and surveillance activities are regularly carried to check the performance and response of varieties to diseases and insect-pests. High yielding varieties and hybrids, after their release, find place in the seed chain. Breeder seed indents are the indicators of adaptability and popularity of any variety. Higher the indent of variety in comparison to its other contemporary varieties establishes the popularity and acceptability of that variety among the framers. The feedback received from farmers-oriented programs

after demonstrating the varieties also indicate the performance. The impact analysis studies are regularly conducted on performance of ICAR varieties.'

2.25 When the Committee pointed out that the high yielding varieties of Field Crops developed by the ICAR have lead to increase in productivity and production of these crops, however, many of these crops varieties suffer from certain drawbacks like short shelf life, tastelessness, high consumption of inputs, degradation of soil and water, etc., the Department stated:

'The Department have more focused efforts in addressing the issues of better productivity while retaining qualities in terms of taste, flavor, shelf life, nutrients, eco friendliness etc. and also for developing high yielding varieties of such crops whose production has declined over the years on priority through the various programs under the scheme. Improved crop production and protection technologies along with increased availability of improved bio-fortifies, climate resilient varieties and seeds to farmers have not only stabilized food grain production but also increased productivity despite pressures posed by changing climate such as drought, floods, unseasonal rains and high temperatures in different parts of the country.'

2.26 As per the Economic Survey 2025-26, *while government initiatives have made notable progress in improving seed availability and varietal replacement rates, progress remains uneven across States and crops. In addition, many farmers continue to rely on older popular varieties or farm-saved seeds due to high costs or limited access to certified seeds.* When the Committee asked about the steps taken to address this problem, the Department stated:

'The current All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) system multilocation trials encompasses various ecologies of different growing regions of the country and it is a robust system of review mechanism of newly developed varieties. It is a unique system globally. The present review mechanism for the assessment of newly developed seed varieties, as implemented through the coordinated network of AICRP trials and institutional protocols, has been broadly effective in evaluating key parameters such as yield potential, disease and pest resistance, grain quality, tolerance to abiotic stress like drought, heat, floods, cold, salinity etc. and adaptability across agro-climatic zones. The system ensures that new varieties are rigorously compared with conventional checks under diverse environments, thereby maintaining scientific rigor and transparency in varietal release. The evolving priorities of agriculture - such as nutritional security, consumer preferences, climate resilience, and sustainability, there is a growing recognition that certain dimensions like nutritional profiling, sensory evaluation, shelf life, and water-use efficiency (in case of

drought tolerant varieties) are supplemented in selected crops for further strengthening within the existing framework. Though, the current mechanism is robust, yet there is scope for its continuous refinement to keep pace with future challenges and expectations.'

2.27 Taking note of the fact that many endemic crop varieties are on the verge of extinction and the conservation of local (endemic varieties) crops is a vital necessity. When the Committee asked whether the Department has any specific budget and policy for the conservation of endemic crops, the Department stated:

'The Department is ensuring the conservation of endemic varieties. The ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi is nodal Institute for collection, characterization, conservation, utilization and exchange of Plant Genetic Resources in the country as per the extant regulations/guidelines. The ICAR-NBPGR has ten regional stations situated in different diversity rich regions of the country with special attention to the endangered and near extinction species. The center has currently conserved 4,74,254 accessions of 2,147 species in its National Gene Bank (NGB) which include 100148 accessions of landraces, farmers/ traditional cultivars/varieties collected from across the country and the National Gene Bank has the status of second largest gene bank in the world. The NGB has a capacity to conserve about one million germplasm, is supported by partnership of 59 other institutions including ICAR research Institutes and State Agricultural Universities designated as the National Active Germplasm Sites (NAGS) for both in-situ and ex-situ collections located in various parts of the country for maintaining, evaluating and distributing germplasm from their active collections to NGB and other centres. Department has kept a budgetary provision of Rs. 34.00 crores during 2026-27 for ICAR-NBPGR. Moreover, a 2nd Gene Bank (National Safety Copy Plant Genebank) with 10 lakh germplasm will be established for future food and nutritional security in Himachal Pradesh. This will provide conservation support to both public and private sectors for conservation of genetic resources.'

2.28 During the evidence, the representatives of the Department also stated:

'…हिन्दुस्तान में वर्ल्ड का दूसरा सेफ्टी डुप्लीकेसी जीनबैंक होगा और यह एशिया का पहला जीनबैंक होगा, जो हम बनाने वाले हैं। हमारी जर्मप्लाज्म है। जेनेटिक रिसोर्सेज हमारी धरोहर हैं। उस धरोहर को और ज्यादा बचाने के लिए यह जीनबैंक हम बनाने वाले हैं, जिसका काम चल रहा है। ऑलरेडी हिमाचल प्रदेश में पर्माफ्रॉस्ट टाइप की लैंड भी सरकार ने अलोकेट कर दी है। उसमें हम आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। इसमें एनर्जी की भी सेविंग होगी। वह अंडरग्राउंड होगा। सेफ्टी के हिसाब से वह ठीक होगा।…'

2.29 On being categorically asked by what time 2nd Gene Bank will be established/made operational, the Department stated:

'The proposal of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for the establishment of 2nd Gene Bank with 10 lakh germplasm for future food and nutritional security in Himachal Pradesh has been prepared and discussed in Prime Minister Office. The EFC Memo has been

submitted to Deptt. of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance for approval. The Department has planned the establishment of the same after the approval of Ministry of the Finance.'

D. HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE

2.30 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE), under the Head of Horticulture since the year 2021-22 are as follows:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE	RE	AE
2021-22	212.00	183.00	179.17
2022-23	157.53	157.53	156.70
2023-24	212.00	217.45	209.82
2024-25	257.07	257.07	227.95
2025-26	318.91	262.91	-
2026-27	220.00	-	-

2.31 On being asked about the reason for reduction in the allocation in BE 2026-27, under the Horticultural Science Division, the Department stated:

'The reduced allocation in BE 2026-27 is mainly due to the first year of the EFC cycle for the period of 2026-27 to 2030-31. Many of the expenditures under major Capital Assets creation require several codal formalities which may not be possible in the beginning of the Financial Year 2026-27. Therefore, the expenditure on a few heads have been prioritized and the major expenses planned for the subsequent years. Therefore, the budgetary provisions for the 2026-27 have been kept slightly at lower level.'

2.32 When the Committee asked whether the allocation in BE 2026-27 would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the Division, the Department stated:

'….The Division has prioritized research programs/ activity matching with the availability of Funds during 2026-27, so the envisaged high demanding target sets are achieved.'

2.33 As per the information furnished by the Department, *a total of 583 improved varieties of horticultural crops were identified for release and notification by the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Release and Notification of Varieties of Horticultural crops during the last five years (2021to 2025), comprising of Perennial Spices (38), Seed Spices (22), Potato &tropical tuber crops (56), Plantation Crops (19), Fruits Crops (104), Vegetable Crops (289), Flowers & other ornamental plants (13) and Medicinal and aromatic plants (17).*

The Division has notified/released 98 varieties in 2020-21, 101 varieties in 2021-22, 98 varieties in 2022-23, 189 varieties in 2023-24 and 97 varieties in 2024-25 of Horticultural crops.

2.34 On being asked about the steps the Department has taken to popularize cropping/cultivation of these new varieties/hybrids of Horticultural Crops notified/released by ICAR during the last 5 years, the Department stated:

> *'To popularize the cultivation of new varieties of horticultural crops, regular outreach programs in form of Kisan Melas/ Kisan Gosthis, Exhibitions, trainings & Field Demonstrations are organized. Department has taken up large-scale production of seed, spawn and plants of improved varieties of horticultural crops to popularize cropping/cultivation of new varieties/hybrids. During the last 5 years department produced 4,326.32q breeder/truthful seeds of vegetable, spices etc., 12382.5 metric ton seeds of tuber crops, 48,78,766 rooted cuttings, 87,73,370 plants of perennial crops and 3,840.41 q mushroom spawn were produced and distributed to farmers and other stakeholders. A total of 6,595 training sessions and 12,775 field demonstrations were organized for the benefit of farmers and other stakeholders.'*

2.35 On being asked about the steps undertaken by the Department to create awareness about new and developed varieties of Horticultural Crops among farmers and their response with regard to adoption of these varieties of Horticultural Crops, the Department stated:

> *'The Department has laid emphasis on transfer of technology among Small and Marginal Farmers through training and capacity building of stakeholders and field demonstration of technologies. During last five years, a total of 6,595 training sessions and 12,775 field demonstrations were organised for the benefit of farmers and other stakeholders. To popularize improved varieties of horticultural crops during the last 5 years, 4,326.32q breeder/truthful seeds of vegetable, spices etc., 12382.5 metric ton seeds of tuber crops, 48,78,766 rooted cuttings, 87,73,370 plants of perennial crops and 3,840.41 q mushroom spawn were produced and distributed to farmers and other stakeholders in different agro-climatic regions. To demonstrate the usefulness of balanced nutrient management for enhanced productivity of horticultural crops, distributed fertilizers, micro-nutrients/bio-fertilizers, and plant protection chemicals/bioformulations to farmers. Also, to facilitate the intercultural operations in production chain, implements/tools were also distributed farmers.'*

