

THIRD REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (1993-94)

(TENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
COOPERATION)

ANNUAL REPORT 1992-93

Presented to Lok Sabha on 21 December, 1993
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 20 December, 1993



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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
(1993-94)

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(iv)

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SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G.L. Batra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Smt. Revathi Bedi — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri Haripal Singh — *Under Secretary*

*Resigned from the Membership w.e.f. 17.5.93

PREFACE

I, the Chairman of Standing Committee on Agriculture having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Third Report on the Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture, (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) for the year 1992-93.

2. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) on 1st October, 1993. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) for placing before them, the material and information which they desired in connection with the examination of Annual Report of the Department for 1992-93 and for giving evidence before the Committee.

3. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 26th November, 1993.

NEW DELHI;
December, 1993
Pausa, 1915 (Saka)

NITISH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture
(1993-94).

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Executive *i.e.* Govt. places its vivid account of activities undertaken in a year in the form of Annual Reports which are placed before Parliament every year. The purpose of placing Annual Reports is to keep Parliament abreast of the policies and programmes currently in operation, their achievements and detailing the future course of action.

1.2 The Committee have in this report scrutinized the Annual Report (1992-93) of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in detail.

1.3 The functions of the Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation may be summarized as follows:—

- (i) Formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes aimed at achieving rapid agricultural growth through optimum utilisation of the country's land, water, soil, plant and fisheries.
- (ii) Supply of Inputs and services such as fertilisers seeds, pesticides, and agricultural implements.
- (iii) Providing remunerative return to the farmer for his agricultural produce.
- (iv) Collection and maintenance of wide range of statistical and economic data relating to agriculture.
- (v) Assisting & advising the States in undertaking scarcity relief measures and in management of natural calamities.
- (vi) Formulation of overall cooperative policy in the country.
- (vii) Promotion of export of agricultural commodities.

1.4 The Committee will be commenting upon some of the centrally sponsored schemes, which need to be prioritized and/or have been prioritized in the Eighth Plan and find mention in the Ministry's Annual Report for 1992-93.

CHAPTER II

RAINFED FARMING, WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

2.1 Rainfed Farming has been given the highest priority for which National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) is under operation. This programme has a provision of Rs. 1100 crores during VIII Plan. Apart from this, a number of externally aided projects are also under implementation which have been indicated in the Annual Report.

2.2 Restoration of ecological balance in the vast rainfed areas by conservation of in-situ moisture through vegetative measures to conserve rain-water and to control soil erosion and regenerate the green cover are some of the main objectives of water-shed development.

2.3 Progress of selected Activities under NWDPRA is as follows:—

Progress of Selected Activities under NWDPRA

S.No.	Activities of the Programme	Achievements
1.	Identification of Micro-watersheds (Nos.)	2410
2.	Approval of Model Watershed Development Plans	
	(a) Number of Agro-climate Zones	127
	(b) Number of Agro-climatic Zones for implementation of NWDPRA	115
	(c) Number of Model Watershed Plan approved	107
	(d) Number of Projects approved by State Level committees	1707
3.	Constitution of State Level Committees (Policy and Implementation Committees and State Level Sanctioning Committees)	25 States & 2UTs
4.	Constitution of Watershed Development Teams	25 States & 2UTs
5.	Establishment of Nurseries (Nos.) (Composite / Managed by Government Department / Kisan Nurseries)	1849
6.	Identification and training of Mitra Kisan and Gopals	
	(a) Number of Mitra Kisan identified and trained	21841
	(b) Number of Gopals identified and trained	7904
7.	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores) under the project during -1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 (upto September, 1992)	120

2.4 With regard to the area covered under model Watershed plans approved and projects approved by State Committees as shown in the Annual Report as also their location and the progress achieved so far, the Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation) in their written reply stated:— “The details are being collected from the State Governments and will be supplied to the Committee as soon as they are received”.

2.5 However, during the course of evidence, Special Secretary (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation) stated:— “115 models have been sanctioned and sent to states. States have sanctioned 2000 projects out of 2500. Some of the States such as Bihar and West Bengal have not done much progress in projects sanctioning. This matter has been taken up with the states and they have been advised to pay more attention and to make progress in this regard. To make this programme successful, all necessary actions are being taken at our level”. 115 models have been sanctioned. The Committee would like to know the criteria for selecting model watersheds. The Committee is of the opinion that in order to avoid thin spread of resources it would be better if the watersheds are contiguous so as to bring about cumulative effect. On being asked whether the progress of the programme is as per the targets, Special Secretary replied:

“I would let you know about the figures which are with us. I would say about Bihar. 209 projects were cleared for Bihar. Only 83 projects have been sanctioned and no fund has been provided. Likewise 169 projects were cleared for Bengal. They have sanctioned 58 only and no fund has been provided”.