2.36 Responding to a query as to how the varieties developed by the Department have contributed in the increase in income of the farmers of the country, the Department stated:

'The improved varieties with matching production technologies in horticultural crops have been helpful in increased area and production and thereby income of stakeholders at large. The improved varieties/technologies covered an estimated area of 29,43,299 ha during 2021-25 with revenue realization of Rs. 22.76 crores through licensing. A total of 220 improved varieties are in the seed chain. The area increased by 1.2 m ha, while production increased by 22.6 m tons during the period. The Potato varieties developed cover nearly 90% of the total area and contributed approximately ₹ 54,636 crore annually. As a result of increased production, the export also increased leading to enhanced foreign exchange earnings. Commercial varieties of grapes grafted on Dogridge rootstock, Pomegranate variety Phule Bhagwa, the potato variety Kufri Pukhraj and the triple disease resistant Arka Rakshak & Arka Samrat tomato hybrids, anti-browning button mushroom variety DMR-NBS-5, vegetable cowpea variety Kashi Kanchan, Turmeric variety Pragati, Tuberose-Arka Prajwal, Gujarat Cumin 4 (GC-4), Rajasthan Fennel-125 (RF-125) have enabled increased foreign exchange earnings. Studies on demonstration of improved varieties of tuber crops indicated increase in net household income through tuber crops-based Integrated Farming System models by Rs. 21,000/ha in tribal regions of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.'

2.37 When asked about the steps undertaken by the Department to preserve and increase the shelf life of Horticulture Crops, the Department stated:

'Various pre- and post-harvest technologies were standardized to enhance the shelf life of horticultural crops, which were disseminated to farmers and other stakeholders. A Controlled onion storage structure has been developed by which the shelf life of onion could be extended upto eight months as against four to five months in other storage systems with reduced post-harvest losses from 30 percent to 15 percent. Wax coating of fruits and vegetables such as oranges and apples has enhanced shelf life of more than a month and reduced weight loss of 12 to 15 per cent. Further, a total of nine bio-fortified varieties of horticultural crops such as sweet potato (Sree Arunima), pomegranate (Sholapur Lal), grapes (Manjari Medika), okra (Kashi Lalima), potato (Kufri Jamunia), banana (Kaveri Kanchan), guava (Arka Kiran) & Greater Yam (Da-340 & Sree Neelima) were developed with enhanced nutritional value for commercial cultivation.'

2.38 On being asked whether the consumption of wax coated fruits and vegetables has any side effects on human health, the Department stated:

'Wax coating of fruits and vegetables such as oranges and apples is a widely accepted post-harvest practice to reduce moisture loss, improve appearance, and extend shelf life. The waxes used for this purpose are of food-grade and approved for human consumption by national and international food safety authorities. The substances commonly used as glazing agents include carnauba wax, beeswax, shellac and food-grade microcrystalline wax etc. are non-toxic and biologically inert, not absorbed by the human body and pass through the digestive tract without causing systemic effects. When wax applied in accordance with prescribed standards and good manufacturing practices, the consumption

of fruits coated with approved food-grade wax does not pose any health risk. As a matter of general consumer hygiene, fruits may be washed thoroughly under running potable water before consumption. In household conditions, surface wax can be removed by simply washing the fruits under warm (not boiling) water while gently rubbing the surface by hand or soaking the fruits for 2-3 minutes in lukewarm water and wiping them with a clean cloth.'

2.39 On being asked about the steps taken for post-harvest handling of Horticultural Crops so as to minimize their wastage, the Department stated:

'The Department has developed several processing and value-addition technologies to minimize wastage of produce. Improved techniques of harvesting, curing & grading have been developed for post-harvest handling of Horticultural produce for minimizing wastage. The Department has laid emphasis on breeding processable varieties to minimize post-harvest losses and developed first indigenous processing variety of potato for French fry (Kufri FryoM) replacing imported varieties, high temperature tolerant varieties of potato (Kufri Daksh) and tomato (Kashi Tapas & Kashi Adbhut), besides and World's first browning resistant high yielding hybrid strain of white button mushroom (DMR-NBS-5) are some notable varieties.'

E. ANIMAL SCIENCE

2.40 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under the head of Animal Science Division since the year 2021-22 are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

YEAR	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	302.00	262.00	253.07
2022-23	224.41	224.41	223.06
2023-24	300.00	306.72	303.99
2024-25	415.15	415.15	396.32
2025-26	504.04	417.04	-
2026-27	416.95		

2.41 When the Committee asked about the reasons for a drastic decrease in fund allocation in BE 2026-27 under the head of Animal Science and whether the allocation in BE 2026-27 is sufficient to meet the requirements under this head, the Department stated:

'The fund allocation in BE 2026-27 is in accordance with Guidelines of Ministry of Finance. The Division has prioritized research programs/ activity matching with the availability of Funds so the envisaged high demanding target sets are achieved.'

2.42 About the status of utilization of allocated fund during the financial year 2025-26, the Department stated that *the Animal Science Division has utilized 78% of the allocated funds for the financial year 2025-26 and Division has planned for the complete utilization of allocated funds by the end of current financial year 2025-26*.

2.43 About the achievement made by the ICAR in development of vaccine for tackling diseases among cattle in the country, the Department stated:

> *'ICAR's research on veterinary biologicals has successfully eradicated diseases like Rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) from India. The vaccines developed for important/ emerging animal diseases during the past 10 years includes- 1) A homologous live-attenuated LSD vaccine "Lumpi-ProVacInd" for cattle and buffalo, ii) FMD Marker vaccine – O, A and Asia-1 serotypes, for cattle and buffaloes, iii) Brucella abortus S19Δ per DIVA vaccine for cattle, iv) Ancovax: Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) vaccine for animals, v) Inactivated Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV-1) Vaccine for cattle (2024), vi) IBRIVAXIN, a gene deleted marker vaccine for Infectious Bovine. Rhinotracheitis (IBR) in cattle. The other 10 vaccines have been developed for diseases of sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and horses.'*

2.44 When asked how many new/improved processes for value addition of milk, meat, egg, fibre etc. have been developed by the ICAR in last five years, the Department stated:

> *'The Division has developed 98 new/improved processes for value addition of milk, meat, egg, fibre etc., during the last five years (during the year 2020-21: 25; 2021-22: 25; 2022-23: 18; 2023-24: 20 and 2024-25: 10).'*

2.45 On being asked about the steps being taken by the Department for improvement, characterization and registration of populations of indigenous livestock, poultry, dogs, etc. and by what time, all indigenous livestock of the country would get registered, the Department stated:

> *'The Department has established a standard process of characterization, cataloguing, and registration of animal genetic resources of the country, which has been appreciated by UN recently. Department has launched 'Mission towards zero non-descript AnGR in India' to characterize livestock, poultry and dog breeds of the country. A total 220 registered breeds have been gazette notified by the Govt. of India. Wherein, a total 219 indigenous breeds of livestock and poultry species have been included for breed-wise 21st Livestock Census (2024), conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of*

Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India. Department has a "Network Project on AnGR" for the characterization and registration of indigenous breeds of livestock, poultry and dog, with 37 centers in 23 states and 2 UTs. In 2025, total 23 indigenous breeds were registered. Total 242 indigenous breeds of livestock, poultry and dog, have been registered by 31 Jan, 2026. All potential populations, around 100 new indigenous breeds are expected to get registered by 2031.'

2.46 As per Economic Survey 2025-26, *Feed and fodder account for over 70 per cent of the cost of milk production, and persistent shortages and quality constraints continue to affect livestock nutrition. ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi (IGFRI), estimates indicate demand supply gaps of 11–32 per cent in green fodder, 23 per cent in dry fodder, and 28–40 per cent in concentrates, underscoring the need for targeted interventions to ensure feed and fodder security.* When the Committee asked about the steps taken or being contemplated for ensuring feed and fodder security for the animals in the country, the Department stated:

'The Division perused intensive research and development for ensuring feed and fodder security with priorities, to use un-conventional and alternative feed resources including brans, brewer's grain, tree leaves, azolla, hydroponic fodder, agro industrial by products, sugarcane bagasse etc. in animal feeding and attempted ration balancing/balanced feeding/ advisory on judicious allocation of feed resources.'

F. FISHERIES SCIENCE

2.47 The year-wise Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE) under the Head of Fisheries Science since the year 2021-22 are as follows:-

(Rs. in Crore)

YEAR	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	160.00	138.00	137.56
2022-23	118.89	118.89	118.71
2023-24	150.00	150.00	149.82
2024-25	200.92	200.92	199.63
2025-26	192.81	167.81	-
2026-27	170.25	-	-

2.48 There is a decrease in fund allocation in BE 2026-27 vis-à-vis BE 2025-26 and RE 2025-26 under the head of Fisheries Science of the Department. The allocation in BE 2026-27 is even less than the Actual Expenditure for the year 2024-25. When the Committee asked about the reasons for this decrease in allocation and whether the allocation in BE

2026-27 would be sufficient to meet the requirements under this head, the Department stated:

> *'The fund allocation to the Fisheries Science Division in BE 2026-27 is as per the ceilings imposed on Department by the Ministry of Finance. The Department allocated funds to the Division for the prioritised programs and activities in accordance with fund availability to the Department by the Ministry of Finance. The Division has prioritised activities of the Fisheries Science Division in view of available funds.'*

2.49 About the status of utilization of fund during the financial year 2025-26, the Department stated that the Fisheries Science Division has already utilised 86% of the allocated funds for the year 2025-26 and planned to fully utilise the remaining allocated funds of the year.

2.50 *During the Study Visit of the Committee in January, 2026, the Committee undertook an on-the-spot visit to Germplasm Resource Centre for Marine Ornamental Organism of ICAR- National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR) located at Agatti Island of Lakshadweep. The representative(s) of the Centre inter-alia raised issues/demands for expansion of the facility and increase in production in hatchery, development and making available specialized facility or packing materials for packing Ornamental fishes and other aquatic organisms etc. to cater the requirements/demands of ever-increasing tourists to Lakshadweep islands who want to purchase and carry them home as memento.* When the Committee asked the Department whether it agrees with the demands/issues raised about the Centre, the Department stated:

> *'The work carried out at Lakshdweep by the Kochi unit of ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR) is restricted to certain outreach activities intended to demonstrate the technologies pertaining to ornamental fish breeding and rearing. The activities could be expanded in the coming years, depending on the resource availability.'*

G. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

2.51 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE), under the head of Agriculture Extension since the year 2021-22 are as follows:-

(Rs. in Crore)

YEAR	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	328.00	284.00	269.76
2022-23	243.72	243.72	243.57
2023-24	327.00	250.00	249.91
2024-25	234.89	234.89	234.69
2025-26	204.23	182.23	-
2026-27	210.00		

2.52 The allocation of BE 2026-27 vis-à-vis BE 2025-26 and RE 2025-26 under the head of Agricultural Extension has been enhanced. When the Committee asked how the Department is planning to utilize/spend the increased allocation during the financial year 2026-27, the Department stated:

> *'The Division has planned to utilize the enhanced allocation in BE 2026-27 to achieve targets sets for different units under Agricultural Extension Division i.e. ATARIs, KVKs, DKMA, CIWA and Projects.'*

2.53 About the utilization of allocated funds, the Department has informed that the Agricultural Extension Division has utilized Rs. 144.2 Crore (79 %, as on 20.01.2026) against an allocation of Rs. 182.23 crore in RE 2025-26. The Division has set targets for complete utilization of allocated funds by the end of the financial year 2025-26.

2.54 The Department has established nation-wide network for agricultural extension. Presently, there are 731 KVKs in the country details of which are as under:

Host organizations	KVKs
1. State Ag. Univ.	487
2. NGOs	101
3. ICAR	66
4. State Govt. 38	
5. Central Ag. Univ.	22
6. Deemed Univ.	07
7. Central Univ.	03
8. PSU/Others	07
Total	731

2.55 As per the information provided by the Department, the criteria for opening of KVK depends on the factors such as total rural population, geographical conditions, topography,

availability of cultivable land, main occupation of the region, need of technology application etc. The KVKs have been established in 638 districts in the country. As per EFC 2021-26, 121 Districts have been included for establishment of the KVKs. The criteria followed for establishment of additional KVK in selected Districts are - (i) Large rural population, (ii) Bigger geographical area, (iii) Higher net sown area, (iv) More Tribal/SC/ST population, (v) Relative backwardness, (vi) Mountainous (above 5000 ft MSL) and difficult/border areas, number of vibrant villages. Total 93 Districts of the Country are having the two KVKs.

2.56 When queried regarding constraints being faced by the Department to open atleast one KVK in each district of the country, the Department stated:

'The constraints faced by the Department to open at least one KVK in each district of the country includes permission of Committee of Establishment Expenditure (CEE), provision of fund and availability of 20 hectare contiguous potential land.'

2.57 On being asked about the availability of adequate infrastructure in the existing KVKs and how the inadequate infrastructure is hampering the work of KVKs, the Department stated:

'As per the KVK Scheme, the infrastructural requirement of Administrative Building, Farmers Hostel, Staff Quarters, Demonstration Units are met for each KVK from the funds under the scheme. The funds for the new construction, ongoing construction and repair of these buildings have been allocated for developing infrastructure at KVKs in the scheme document for the year 2021-26. Close monitoring at the level of ATARIs is done for expediting these works and for ensuring conducting of KVK activities in their respective Zones.'

2.58 On being asked to provide details of vacancies in KVKs across the country, the Department stated:

'There exist about 29 percent vacancies in KVKs. Filling up of vacancies in the KVKs is a continuous process and is done by the respective Host Organizations. As per the KVK scheme, the approved posts of the KVKs are to be filled as per the recruitment policies and procedures of the respective Host Organizations with the educational qualifications as laid down by ICAR. Requisite action is taken to fill the vacancies expeditiously.'

2.59 When asked regarding efforts made by the KVKs in the country to attract and retain the rural youth towards agriculture, the Department submitted:

'The Department is implementing a program "Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA)" since 2015-16 with main objective of empowering youth in rural area to take up various agriculture and allied sector enterprises for sustainable income and gainful employment in selected districts. The 100 KVKs under ARYA trained 102483 rural youth and 22412 agro-enterprises have been established involving 40262 trainees. The KVKs are organizing different programs involving rural youths and the vocational training programs are organized for rural youth and school dropouts. During 2024-25, 10651 such programs were organized with 2.59 lakh participants. The KVKs are also organizing National Skill Qualification Framework aligned skill development training programs of more than 200 hours since 2016-17, wherein 46969 rural youth have been trained so far.'

2.60 On being asked about the efforts made by ICAR in general and KVKs in particular to train and educate the women engaged in farm practices so as to reduce their hardships and drudgeries, the Department stated:

'The ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture at Bhubaneshwar aimed to promote gender sensitive decision making for enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of women in agriculture. The institutes have developed and promoted drudgery-reducing technologies particularly of women engaged in agriculture. The KVKs trained and educated about 26.86 lakh farm women during the last five years on various aspect of agriculture and allied sectors to increase the productivity and profitability and of drudgery reduction to reduce their hardships and drudgeries.'

2.61 When asked about the efforts made to make KVKs more productive in terms of extension programmes and outreach to maximize benefits to the farming population in their area, the Department submitted:

'The Department concerted efforts to enhance the productivity and effectiveness of KVKs in delivering extension and outreach services to the farming community. Strengthening KVKs remains a continuous priority, which is consistently upgrading physical infrastructures to improve service deliveries. The ICT-based platform "KISAN SARATHI" has facilitate direct interaction between farmers and scientists, which enabled farmers to seek timely solutions to their location-specific problems and technology-related queries from district KVK experts. The KVKs have also developed strong convergence mechanisms with various Ministries and Departments. Close coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare supports implementation of major schemes such as the Oilseeds and Pulses Mission, Natural Farming Mission, crop residue management, micro-irrigation, mechanization, and Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan in Aspirational Districts, etc. Regular

engagement with the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying promotes fisheries development, vaccination drives, and dairy production. Collaborative programmes with the Ministry of Jal Shakti encourage efficient water use, while partnerships with the Ministry of Women and Child Development promote nutri-sensitive agriculture through Anganwadi workers. Convergence has also been strengthened with the Departments of Fertilizers, Rural Development, MSME, and Food Processing Industries. The ICAR has also collaborated with ***Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY****), Government of India which connects 725 KVKs to 3.5 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs), enabling teleconferencing and wider outreach.'*

2.62 When asked to provide details about steps being taken/contemplated by the Department to ensure benefit of Agriculture Extension Programme actually reach to farmers of the country, the Department submitted:

'The Department has established 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country with mandate of Single Window Agricultural Knowledge, Resource and Capacity Development Centre for technology assessment and demonstration for its application and capacity development. The KVKs conduct on-farm testing to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; and frontline demonstration to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technologies on the farmers' fields. The KVKs also train the farmers/farm women/rural youth on different aspects of technologies related to agriculture and allied sectors for their knowledge and skill upgradation. Besides, a large number of extension activities are taken up by the KVKs to make awareness of improved agricultural technologies among the farmers. The KVKs analyse soil, water, plant and manures samples and provided the suitable advisories to the farmers. The KVKs also produce quality seeds of field crops, quality planting materials of horticultural crops and other technological inputs for availability to the farmers. The activities of KVKs are also to motivate the farmers to adopt new agricultural technologies. The KVKs are also working in convergence with other Ministries/Departments of Government of India in different flagship programs such as Oilseeds and Pulses Mission, National Natural Farming Mission, crop residue management, micro irrigation, mechanization, Pradhan Mantri PM Dhaan Dhanya Krishi Yojana, etc. to reach the unreached. Further, to bridge knowledge and capacity gaps and incorporate farmers' feedback for Demand-driven Research, Department in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), State Government Departments, Agricultural Universities, and KVKs, organized a nationwide campaign titled Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) from May 29 to June 12, 2025.'

2.63 It has been pointed out in the Economic Survey 2025-26 that greater efforts are needed to accelerate the integration of newer varieties and to encourage farmers to adopt quality seeds through field demonstrations and the dissemination of successful farmer experiences. A way forward towards better implementation could be through the involvement of strengthened extension services and by integrating Farmer-Producer Organisations

(FPOs), Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) and Self Help Groups (SHGs) into the implementation framework.