When asked whether central share has been released, Special Secretary stated: “We have given funds upto Rs. 10 crores.” Further in reply to the query whether action is taken at their level in the case of states showing slow progress, he stated: “What more can be done when we have formulated schemes, issued guidelines, provided fund and made arrangements for training.”

2.6 The Committee is of the view that particular emphasis should be given towards the states which have not made much progress. The reasons should be asked from such states as to what are the hurdles that are coming in the way of progress of the programmes, even after providing them funds, training and necessary guidelines, and efforts should be made to sort out the problems. In case it is felt that even after continuous pursuance of the Central Govt., much progress has not been achieved by the States or States are found to be lacking in the implementation of programme, the same should be highlighted in the Annual Report of the Deptt. The Committee, further, found the reply of the Ministry

unsatisfactory as they stated that details are being collected from the states. The Annual Report itself has stated that ten states have initiated reporting through NICNET the progress of the project in the prescribed quarterly annual schedules. The Ministry could have given details at least with respect to ten states where NICNET are in operation.

The Committee feel that Ministry should furnish replies taking into account what they have stated in their Annual Report.

2.7 Development of Rainfed areas being vital from ecological and environmental point of view, the Committee on Agriculture (1991-92) in their Fifth Report presented to Lok Sabha on 1st December, 1992 had recommended the development of rainfed areas within a foreseeable time frame. The Committee is happy to note that a thinking is underway to prepare a 25 year perspective plan for development of rainfed areas and hope that the plan will be prepared within a period of six months to 1 year and the Committee informed of the action taken.

2.8 In this context, the Committee also wanted to know the total fund requirement for bringing the whole country under the NWDPRRA project. The Ministry in their written reply stated:—

“Estimates to total funds required for bringing the whole country under NWDPRRA will be made while formulating the National Perspective Plan. Details of time frame for development entire rainfed areas will be incorporated in the Perspective Plan.”

2.9 The Committee is of the view that a substantial amount would be required for the development of watershed areas. Considering that the NWDPRRA has been accorded that highest priority, the Committee is of the opinion that the present allocation of Rs. 1100 crores is not realistic. The Committee is of the view that the plan allocation for five year plan should be approximately to the tune of 15,000 crores which is more realistic. Besides that, the Committee also feel that the ongoing rural development schemes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana should be tied up with the NWDPRRA.

2.10 1849 Composite / Kisan and Government nurseries have been established for producing the planting material. On being asked as to the planned capacity of these nurseries in terms of plants, how many plants have been supplied out of these and what is the population of surviving plants, the Ministry in their written reply stated:—

“The local Watershed development committees in consultation with the beneficiaries of the watersheds decide upon the type and quantity of planting material to be developed in the nurseries.”

2.11 The Committee even after the reply of the Ministry are in the dark in respect of planned capacity, number of plants supplied, and the population of surviving plants from these nurseries. No doubt local watershed development committees suiting to their local condition decide

upon the type and quantity of planting material yet some estimation or assessment in the light of queries raised by the Committee should have been done by the Ministry. The Committee is unable to understand the motive behind just mentioning about the number of nurseries in the Annual Report when Ministry do not possess detailed information with them. In the lack of such information, it would be very difficult to judge the requirement of more nurseries to be set up in future and the planting material which might also adversely affect the planning formulation. The Committee feel that, Ministry of Agriculture being a nodal agency at national level should undertake this task which may be ultimately useful for planning formulation.

CHAPTER III

TECHNOLOGY MISSION ON OILSEEDS AND PULSES

Oilseeds

3.1 In order to have self-reliance in oilseeds, the Technology Mission on Oilseeds (TMO) was launched in May, 1986. Further, Govt. approved Integrated Policy on Oilseeds as a step to achieve self-reliance in oilseeds / edible oils. The policy focussed on transfer and demonstrations of technology and supply of inputs to the oilseed growers as also ensuring incentive prices for the farmers. For ensuring incentive prices Govt. appointed NDDB as a Market Intervention Agency in April, 1984 for period of 5 years which procure oilseeds and oils and build up a buffer stock in order farmers get incentive prices.

As regards the selection of NDDB only for entrusting the task of Market Intervention Operation in respect of oilseeds / edible oilseeds, the Committee have been given to understand that NDDB was deemed to be suitable agency as it has already available huge infrastructure as also efficiency in commercial management which was considered to be very essential to manage highly speculative oilseeds market.

3.2 Efforts are being made to bring self-reliance in oilseeds / edible oils and to provide incentives to farmers. NDDB has set up 3000 oilseeds farmers societies across 7 States to increase oilseeds production. It has also been developing a national edible oil grid with the objective to link the major oilseeds producing areas with the demand centres which will help in reducing wide fluctuations in prices of oils. As a market intervention agency the progress of work done by NDDB since 1989 is as follows:—

Commodity	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92 (Qty. in MTs)
Oilseeds	1,61,030	3,51,000	2,28,000
Edible Oils	2,42,481	1,57,208	1,60,743

3.3 Under the OPP, distribution of seed minikits to popularise new improved varieties and opening additional retail outlets in remotes areas have been adopted as a strategy. When asked to clarify how the distribution of see minikits is ensured and that whether Retail outlets are

run by Govt. or private agencies, the Ministry of Agriculture in their written reply stated:—

“Retail outlets are generally run by the State Departments of Agriculture / Growfed / Markfed / Agros. The State-wise distribution of retail outlets are as under:—

Gujarat	233
Karnataka	38
Madhya Pradesh	2
Rajasthan	20
Sikkim	10
	303

3.4 The Committee find that there is no equal distribution of retail outlets as it is evident from the fact that Madhya Pradesh which is a big state has only 2 retail outlets. Further, Committee understand that these retail outlets are run only by the State Govts. and Central Govt. have not opened on its own any retail outlets.

3.5 The Committee is of the view that the Central Ministry could open its own retail outlets in those areas and states where the need of such retail outlets are felt to be necessary and, particularly, where state government have not opened their retail outlets as a measure to increase oilseed production. Otherwise, the Committee feel strategy would remain more on the paper unless it is executed in right direction.

3.6 As stated earlier, NDDDB has been appointed by the Govt. as a Market Intervention Agency in respect of oilseeds / edible oils and that the NDDDB procures oilseeds and oils and build up a buffer stock so as to ensure incentive prices to the consumers. However, in their written reply Ministry of Agriculture have stated that NAFED procures oilseeds from growers in case the prices fall to the support price level. The NDDDB procures oilseeds and oils from growers at prevailing prices so as farmers get remunerative prices.

3.7 The Committee have noted that both agencies *i.e.* NDDDB and NAFED are engaged in the procurement of oilseeds and oils with the difference that NAFED procures oilseeds in the events of fall in prices below support prices to prevent distress sale whereas NDDDB procures at prevailing prices to provide remunerative prices. The Committee find the set up existing at present to be overlapping one. No rationale seems to be pertinent for engaging two agencies for the same work. The Committee is in favour of reviewing the present set up so as to ensure that this set up may not affect the oilseeds growers due to multiplicity of procuring agencies. The Committee is of the opinion that the whole work concerning

oilseed and edible oil could be diverted to a single agency which would be able to manage the whole affair in a better way.

3.8 As a consequence of payment of remunerative prices to farmers through market intervention operation, NDDDB did not incur any losses till March, 1991 and had a surplus of Rs. 21.01 crores. However, it incurred a loss of Rs. 92.54 crores during the period April, 1991 to March, 1992, as a result there was net loss of Rs. 71.53 as on 31.3.93. The fall in value of stocks and carrying costs from the flush to the lean season have been stated to be reasons for the loss. Rs. 10.56 crores have been reimbursed to NDDDB in March, 1992 and balance amount of Rs. 60.97 crores is yet to be reimbursed.

3.9 The Committee advise that there should be no delay in reimbursement of balance amount of Rs. 60.97 crores so that NDDDB is not defeated in its mission of providing timely remunerative prices to the farmers.

Oil Palm

3.10 The total area potential for oil palm cultivation in the country is about 7.96 lakh ha. out of which an area of 80,000 ha. has to be developed during Eighth Five Year Plan: Further, 20,000 ha. was to be developed during 1992-93 which owing to lack of sufficient oil palm seeds could not be developed.