2.64 On this, the Department has stated that action plans of KVS are prepared based on the above mentioned directions and implemented accordingly.

2.65 During the evidence held on 17.02.2026, the representatives of the Department apprised the Committee about Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (May 29-June 12, 2025) as under:

'....हमने पहली बार विकसित कृषि संकल्प अभियान पिछले साल 29 मई और 12 जून के बीच नेशनवाइज़ चलवाया, जो सबसे बड़ा प्रोग्राम है। इसमें पूरे देश की करीब 2170 टीम्स ने मिलकर 725 जिलों में 15 दिनों तक काम किया। 60 हजार से ज्यादा हमने इवेंट किए। हमने 1 लाख 40 हजार से ज्यादा गांव कवर किए और 1 करोड़ 34 लाख किसानों से सीधा संवाद हुआ। उसमें बहुत सारे फार्मर लेड रिजुविनेशन निकलकर आए। 3 सौ के लगभग हमने डॉक्युमेंट किए, कुछ ऑलरेडी पब्लिश किए। 70 से ज्यादा पॉलिसी रिलेटेड इश्यूज, जिनमें किसानों की जरूरत, समस्याओं आदि का जिक्र था, उनको हम इंटीग्रेट कर रहे हैं। बहुत सारे इश्यूज निकलकर आए हैं। यह बहुत बड़ा प्रोग्राम था, जो डिमांड रिसर्च को प्रमोट कर रहा है। यह काफी हेल्पफुल है।..'

2.66 The details of Abhiyan are as under:

'Teams	*:*	*2170*
Districts	*:*	*725*
Events organised	*:*	*60,281*
Villages covered	*:*	*1,40,122*
Farmers covered	*:*	*134.85 lakh*

Convergence

- *3718 ICAR scientists*
- *4562 KVK Scientists/SMSs*
- *3350 State department officials*
- *11 CMs, 16 Central Ministers, 73 state ministers, 52 MPs, 230 MLAs and >1000 other public representatives participated*

Significant Findings

- *>300 Farmer-led innovations*
- *~ 500 researchable issues and*
- *70 policy inputs'*

2.67 The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan was highly appreciated by the Members of the Committee. They suggested the Department to organize such Abhiyaan on regular basis in future also.

H. AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

2.68 The year-wise Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE), under the head of Agricultural Education Division since the year 2021-22 are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2021-22	388.00	328.00	324.18
2022-23	288.28	288.28	287.70
2023-24	322.74	322.74	321.81
2024-25	398.74	630.17	624.99
2025-26	708.94	645.00	-
2026-27	514.87		

2.69 There is a drastic decrease in fund allocation in BE 2026-27 vis-à-vis BE 2025-26 and RE 2025-26 under the head of Agricultural Education of the Department. The allocation in BE 2026-27 is even less than the Actual Expenditure for the year 2024-25. When the Committee asked about the reasons for this decrease in allocation and whether the allocation would be sufficient to meet the requirements under this head, the Department stated:

> *'The proposed allocation in BE 2026-27 in the EFC (2026-27 -20230-31) is Rs.430.00 Crore. However, Rs. 514.00 crore has been allocated in BE 2026-27. It is less than the RE of 2025-26. The reduced allocation in BE 2026-27 is in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Finance. The Division has prioritized the programs and activities in view of allocated funds to achieve desired targets.'*

2.70 About the utilization of funds during the year 2025-26, the Department informed that the funds to the tune of Rs.645.00 crore has been allocated at RE 2025-26 and Rs.484.00 crore (approx. 75%) has been utilized**.** The division has planned for the complete utilisation of allocated funds by the end of current financial year.

2.71 When the Committee asked whether the Department plays any role in formulation/preparation/updation of syllabi of Agricultural Universities of the country, the Department stated:

'The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) coordinates agricultural education to ensure uniformity and quality across country. The course revision and upgradation at Undergraduate level and Postgraduate level are carried out at regular intervals. Sixth Deans' Committee was constituted after declaration of National Education Policy 2020 and committee developed syllabus for 13 UG programmes with delineated provision during graduation degree as certificate, diploma, degree and degree with research, as per norms and guidelines of NEP 2020. The sixth Deans Committees' recommendations have been implemented. At Postgraduate and Ph.D. level, the academic standards at Masters and Ph.D. levels are presently monitored by ICAR with implementation of BSMA (Broad subject matter Area) guidelines. Presently ICAR has recommended 81 Post Graduate and 80 Ph.D. programmes in Agricultural Universities and their regular revision of course curricula and academic regulation is undertaken through BSMA Committees. The latest syllabus and curriculum was published in 2023. The system of PG/Ph.D course curriculum, the minimum guidelines of ICAR Regulations have already included Major/Minor courses, seminar, dissertation/ research component etc. as recommended by NEP-2020.

2.72 On being asked about the changes brought in Agriculture Education in the country due to implementation of New Education Policy, the Department stated:

'The sixth Deans' Committee has incorporated several new initiatives as per the NEP-2020, in the proposed restructured UG curricula for Agricultural Universities/ colleges/institutes with uniform academic guidelines. The main initiatives include, flexibility in pedagogical methods, introduction of skill enhancement courses, flexibility in choices, academic bank of credits for seamless movement of students across disciplines and universities, introduction of internship, progressive student assessment with focus on critical thinking and creativity, provision of student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yozna) component launched by PMO in 2015 for hands-on-training through industrial attachments for skill development of students. Minimum requirements as proposed in Sixth Deans Committee are ensured through the process of accreditation by ICAR.'

2.73 During evidence, the Committee suggested about agricultural education as under:

'क्या बच्चों के लिए इसे कक्षा-8 से या नौवीं या दसवीं से इसकी शिक्षा को मैनडेटरी किया जा सकता है, क्योंकि जिस हिसाब से मैं अभी देख रहा हूं कि स्वीगी, ज़ोमैटो इत्यादि चल रहे हैं, तो जिस हिसाब से इनका मूवमेंट हो रहा है और आजकल हम देखते हैं कि बच्चे हर चीज़ ऑनलाइन मंगाते हैं तो अगर इसका ध्यान नहीं रखा गया तो आने वाले दस वर्षों में बच्चों को यह पता ही नहीं होगा कि यह गेहूँ कहां से आता है। यह भी बड़ी चिंता का विषय है। ....

इसकी पढ़ाई के लिए हम गहरे स्तर पर न जाएं, पर इसकी प्रारंभिक पढ़ाई तो कर ही सकते हैं। जैसे जब बच्चों को पिकनिक पर ले जाते हैं तो क्या उन्हें कृषि अनुसंधान केन्द्रों में ले जाया जा सकता है? इस पर भी हमें विचार करना पड़ेगा। ए.आई. की फील्ड में बच्चों का इंटरेस्ट है तो वे उस दिशा में आगे बढ़ सकते हैं और इसको अपना करियर चुन सकते हैं। इस पर भी विचार किया जा सकता है।...'

2.74 The Committee also suggested:

'भारत कृषि प्रधान देश है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्र ज्यादा है। जो गांव की बच्चियां हैं, आज भी गांव में यही वातावरण है कि लोग चाहते हैं कि हमारी बेटियां अलग पढ़ें। जो लोग शहर में आ गए हैं या शहर में रहते हैं उनकी सोच अलग है। आज गांवों में भी बदलाव आया है, लेकिन अभी भी लोग चाहते हैं कि हमारी बेटी पढ़े, लेकिन सुरक्षित रहे और उनका गर्ल्स कॉलेज हो। इसके ऊपर एक बार विचार कर सकते हैं कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में एग्रीकल्चर एजुकेशन के लिए विशेष रूप से लड़कियों के लिए पृथक से स्कूल और कॉलेज खोल सकें।'

2.75 On this issue, the representative of the Department stated:

'सर, गल्स एजुकेशन तो इतना बढ़ गया, कि बहुत सारी यूनिवर्सिटीज तो अब कह रही हैं कि लड़कों का रिजर्वेशन कीजिए। लड़कियां80 प्रतिशत हैं। लड़कियों का एवरेज50 प्रतिशत पर आ गया है और लगातार बढ़ रहा है। पिछले 15 साल में लड़कियों की संख्या बढ़ रही है।'

I. PROVISIONS FOR SC/ST FARMERS

2.76 Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) farmers constitute a significant section of the marginalized segment of India's agricultural workforce. Constituting a substantial portion of the nation's agricultural population, these farmers are primarily classified as small or marginal landholders, frequently working on small and fragmented plots. They face significant barriers including limited access to institutional credit, quality inputs, advanced technology resulting in lower productivity and lower net returns.

2.77 On being asked whether there is any specific project/scheme/programme under the Department for benefit of SC/ST and other marginal sections of the society, the Department stated:

'Department do not have any specific scheme for SC/ST and other marginal sections of the society but operates agricultural research, education and extension schemes. DARE/ICAR implemented Development action plan Scheduled Caste (DASC) and Development action plan Scheduled Tribe (DAPST) component as per guidelines within the schemes of the Department for agriculture and allied activities to support livelihood development of SC/ST community'.