3.11 Since Technology Mission on Oilseeds (TMO) has initiated the scheme for the development of Oil Palm in the country which is in operation since December, 1990, 10 Oil Palm nurseries were established during 1991-92 to raise 25.2 lakh Oil Palm seedlings for an Area Expansion Programme over 15,000 ha. 4 new nurseries were established during 1992-93. Thus, the total number of nurseries established so far are 14. The total domestic production of Oil Palm seedlings is only 4 lakh. The Ministry of Agriculture have in their written reply informed that States were sanctioned funds to import 21 lakh Oil Palm seedlings each during 1991-92 and 1992-93.

3.12 The Committee have been informed that due to limited domestic availability of Oil Palm seedlings, 15 million Oil Palm seedlings are required to be imported during Eighth Plan. The total capacity of nurseries is to raise 2.5 million Oil Palm seedlings per annum.

3.13 The Committee note that input services such as Oil Palm seedlings are very essential for the success of Area Expansion Programme of Oil Palm and having sufficiency in the seeds, the desired target could be achieved. The Committee emphasize that focus should be on adequate seed availability so as an area of 80,000 ha. could be developed well in time during Eighth Five Year Plan keeping in view highest yielding capacity of Oil Palm which would no doubt, ultimately, augment supply of indigenous edible oil.

Pulses

3.14 Annual Report (1992-93) indicates the position of production of pulses for the year 1991-92 where target has been fixed at 155 lakh tonnes and the production is expected to be around 120.51 lakh tonnes. Lesser coverage of area due to unfavourable weather condition in the major pulses growing states is stated as a reason for low production.

3.15 National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Special Food-grains Production Programme Pulses (SFPP-Pulses) are the two Schemes in operation with respect to pulses. The objective of NPDP is to increase production of pulses through adoption of location specific varieties and improved technology with particular emphasis on increasing the area through multiple and inter-cropping as also increasing yield per unit of area. Further, SFPP-Pulses has two schemes *i.e.* Plant Protection Umbrella on Gram and Arhar against control of Pod borer, cut worm and termites and Expansion of Area under Summer Moong / Urd, Gram and arhar.

3.16 NAFED being nodal marketing agency in respect of pulses to implement minimum price support scheme, has purchased 40741 MT of pulses valued at Rs. 29.39 crores during 1991-92 whereas 19,839 MT of pulses has been procured upto October, 1992 during 1992-93.

3.17 The Committee have noted that Budget Provision for Research and Development in Post Harvest Technology in Pulses for the year 1993-94 have been increased as compared to 1992-93 which seems to be in consonance with an idea of improvement of technology concerning the pulses.

3.18 The Committee are of the opinion that lesser production of pulses than the target fixed in 1991-92 due to unfavourable weather conditions could be narrowed down if the technology developed and harnessed so far could be utilised properly. After all weather condition remains erratic and uncertain. Therefore, Committee feel that alternative measures should be devised and technology improved in order to improve pulses production. It should also be ensured that the Fund utilised for Research and Development in Post Harvest Technology in pulses given desired results.

3.19 The Committee have also noted that when lesser production of pulses has been reported in 1991-92, there was more commercial purchase of pulses by NAFED as compared to the procurement of pulses during 1992-93. This less procurement has been even though the production is expected to exceed the target fixed for the year 1992-93.

3.20 The Committee apprehend that since NAFED is the nodal marketing agency in respect of pulses, less procurement of pulses by NAFED during 1992-93 would affect farmers adversely because other agencies would purchase their produce at prices below support prices. Though it has been stated that prices of pulses continued to remain above the support price level, it is very difficult to gauge the problems of farmers if the agency designed for procurement purposes does not procure their produce

to the maximum possible extent and that too in time. The Committee therefore, suggest that efforts should be made to avoid such kind of situation in future.

CHAPTER IV

FERTILIZER AND MANURES

4.1 For increasing agricultural production, use of fertilizer is inevitable and necessary. With the increase of agricultural production, there has been marked increase in the consumption of fertilizer which is evident from the fact that its consumption level has increased from 21.77 lakh tonnes of nutrients in 1970-71 to the level of 127.28 lakh tonnes of nutrients in 1991-92.

4.2 One of the most important factors which has to be taken into account is that it should be ensured that fertilizer is available in sufficient quantity to meet the demand of Agriculture sector and it is made available in a cheaper way so as farmers' purchasing capacity to buy fertilizer be within their reach.