2.78 About the steps being taken by the Department for improving the condition/status of SC/ST and other marginal sections of farmers in the country, the Department stated:

> *'Department implemented Development action plan Scheduled Caste (DASC) and Development action plan Scheduled Tribe (DAPST) component within the schemes wherein SC/ST communities were supported with critical inputs supply to carryout agricultural and other activities for agriculture and allied sectors in improving livelihood and income.'*

2.79 When the Committee asked whether SC/ST and other marginal sections of the society are able to reap the benefits of schemes/programmes, the Department stated:

> *'The SC/ST communities under Development action plan Scheduled Caste (DASC) and Development action plan Scheduled Tribe (DAPST) component were supported. Activities supported includes skill development, supply of inputs, transfer of agricultural technologies and knowledge to undertake agriculture and allied operations at agricultural farms and fields for enhancement of agricultural production and productivity in improving the livelihood of the tribal community. Support provided to the tribal community in the country for improving agricultural, horticultural, fisheries, animal and poultry production, and natural resources management including supply of seeds of newly released varieties of crops and vegetable, planting material of newly released varieties, bio-control agents, organic and fertilizer nutrients for soil, pest and disease control agrochemicals, farm tools, fishing gear, artificial fish habitats, electric cabinet dryer, sealing machine, mini rotary tiller, power sprayer, brush cutter, coconut tree climbers, animal feed, milking machines, improved germplasm of pig and poultry etc..'*

CHAPTER – III

Viksit Bharat@2047

Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is the Government of India's ambitious vision to transform the nation into a fully developed, self reliant, and prosperous country by the 100th anniversary of its Independences by 2047. This roadmap emphasizes inclusive growth, economic prosperity, modern infrastructure, and sustainable development focusing on strengthening four key pillars: Youth (Yuva), Poor (Gareeb), Women (Mahilayen) and Farmers (Annadata). It aims to create a stronger, more inclusive and modernized nation, enhancing India's global standing.

3.2 On being asked to provide details of the targets set for various parameters in agriculture and allied sector's research to be achieved by 2047 as part of Viksit Bharat, the Department stated:

'The Department has set targets/ activities of the different sectors under the Central Sector Scheme of the DARE/ICAR to be achieved by the year 2047.

Viksit Bharat broad targets @2047

Particulars	***Existing level***	***Target 2047***
Agricultural production	*1.3 billion tonnes*	*2.1 billion tonnes*
Horticultural crops	*369.73 million tonnes*	*777.7 million tonnes*
Milk production	*247.87 million tonnes*	*628.0 million tonnes*
Fisheries	*19.5 million tonnes*	*40 million tonnes*
Mechanization level	*47%*	*80%*
Nutrition use efficiency	*35%*	*75%*
Water use efficiency	*40%*	*80%*
Post-harvest losses	*15-20%*	*<5%*
Agroforestry	*28.4 million ha*	*50 million ha*
Land degradation neutrality	*26 million ha by 2030*	*Land Degradation Neutral India*
Net Zero emission and carbon neutral agriculture	*14%*	*Net Zero Carbon Emission from Agri.*
Access to contextualized technology information	*25%*	*100%*

Division-wise targets/activities for Viksit Bharat

Crop Science

- *Developing of 3500 high yielding, climate resilient, nutritionally rich, input responsive varieties with special emphasis on oilseeds and pulses using modern breeding tools including genome editing; and use of trait specific germplasm.*
- *Identification of new genes and generation of genomic resources including fine mapping, cloning, characterization and functional validation of novel genes and promotors involved in biotic and abiotic stress tolerance, quality and enhanced productivity and their commercialized along with IP protection -160*
- *Production and supply of 30.00 lakh quintal of breeder seed*
- *Development of 285 rapid diagnostic tools and AI based digital forewarning systems for management of emerging insect-pests and diseases*
- *Innovations in terms of 1350 Improved Technologies, product, processes, methodologies etc.*
- *Registration of 2000 elite trait specific germplasm with National Gene Bank.*
- *Initiating research programme to develop crop cultivate that can be grown in space under Gaganyan and other space explorations.*

Horticultural Science

- *Attaining productivity of horticultural crops to the tune of 35t/ha.*
- *Developing and providing technology support for bringing 50% production from the protected production conditions.*
- *Standardizing & providing technology support for generating 300 million tons export-oriented production of horticultural crops.*
- *Standardizing and providing technology support for converting 250 million tons produce into processed and value-added products of horticultural crops.*

Animal Science

- *Complete self-sufficiency in veterinary vaccines and diagnostics (Make in India approach) through Development 55 Drugs / New vaccines and 200 diagnostic kits.*
- *Development of 12 genome edited livestock & poultry for enhanced production; and pathogens for production of vaccines and diagnostics.*
- *Evaluation and characterization of 320 genetic resources.*
- *Registration of 300 new breeds/ varieties.*
- *Development of 160 feeding modules for GHG mitigation/ production enhancement, 100 probiotics/ herbal based therapeutics and 300 value added products and processes.*

- *Develop 10 AI based technologies in livestock.*
- *Sero-surveillance/monitoring, 50 lakhs samples testing for diseases.*
- *Production and distribution of 400 lakhs chicks and 8 lakhs Piglets/ Sheep/ Goat/ Rabbit.*
- *Development of infrastructure for producing sex-sorted semen at Animal Breeding Research Centre.*
- *Production of 130 lakhs Semen doses.*
- *To achieve an average productivity of 140 eggs per bird under backyard system of rearing and 300 eggs per bird per year in commercial poultry by 2047.*

Agricultural Engineering

- *Development of 176 new equipment/ machinery/ technology*
- *Development of 102 value-added food, fibre and other agricultural allied products*
- *Conducting study on Status of Farm Mechanization of the country in different states*
- *Frontline demonstrations of 500 different equipment/ machinery covering 10000 ha area*
- *Licensing of 115 technologies*
- *Patent/copy right of 95 applications*
- *Establishment of National Institute on Agricultural Robotics and AI*

Natural Resource Management

- *Leveraging precision farming and next generation agronomy to enhance nutrient use efficiency by 35-75%, water use efficiency by 40-80% and productivity gain by 50%.*
- *Development of integrated weed management strategies for major cropping systems under Natural farming.*
- *Development of Unified Soil Information System.*
- *Development of liquid/novel biofertilizer products for alleviating abiotic stress. Green fertilizer and alternative fertilizer materials to achieve atmanirbhar in nutrient fertilizer, Organic farming, natural farming and nature based solutions for low input farming.*
- *Developing 10 salt tolerant varieties/genetic stock of rice/ wheat/ mustard/ chickpea/ lentil with higher yield.*
- *Sensor based (IoT) automated irrigation system for higher water productivity for major crops.*
- *Development and upscaling of climate smart carbon neutral IFS model for all the ACR of India.*
- *Achieving net zero emission and carbon neutral agriculture by 2047*
- *Achieving land degradation neutrality of 26 m ha by 2030 and achieving land degradation neutral India by 2047.*

Fisheries Science

- *Breeding and seed production technologies for prioritized candidate fish/shellfish species of food & ornamental value: A species diversification approach*
- *Development of functional and customized feeds for diversified finfish/shellfish species and other aquaculture products*
- *Development of disease diagnostic kits/ vaccines/therapeutics/fish health products*
- *Genetic improvement of fish/shrimp/seaweed species in successive generations for growth and disease resistance*
- *Waste-to-wealth, value-added and other fisheries products*
- *AI-Driven Data Integration, Fisheries Monitoring & Forecasting – Satellite-based tracking, geospatial data, and real-time sensing will be integrated for monitoring fisheries dynamics, species distribution, and habitat changes.*
- *In 2047, the country is projected to produce 40 mmt of fish of which 8.0 mmt will be contributed from capture fisheries and 32.0 mmt from aquaculture side.*

Agricultural Education

- *A revised curriculum has been devised and implemented for agriculture students from the academic session 2024-25 to prepare them for new challenges as part of Viksit Bharat in alignment with New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 focusing on outcome-based learning and entrepreneurship.*
- *Through various initiative and measures of Human Resource Management, ICAR is preparing scientists and teachers for 21st century skills in agriculture & allied sectors through competency-based capacity building programs and incentives through various fellowship and exchange programs.*
- *Faculty-student ratio as per global norms and 100% faculty certified in digital & AI pedagogy.*
- *Start-up incubation centre in all Agricultural University.*
- *Promoting /fostering multidisciplinary learning in agricultural education*
- *Establishment of multidisciplinary global University to attract best talent across the globe*

Agricultural Extension

- *Large scale adoption of climate resilient and ecologically sustainable practices (Climate Resilient Villages Hubs 5000)*
- *Demonstration on climate resilient technologies: Varieties & NRM (soil & water management) (425000 No.)*
- *Promoting custom hiring centres (2000 No.)*

- *Diversification through CFLDs: Pulses/Oilseeds/millets/ vegetables (4.50 lakh)*
- *Quality planting material to be provided to farmers (1500 lakh)*
- *Quality Seed production for providing to farmers (10 lakh q)*
- *Seed produced and its coverage of area (2.5 Million ha)*
- *Annual capacity building/ Skilling of youth (90000 No.), famers (125000)*
- *Outcome based large-scale gender & youth sensitive scalable Models (led through success stories (40000)*
- *Agri-entrepreneurships through Group dynamics: No of FPOs/ SHGs (support/mentor: 1.9 lakh)*

Challenges for Viksit Bharat @2047

- *Climate Change*
- *Declining Arable Land and Water Resources*
- *Emerging Biotic (Pests/Diseases/Weeds) and Abiotic Stresses (Drought, High Temperatures, Salinity, Acidity)*
- *Market and trade uncertainty and Global Conflicts*

Technology driven production will be sustainable otherwise subject to diminishing return.

3.3 When the Committee asked about the strategy/action plan, the Department has calibrated/prepared to achieve the targets set as part of Viksit Bharat by 2047, the Department stated:

> *'The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has set annual targets for various programs and activities of Agricultural and Allied Sectors and placed sincere efforts to achieve the targets set annually and by 2047 as part of Viksit Bharat.'*

3.4 On being asked whether the Department has prepared any blueprint of activities to be undertaken and targets to be achieved during Amrit Kaal Period: The Golden Period from *India@75* to *India@100* in the year 2047, the Department submitted:

> *'The Department has prepared short term and long term targets in view of Amrit Kaal Period for the agricultural research, education and extension pertaining to different sectors viz. Crop Science, Horticulture Science, Animal Science and Fisheries Science, Natural Resources Management and Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Education and Agricultural Extension. The Department has focused programs and activities under Central Sector Scheme on technology development for climate resilient agriculture matching with climate vulnerability, improve*

production and productivity towards the food and nutritional security of the Nation. Develop tools, equipment and machinery for mechanization and post- harvest processing for value addition. Promote natural farming with integrated farming systems for carbon neutrality and improved soil health and fertility. Tackle health and diseased management in livestock and fisheries for improved technology driven productivity, production etc. The Department also put emphasis on agricultural technologies reach to farmers/ end users through extension programs such as Smart, Participatory, Expeditious Extension Delivery (SPEED) Model, Skilling & Attracting Rural Youth for Agri-based Livelihoods (SARAL), frontline demonstrations, training and skill development of farmers, entrepreneurs and extension workers, supply of technological inputs and advisories for different productions systems to farmers. The Department initiatives and action plan are given as under:

1. *Establishment of MELIA Unit (Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, Impact Assessment): Data driven decision making*
2. *ICAR Communication Policy and Strategy*
3. *ICAR Research Data Management Policy*
4. *ICAR Gender Strategy for National Agricultural Research, Education and Extension System*
5. *Agriculture for Health*
6. *Nutritional security through New age breeding and management*
7. *Climate reliance technologies and practices*
8. *Mission for Cotton Productivity (Kapas Kanti)*
9. *National Mission on High Yielding Seeds*
10. *Genebank for Crops Germplasm (National Safety Copy Plant Genebank)*
11. *Smart mechanization and precision agriculture*
12. *Smart precision aquaculture through sensor-automated and AI-driven autonomous monitoring*
13. *Bharat-VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources) is a multilingual AI-based digital platform*
14. *Strengthening, Agri-Business and Start-up Ecosystem*
15. *Last Mile Delivery of Technology through Convergence Mode*
16. *Human Resource Development in Agriculture and Allied Sectors*
17. *Value Chain and Global outreach'*

3.5 When the Committee specifically asked about the challenges/constraints the Department is facing or likely to face in achieving the targets fixed/set as part of Viksit Bharat by 2047, the Department stated:

'The Department has stagnated allocations for last several years by the Ministry of Finance, moreover allocations are further reduced at RE stage. An allocation of one percent of Agricultural GDP is required for R&D in Agriculture to achieve the desired targets of the Department for the VIKSIT Bharat-2047.'

PART-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

1. The Committee note that the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) sought an allocation of Rs. 11427.51 crore in BE for the year 2026-27, it got Rs. 9967.40 crore which is 0.19% of total Outlay (BE) of Rs. 5347315.00 crore of Government of India for the year. This allocation is, however, lower than the allocations of Rs. 10466.39 crore made in BE 2025-26 and Rs. 10280.83 crore made in RE 2025-26. The Committee also note that the proportion (in percentage terms) of the Budgetary Allocation (BE) made in favour of the Department out of the total BE allocation of the Government of India has declined from 0.24% in the year 2021-22 to 0.19% in 2026-27. During the last three years, the allocation to the Department was 0.21% of the total outlay (BE) of the Government of India. The Committee have been apprised by the Department that the present allocation in BE 2026-27 shall impact the schemes and programs planned by various subject matter divisions and over all working of the Institutes. The Committee have also been apprised that India's public agricultural R&D spending is about 0.5-0.6% of Agri-GDP against the global average of ~0.93%.

The Committee are of the firm opinion that further strengthening of Agriculture and Allied Sector is imperative for economic resilience, improving the livelihood of millions, promoting rural prosperity, ensuring food and nutrition security and driving inclusive growth in the country. The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), being the

premier research organization, play crucial role in strengthening Agriculture and Allied sector by addressing the priority and challenging issues through Research, Education and Extension. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Government to consider increasing the allocation for the Department for making Research, Education and Extension Ecosystem of Agriculture and Allied Sector strong, robust and modern in the country.

UTILIZATION OF FUND UNDER CAPITAL SECTION (CAPITAL OUTLAY ON OTHER GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES)

2. The Committee note that Rs. 10.41 crore and Rs. 6.50 crore were allocated in BE 2023-24 and BE 2024-25 respectively under 'Capital Section (Capital Outlay on other General Economic Services)' of the Department which were reduced to Rs. 9.96 crore and Rs. 3.82 crore in RE of the respective years. However, the Department was able to utilize only Rs. 3.39 crore in the year 2023-24 and Rs. 3.15 crore in 2024-25. The Committee also note that the allocation of Rs. 4.33 crore under this head in BE 2025-26 was reduced to Rs. 2.49 crore in RE 2025-26 and till January 2026, the Department has been able to utilize only Rs. 1.0346 crore i.e. 23.89% of BE allocation and 41.55% of RE allocation for the year.

The Committee are of the considered view that the allocated amount under any head of the Department should be properly and optimally utilized for the intended purpose(s). The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to analyse the reasons for under-utilization of allocated fund under 'Capital Section' and consequently devise proper strategy and planning for optimum utilization of allocated fund in a time-bound manner.

ALLOCATION UNDER SCHEME HEAD

3. The Committee note that out of the total allocation (BE) of Rs. 9967.40 crore to the Department (DARE) for the year 2026-27, Rs. 2830.12 crore has been allocated under Scheme Head which constitutes around 28.39% of the total allocation. The allocation under Scheme Head in BE 2026-27 (Rs. 2830.12 crore) is 389.10 crore less than the allocation of Rs. 3219.22 crore in BE 2025-26 and Rs. 97.42 crore less than the allocation of Rs. 2927.54 crore in RE 2025-26. The Committee also note that the Department has sought/proposed Rs. 3015.17 crore only under Scheme Head for BE 2026-27 which marks the first year of the 16th Finance Cycle. The Committee have been apprised that as a result of reduced allocation under Scheme Head in RE 2025-26, the Department had to prioritize its research and development activities and optimize administrative expenses to achieve the desired goals and objectives. Also, programs and activities of low emergent type were deferred for the coming financial years. Further, due to inadequate allocation in BE 2026-27, similar strategies will be adopted during this year too.

The Committee are of considered view that allocation of adequate financial resources is imperative for developing of robust R&D ecosystem for Agriculture and Allied Sector to achieve the desired result. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take up the matter of enhancing the allocation under Scheme Head with the Ministry of Finance.

Natural Resource Management and National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)

4. The Committee note that Natural Resource Management and National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) Division has been allocated Rs. 232.05 crore in BE 2026-27 which is marginally higher than the allocations of Rs. 229.09 crore made in BE 2025-26 and Rs. 198.09 crore in RE 2025-26. The Committee also note that the Division has utilized 83.60% (till 31st January, 2026) of the allocation in RE 2025-26. The Committee appreciate that the Division has developed and disseminated the climate resilient technologies including crop varieties, intercropping systems, conservation agriculture, crop diversification, agroforestry systems, zero till drill sowing of wheat to escape terminal heat stress, alternate methods of rice cultivation (System of rice intensification, aerobic rice and direct seeded rice), *in-situ* moisture conservation etc. among the farmers/stakeholders in 151 vulnerable districts across the country. It is also quite commendable that the deployment of climate resilient varieties and other technologies led to enhanced production even during the abnormal years of 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 and the fluctuations in crop production have decreased over the years. The Committee, however, emphasise the importance of continuing and further strengthening such efforts, particularly in view of the likely increase in the frequency and intensity of climate change, as well as emerging biotic (pests, diseases, weeds) and abiotic stresses (drought, high temperatures, salinity, acidity) in the future. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to ensure sufficient allocation and optimal utilization of the allocated fund to the Division and give priority to Research for development of location-specific, cost-effective, eco-friendly Climate Resilient

Practices and Technologies suitable for different agro-ecological regions and their dissemination and demonstration on large scale in the country so as to minimize/contain the adverse impact of climate changes and other constraints and promote sustainability in Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

5. The Committee note that Rs. 96.50 crore has been allocated to the Agricultural Engineering Division in BE 2026-27 which is marginally more than the allocations of Rs. 95.74 crore in BE 2025-26 and Rs. 89.00 crore in RE 2025-26. The Committee also note that the Division has utilized 73.66% (Rs. 65.66 crore) of allocation made in RE 2025-26 till January 2026. The Committee appreciate that the Division has contributed immensely in development, demonstration and commercialization of new machines/equipment/technologies for improving pre and post production mechanization of different crops/crop operations, development of process protocols and value-added food, fibre and other agricultural allied products and reorientation of research projects for development of machine/technologies with fusion of sensors/artificial intelligence. The Committee are of the view that farm mechanization is necessary for enhancing efficiency in agricultural operations/activities and reducing drudgery on human beings, but economic viability of any machine/technology also needs to be assessed before recommending for its widespread adoption. The Committee note that in some instances, the purchase of tractors by small and marginal farmers has placed additional financial pressure on them. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take steps for promoting need-based mechanization and developing appropriate, affordable

machinery/ equipment/ technologies, supported by R&D and considering the fact that majority of farmers in the country are small and marginal having small and fragmented landholdings.