Decontrol of Fertilizers

4.3 Following the decontrol of Fertilizer, the prices of DAP, Murate of Potash (MOP) and complexes have undergone a steep rise in the market which has been admitted by the Ministry in their Annual Report (1992-93). On the study made to assess the adverse impact of fertiliser decontrol, the Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agri. & Coop.) in their written reply stated that "Although no formal study has been undertaken, the general trend has revealed that NPK ratio has widened to 9.58:3.23:1.00 during 1992-93 as compared to NPK ratio of 5.91:2.44:1.00 during 1991-92." Further during the course of evidence, representative of the Ministry stated:—

"It is our information that increased cost has adversely affected the use of phosphate and potassic fertilizers. However, the effect of reduction in the use of phosphate and of potassium on crop production is not likely to show up immediately while a similar reduction in the use of nitrogen fertiliser show up immediately. The effect of reduced use of P & K fertilisers on crop production will be reflected only in 3-4-5 years".

4.4 In order to make fertilisers available to the farmers at reduced cost, a scheme at a total cost of Rs. 340/- crores was taken up during 1992-93 which was applicable for the three months *i.e.* October to December, 1992. The Committee have, however, been informed that this scheme has been continued during 1993-94. The Committee are however, unaware about the total amount provided for this scheme during the year 1993-94.

4.5 The Committee have been informed that another scheme (Scheme for the Benefit of Small and Marginal Farmers) of Rs. 500/- crores was taken up for development of infrastructure for the benefit of

small/marginal farmers during 1992-93 which is likely to increase the consumption of phosphatic/potassic fertiliser. The Committee have observed that Rs. 365 crores only were made available to states out of Rs. 500 crores upto March, 1993. The Annual Report clearly specify the purpose of the scheme as to 'create permanent infrastructure' for the benefit of small and marginal farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture in their written reply have stated that they have proposed to continue the scheme during 1993-94 at a total cost of Rs. 1000/- crores. However, the proposal has not been approved yet. Since, Rs. 500 crores could not be made available to the states, the Committee feel that this scheme has not been implemented wholeheartedly due to which the benefit did not percolate down to the farmers to the desired level.

4.6 The Committee is happy to note that the scheme, as stated earlier, which was initially applicable for three months has now been continued this year also. But Committee fail to understand that how the purpose of another scheme for the Benefit of Small & Marginal Farmers would be fulfilled when (i) only Rs. 365 crores were made available (ii) The scheme is still pending for the approval. Since the scheme is linked with the consumption of fertiliser and the representative of the Ministry of agriculture has admitted that "the present condition is such that fertilizer has become expensive and in regard to potassic fertilizers we totally depend on foreign supplies", the scheme should have been approved early. The Committee observe that if the approval to this scheme is delayed or the scheme is itself discontinued, the infrastructure already created after expending Rs. 365 crores will become infructuous and creation of permanent infrastructure as stated in the Annual Report will be merely a mirage. Further, consumption of phosphatic/potassic fertiliser would decrease.

4.7. The Committee strongly feel that the approval may be given forthwith to this scheme so as already built infrastructure may be maintained, utilised and further building of infrastructure may be augmented.

4.8 As a step to reduce the cost of fertilizer, the Govt. have also decanalised the import of Di-ammonium Phosphate, Mono-Ammonium Phosphate and Muriate of Potash as efforts to make balanced use of fertilisers following increase in prices of Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilisers.

4.9 The Committee have been informed that Deptt. of Fertilisers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers have also taken the following steps to reduce the cost of production of indigenous phosphatic fertilisers and also to facilitate import of decontrolled fertilisers at competitive rates:—

- (i) Custom-duty on import of Phosphoric Acid has been abolished.
- (ii) The goods imported for renovation of fertiliser plants have been exempted from custom-duty.

- (iii) Railways have allowed concessional freight in respect of Phosphatic fertilisers, Rock Phosphate and Sulphate of Potash.

4.10 The Committee fear that continuous mono-cropping may be harmful for the farming since it causes depletion of micro-nutrients in the soils which ultimately are responsible for slowing down the agriculture production. In reply to the query of the Committee with respect to the level of various micro-nutrients in Indian soils as also deficiency of micro-nutrients.