CROP SCIENCE

6. The Committee note that Rs. 969.50 crore has been allocated to Crop Science Division which is marginally higher than the allocations made in BE & RE 2025-26 (Rs. 965.46 crore). The Committee also note that high yielding varieties of Field Crops developed by the ICAR have led to increase in productivity and production of these crops, yet there remains substantial potential to enhance agricultural productivity. Yields across several crops including cereals, maize soybeans and pulses, continue to trail global averages. Besides, progress remains uneven across States and crops in improved seed availability and varietal replacement rates.

The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to optimally and effectively utilize the allocation made to this Division and lay emphasis on preserving and developing indigenous crop varieties for better productivity and yield while retaining originality in taste, flavour, shelf life, nutrients, etc. The Committee also recommend the Department to develop, disseminate and popularize agricultural practices for production of crops from natural/intrinsic strength of the soil avoiding use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc.

HORTICULTURE SCIENCE

7. The Committee note that Rs. 220.00 crore has been allocated to Horticulture Science Division in BE 2026-27 which is lower than the allocations made in BE 2025-26 (Rs. 318.91 crore) and RE 2025-26 (Rs. 262.91 crore). The Committee also note that Horticulture sector has witnesses tremendous progress and is playing an important role in promoting income diversification, nutritional security and more resilient agricultural growth. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to continue to lay emphasis on growth of productivity and production of Horticultural Crops in the country.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

8. The Committee note that Rs. 416.95 crore has been allocated to Animal Science Division in BE 2026-27 which is quite lower than the allocations of Rs. 504.04 crore in BE 2025-26 and Rs. 417.04 crore in RE 2025-26. The Committee also note that the Division has utilized 78% of the allocated funds for the year 2025-26 till January 2026. The Committee have been apprised that the ICAR's research on veterinary biologicals has led to successful eradication of important animal diseases and the Department is working on development of new generation vaccines, identification of indigenous livestocks, genome editing and animal genomics studies etc. for improved animal health and production in the country. The Committee have also been apprised about demand-supply gaps in green fodder, dry fodder and concentrates leading to persistent shortages and quality constraints of feed and fodder affecting the livestock nutrition. Considering livestock sector as an important growth engine and key contributors to enhancing farm income, the Committee recommend the Department

to take steps for ensuring feed and fodder security for the animals. The Committee also recommend the Department for preservation and development of indigenous breeds for cow in view of its usefulness to the human beings and the society as a whole.

FISHERIES SCIENCE

9. During the Study Visit of the Committee in January 2026, the Committee undertook an on-the-spot visit to Germplasm Resource Centre for Marine Ornamental Organism of ICAR – National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR) located at Agatti Island of Lakshadweep. The representative(s) of the Centre inter-alia raised issues/demands for expansion of the facility and increase in production in hatchery, development and making available specialized facility or packing materials for packing Ornamental fishes and other aquatic organisms etc. to cater the requirements/demands of ever-increasing tourists to Lakshadweep islands who want to purchase and carry them home as memento. The Committee have been apprised by the Department that the activities at the Centre is restricted to certain outreach activities intended to demonstrate the technologies pertaining to ornamental fish breeding and rearing and the activities could be expanded depending on the resource availability. The Committee, while sympathetic to the demand of the Centre, recommend to the Department to make available sufficient resources for its expansion and the requisite packing material to cater the requirement of interested tourists who want to purchase and carry them home as memento.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

10. The Committee note that Agricultural Extension Division has been allocated Rs. 210.00 crore in BE 2026-27 which is more than the allocations made in BE 2025-26 (Rs. 204.23 crore) and RE 2025-26 (Rs. 182.23 crore) but less than the Actual Expenditure (Rs. 234.69 crore) incurred during the financial year 2024-25. During the financial year 2025-26, the Division has utilized Rs. 144.2 crore (79% of RE allocation) as on 20.01.2026.

The Committee are of the view that Agricultural Extension plays a vital role in transferring scientific knowledge, improved technologies and sustainable agriculture practices to farmers, thereby enhancing productivity and resilience. However, the Committee note that agricultural extension services in the country continue to face certain challenges relating to outreach, availability of trained personnel, and coordination in service delivery. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), which play a crucial role in extension activities, are yet to be established in every district of the country. At present, there are 731 KVKs. While 93 districts have two KVKs each, 121 districts do not have a KVK. The Committee further note that no new KVK has been opened during the last 3 years. In addition, some of the existing KVKs face infrastructural constraints, and around 29% of the sanctioned posts across KVKs remain vacant.

The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to establish/open at least one KVK with adequate infrastructure and sufficient manpower in each district of the country including the Union Territories which do not have such facilities. The Committee also recommend the Department to make extension services at KVK more broad-based and inclusive so that maximum number of farmers are able to avail the

services. Besides, the Committee recommend the Department to take steps /action for maintaining uniform standards of performance, transparency, service delivery and availability of financial resources across all KVKs to ensure effective and equitable outreach to the farming community.

VIKSIT KRISHI SANKALP ABHIYAN

11. The Committee have been apprised about the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan which was organized in the country from May 29, 2025 to June 12, 2025. The Abhiyan was organized in 725 districts by 2170 teams. 60,281 events were organized and 140122 villages and 134.85 lakh farmers were covered. As a result of the Abhiyan, more than 300 farmer-led innovations, approximately 500 researchable issues and 70 policy inputs emerged. The Committee, while recognizing the benefits of the Abhiyan accrued to the farmers and Agriculture Sector recommend the Department to organize such Abhiyan on regular basis in the country.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

12. The Committee note that Rs. 514.87 crore has been allocated for Agricultural Education in BE 2026-27 which is less than the allocations made in BE 2025-26 (Rs. 708.94 crore) and RE 2025-26 (Rs. 645.00 crore). The Committee also note that Rs. 484.00 crore (approx. 75%) has been utilized till January 2026 during the financial year 2025-26. The Committee feel that there is a need to strengthen Agricultural Education in the country and the reduction in allocation for Agricultural Education would adversely affect it. Further, the Committee desire that the basic Agricultural Education may be introduced at School level to familiarize young generation with agriculture

activities and processes. The Committee also desire the Department to explore the possibility of opening agricultural college(s)/institution(s) exclusively for girls to take care of the requirements and sensibilities/concerns of rural areas of the country.

PROVISIONS FOR SC/ST FARMERS

13. The Committee note that the Department do not have any specific scheme for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe sections of the society. However, the Department implemented Development action plan Scheduled Caste (DASC) and Development action plan Scheduled Tribe (DAPST) component within the scheme wherein SC/ST communities were supported with skill development, supply of inputs, transfer of agricultural technologies and knowledge to undertake agriculture and allied operations at agricultural farms and fields for enhancement of agricultural production and productivity. The Committee are of the view that Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) farmers, constituting a substantial portion of the nation's agricultural population, are primarily small or marginal landholders having small and fragmented plots. They face significant barriers including limited access to institutional credit, quality inputs and advanced technology resulting in lower productivity and lower net returns. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take steps/action to indicate specific requirements of the farmers belonging to these segments so that they can be provided with the necessary skill sets and technology application so that they too can benefit from the various innovations made by the Department in the agriculture sector so that they are not left out and the benefits of agricultural research, education and extensions schemes of the Department are fully availed by the SC/ST farmers for improving their livelihood and income.

VIKSIT BHARAT @ 2047

14. The Committee note that the Department has set ambitious targets for various parameters in Agriculture and Allied Sector's research to be achieved by 2047 as part of Viksit Bharat and has been making sincere efforts to achieve them. The Committee are quite hopeful that the Department would surmount the challenges of climate change, declining arable land and water resources, emerging biotic (pests/diseases/weeds) and abiotic stresses (drought, high temperatures, salinity, acidity), market and trade uncertainty and global conflicts and achieve the set targets. The Committee also agree with the concerns of the Department about stagnated allocations for last several years and subsequent reductions at RE stage and, therefore, recommend the Department to pursue with the Ministry of Finance for an allocation of one percent of Agricultural GDP for R&D in Agriculture so as not to allow fund constraints come in the way of achieving the targets.