4.11 The Ministry of Agriculture have supplied the following information:—

The level of various micro-nutrients in Indian soils is indicated in the Statement below:

Extent of deficiency of Micro-Nutrients in different states

Sl. No.	State	Zinc	Copper	Iron	Mangan-Boron	Molybdenum
		% Sample def-	% Sample def-	% Sample def-	% Sample deficient	% Sample deficient
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53	0	11	11	—
2.	Bihar	45	2	4	1	33
3.	Gujarat	24	5	8	1	2
4.	Haryana	64	3	25	4	—
5.	Karnataka	25	9	2	1	—
6.	Kerala	34	31	0	4	—
7.	Madhya Pradesh	65	11	3	3	22
8.	Pondicherry	8	8	4	2	—
9.	Punjab	50	1	13	2	—
10.	Tamil Nadu	43	21	15	8	—
11.	Uttar Pradesh	64	1	8	3	24
12.	All States	46	5	11	3	17

Source: Twenty Years of Coordinated Research on Micro-nutrientes in Soils and Plants. I.C.A.R., Institute of Soil Science.

4.12 Above figures shows depletion position of micro-nutrients in the soils which needs to be arrested. In order to promote the use of micro-nutrient fertilisers, 11 straight micro-nutrient fertilisers have been included in Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.

4.13 The Committee feel that this trend of depletion of micro-nutrients should be contained and efforts should be made to change the cropping pattern from mono-cropping to multiple and intercropping.

Ddevelopment and use of Bio-Fertiliser

4.14 The National Project on Development and use of Bio-fertiliser is a Central Sector Scheme which is in operation with an objective to produce, distribute and promote the use of good quality bio-fertiliser and to ensure its supply to the farmers at low cost is in operation.

4.15 Rhizobium & Blue Green Algae (BGA) are the prominent Fertilizers being used in India. Apart from this, Azotobacter, Azospirillum and Phosphate Solubilising bacteria and also being propagated. The current production of Rhizobium and other major bio-fertilisers is estimated about 2000-2500 tonnes. The total estimated requirement of different type of bio-fertilisers is as under:—

Name of Bio-fertiliser	Total Requirement (in tonnes)
1. Rhizobium	35,000
2. Azotobacter	1,46,000
3. Azospirillum	75,000
4. Phosphate Solubilisers	2,55,000
5. BGA	2,52,000

4.16 On being asked about the development of other Bio-fertilisers apart from B.G.A., Ministry of Agriculture stated:—

“Like BGA, Azolla has been identified one of the bio-fertilisers as supplementary source of nitrogen. Exact data for its production are not available as its production and application is limited to one or two States in Eastern Region. Production of Azolla is not very economical as it is labour intensive. Azolla may grow only in specific Agro Climatic Sone in Eastern India. Per acre total requirement of BGA and Azolla is given as under:

	(per acre)
i) BGA	4kg.
ii) Azolla	4 tonnes

BGA and Azolla can supplement nearly 30 and 60 kgs. of nitrogenous chemical fertilisers respectively. 10 Kg. BGA which costs Rs. 20 is sufficient for one hectare land and similarly 0.5 tonne Azolla which costs Rs. 40 is enough for application in one hectare field as dual cropping method in rice. Thus, application of BGA and Azolla can save chemical nitrogen worth Rs. 200 and Rs. 400 respectively. Total requirement of BGA and Azolla is estimated to be about 2,52,000 tonnes (in low land) and 16,80,00,000 tonnes (in upland as green manure) respectively.”

The Committee would like to be informed of the total potential taking into account those areas where it is possible to grow these bio-fertilizers. Concrete action plan may also be framed to produce these bio-fertilizers in adequate quantities. The efforts should be made to educate the farmers on the use of new and alternative use of chemical fertilizers.

4.17 The Committee note that the production of Rhizobium and BGA during the year 1992-93 are expected to be far below the targets of 375 tonnes and 600 MT respectively. The Committee is concerned to note wider gap of targets and production. The Committee are of the view that

use of Bio-fertilizer should be increased particularly in view of the fact that Bio-fertilizers conducive to save chemical nitrogen.

4.18 The Committee strongly feel that the steps taken by the Ministry to increase production of Bio-fertilisers may be reviewed and efforts made to narrow down demand and supply gap. The Committee would also like to know about the concrete action plan for producing these bio-fertilizers in adequate quantities.