NEW DELHI;
16 March, 2026
25 Phalguna, 1947 *(Saka)*

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

APPENDIX-I

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2025-26)

*****

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 17th February, 2026 from 1535 hours up to 1715 hours in Committee Room '2', First Floor, Block-A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Charanjit Singh Channi - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
3. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
4. Shri Rahul Singh Lodhi
5. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
6. Shri Dharambir Singh
7. Shri Dushyant Singh
8. Shri Sudhakar Singh
9. Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

10. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
11. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
12. Shri P. P. Suneer

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Dhiraj Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Maheshwar - Director
3. Shri Prem Ranjan - Deputy Secretary

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education/
Indian Council of Agricultural Research)

1.	Dr. Mangi Lal Jat	–	Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR)
2.	Shri Sandeep Sarkar	–	Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor
3.	Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta	–	Deputy Director General (Animal Science)
4.	Dr. S. N. Jha	–	DDG (Agricultural Engineering)
5.	Dr. Amaresh Kumar Nayak	-	DDG (Natural Resource Management)
6.	Dr. Rajbir Singh	-	DDG (Agricultural Extension)
7.	Prof. Sanjay Kr. Singh	-	DDG (Horticultural Science)
8.	Dr. Devendra Kr. Yadava	-	DDG (Crop Science)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting convened for taking oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) in connection with examination of Demands for Grants (2026-27) - Demand No.2. Thereafter, the representatives of the Department were called in. After welcoming the representatives of the Department to the Sitting, the Chairperson apprised them of the confidentiality of the proceedings.

3. After introduction by the representatives of the Department, the representatives made a power-point presentation briefing the Committee about the Vision, Mandate and Functional areas of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Nation-wide networks for Agricultural Research, Education and Extension; Viksit Bharat challenges and targets @ 2047; Allocation/Utilization of funds under ICAR Scheme; Investment in Agricultural R&D; Field Crop Varieties released and notified (1969-2025); major achievements of ICAR in 2025-26; crop resilience driven production improvement; Genome edited varietal development; technology led production enhancement; Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (May 29 – June 12, 2025); Intellectual Property and Technology Management; ICAR's Global reach and collaboration with other Departments and States' Action-Plan for 2026-27 etc.

(Meantime Chairperson left the sitting and Shri Rajkumar Chahar, Member of the Committee acted as Chairperson for the remaining part of the Sitting).

4. The Chairperson and Members of the Committee raised several issues/points which are briefly mentioned below and sought clarification(s)/ information thereon from the Department:

(i) Need for reclamation of degraded land through application of sub-surface drainage technology and making them suitable for agriculture;
(ii) Issue of poor condition of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs);
(iii) Need for strengthening of KVKs and making them more productive and useful for the farmers;
(iv) Mechanism/procedure for availing the Carbon Credits by the farmers;
(v) Viksit Bharat@2047 targets and management of the enhanced production of various crops as stipulated under the Viksit Bharat @2047 targets;
(vi) Making available complete data relating to development of the India's first ever genome-edited rice varieties (2) by ICAR on website;
(vii) Promotion of need-based mechanization considering the fact that majority of farmers are small and marginal, having very small land holdings;
(viii) Organization of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan on regular basis;
(ix) Promotion of Drone Didi concept on wider scale;
(x) Introduction of Agriculture related basic education at school level in order to familiarize young generation with agricultural activities;
(xi) To explore the possibility for establishing Agriculture College(s) exclusively for girls to cater the requirements of rural girls;
(xii) To lay emphasis on enhancing the efficiency of inputs in agriculture;
(xiii) Need to produce crops from the natural/intrinsic strength of the soil avoiding use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc.
(xiv) Need to preserve and develop indigenous varieties of seeds of various crops as productivity and production of various crops have increased by the use of newly developed seeds but lost originality in taste, flavour, shelf life etc.
(xv) Promotion of indigenous breeds of cow only; etc.

5. The Representatives of the Department responded to some of the queries raised by the Members. The acting Chairperson then thanked the witnesses for sharing valuable information with the Committee and directed them to furnish the requisite information on the points/items which were not readily available with them to the Committee Secretariat by **23rd February, 2026,** positively.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-II

MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2025-26)

The Committee sat on Monday, 9th March, 2026 from 1530 hours to 1630 hours in Committee Room No. 3, First Floor, Block-A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI – CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai
3. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
4. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
5. Shri Kuldeep Indora
6. Shri Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav
7. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
8. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
9. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
10. Shri Dharambir Singh
11. Shri Dushyant Singh
12. Shri Sudhakar Singh
13. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
14. Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

15. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
16. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
17. Shri H.D. Devegowda
18. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
19. Shri Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav-Patil
20. Shri P. P. Suneer

Secretariat

1.	Shri Dhiraj Kumar	–	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Maheshwar	–	Director
3.	Shri Prem Ranjan	–	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri Fauzi Badruddin	–	Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration of Draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2026-27) pertaining to the

(i) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare);
(ii) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education);
(iii) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries);
(iv) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying);
(v) Ministry of Food Processing Industries; and
(vi) Ministry of Cooperation.

3. During deliberations, Members of the Committee suggested amendments to the recommendations of the draft Reports. They also suggested to convene sitting of the Committee again on 13.03.2026 to consider and adopt the draft Reports, which was agreed upon by the Chairperson of the Committee.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-III

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2025-26)

The Committee sat on Friday, 13th March, 2026 from 0940 hours to 1120 hours in Committee Room No. 3, First Floor, Block-A, Extension to Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI – CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Rajkumar Chahar
3. Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan
4. Shri Kuldeep Indora
5. Shri Rajpalsinh Mahendrasinh Jadav
6. Shri Rahul Singh Lodhi
7. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi
8. Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel
9. Shri Naresh Chandra Uttam Patel
10. Shri Murasoli S.
11. Shri Dharambir Singh
12. Shri Dushyant Singh
13. Shri Sudhakar Singh
14. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
15. Smt. Geniben Nagaji Thakor
16. Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

17. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
18. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
19. Shri H.D. Devegowda
20. Shri Banshilal Gurjar
21. Shri Madan Rathore
22. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala

SECRETARIT

1. Shri Dhiraj Kumar – Joint Secretary
2. Shri Maheshwar – Director
3. Shri Prem Ranjan – Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Fauzi Badruddin – Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration of the following draft Reports on Demands for Grants (2026-27):-

*(i) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

*(ii) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

*(iii) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

*(iv) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

(v) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education);

*(vi) xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

3. The Committee after considering the draft Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) suggested the amendments/changes as shown in **Annexure-E.**

4. The Committee, thereafter adopted the draft Report mentioned at para 2 (v) above with modifications/amendments as listed at **Annexure-E**.

5. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Reports in the light of modifications suggested and present the Reports to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

Matter not related to this Report.

Annexure-E

Modifications/ amendments suggested in the Draft Report on DFG (2026-27) pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

S. No.	Recommendations / Observations Para No.	Omitted	Incorporated
1	4	**Still, the Committee feel that there should not be any kind of complacency on the part of the Department as the frequency and intensity of climate change, emerging biotic (pests/diseases/weeds) and abiotic stresses (drought, high temperatures, salinity, acidity) etc., are going to increase in future**	**The Committee, however, emphasise the importance of continuing and further strengthening such efforts, particularly in view of the likely increase in the frequency and intensity of climate change, as well as emerging biotic (pests, diseases, weeds) and abiotic stresses (drought, high temperatures, salinity, acidity) in the future.**
2	5	**There are instances where purchase of tractors by small and marginal farmers has aggravated their economic hardships.**	**The Committee note that in some instances, the purchase of tractors by small and marginal farmers has placed additional financial pressure on them.**
3	6	**The Committee also note that high yielding varieties of Field Crops developed by the ICAR have led to increase in productivity and production of these crops, however, many of these crops varieties suffer from certain drawbacks like short shelf life, tastelessness, high consumption of inputs, degradation of soil and water, etc. Also there remains substantial potential to enhance agricultural productivity.**	**The Committee also note that high yielding varieties of Field Crops developed by the ICAR have led to increase in productivity and production of these crops, yet there remains substantial potential to enhance agricultural productivity.** Yields across several crops including cereals, maize
4	10	**However, in India Extension services continue to face challenges of limited reach, staff shortages and fragmented delivery. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), which play an important role in extension, have not been established in every district of the country. Presently, there are 731 KVKs in the country. 93 districts have two KVKs each, 121 districts do not have a KVK and no new KVK has been opened in the last three years. Besides, there are inadequate infrastructure in several of the existing KVKs and about 29% of the**	**However, the Committee note that agricultural extension services in the country continue to face certain challenges relating to outreach, availability of trained personnel, and coordination in service delivery. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), which play a crucial role in extension activities, are yet to be established in every district of the country. At present, there are 731 KVKs. While 93 districts have two KVKs**

		sanctioned posts are vacant in KVKs across the country	**each, 121 districts do not have a KVK. The Committee further note that no new KVK has been opened during the last 3 years. In addition, some of the existing KVKs face infrastructural constraints, and around 29% of the sanctioned posts across KVKs remain vacant.**
5	10	--	**Besides, the Committee recommend the Department to take steps /action for maintaining uniform standards of performance, transparency, service delivery and availability of financial resources across all KVKs to ensure effective and equitable outreach to the farming community.**