CHAPTER V

SEEDS

5.1 Timely and adequate availability of seeds to the farmers are the most important factor which contribute in increasing the level of productivity of various crops to the some extent. The Ministry of Agriculture in its Annual Report (1992-93) have shown production position of Breeder and Foundation seeds as also Distribution position of certified/Quality seed.

5.2 Breeder seed is the first stage of the seed production chain which is produced by scientists in the ICAR Institutes and in the Agricultural Universities while Foundation seed is produced from Breeder seed. Certified seed is stated to be progeny of foundation seed. Quality seed is one which meet the same standards as the certified seed but is not directly produced from foundation seed.

5.3 Keeping in view the importance of seed production and distribution, National Seeds Project, were launched. The National Seeds Corporation (NSC) was set up in 1963 for production and distribution of improved seeds and State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) was set up in 1969 to develop modern farms mainly for production of quality seeds. Further, State Seeds Corporation (SSCs) were set up in 13 States under the NSP-I and II.

5.4 Now, National Seeds Project-III has been in operation since March, 1990 with the objective of ensuring timely and adequate availability of certified/quality seeds, working efficiency of the National and State Level Public Sector Seed Corporation to make them economically viable and providing adequate institutional finance to Private Seed Industry.

5.5 53.00 lakh quintals has been proposed as a target for the year 1992-93 for distribution of certified seed only. The Committee note that no such target has been fixed in respect of quality seed. The Committee feel that reasons should be specified in the Annual Report for not fixing targets for quality seeds.

5.6 The Committee have, further, noted that the distribution of certified/quality seed in respect of oilseeds as shown in the table in Annual Report (1992-93) shows that there was not even distribution of seeds during 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92. As a seed supply plan, Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation organise zonal seed conferences for Kharif and Rabi seasons with the State Governments, NSC, SFC, SSCs and other seed producing agencies to discuss the programme for production and distribution of seeds. Further, periodic review of seed availability

in accordance with the supply plan finalised in the zonal conferences, has been introduced to ensure timely availability of seeds. Annual Report states that overall availability position of seed was satisfactory to meet the requirement.

5.7 Viewing in the context of above situation, the Committee all to understand that when seed availability was satisfactory when what were the reasons for uneven distribution of certified/quality seed in respect of oilseeds. Has this happened due to reduction in demand of the seed. The Committee is of the opinion that distribution of seeds in respect of oilseeds should be augmented so as production of edible oil could be increased which would ultimately reduce burden of foreign exchange required for import of edible oil.

5.8 In order to increase the availability of seeds. Annual Report of the Deptt. States that incentives have been provided for the production of certified seeds. In reply to the query that in what form and kind the incentives are provided and whom the incentive are provided, Ministry of Agriculture stated:—

“For increasing the production and availability of certified seeds of high yielding varieties specific to the problem areas, incentives were proposed to be given to States and National Seed producing agencies for additional production of certified seeds. The incentive was Rs. 100 per quintal in case of rice, wheat, maize & millets and Rs 200 per quintal for specific hybrids of maize and millets.”

5.9 The incentives were ‘proposed’. The Committee note that no incentives were given in actual. The Committee find that New Policy on Seed development which is under implementation since October, 1988 envisages incentives to the seed producing/distributing agencies. Therefore, it is evident from the fact that mandate of seed policy is not being fulfilled when incentives are not actually being given. The Committee is of the opinion that there seems to be no rationale to mention in the Annual Report of the things which are not actually materialised. The Committee advice that concrete position should be given in the Annual Report.

Quality Control & Seed Testing

5.10 Quality Control for seeds as envisaged in the Seeds Act, 1988 is carried out under this scheme which has three components i.e. (i) Setting up of National Seed Training Centre (NSTC) (ii) Development of 10 Elite Seed Testing Laboratory and (iii) Secretariat support to the Central Seed Committee (CSC) and Central Seed Certification Board (CSSB).

5.11 For the construction of NSTC, a sum of Rs. 166 lakh has been released to Central Public Works Department, Allahabad for undertaking the construction. When asked about the progress of work, Ministry of Agriculture in its written reply stated:—

“An amount of Rs. 166 lakhs were released to CPWD, Allahabad for construction of NSTC at Varanasi. The Senior Architect prepared the drawing and it was examined by the Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation in the meeting convened under the Chairmanship of Director (NSP). It is expected that the work on drawings are to be expedited by the Senior Architect to the Executive Engineer, CPWD, Allahabad for construction.”

5.12 The Committee note that an amount of Rs. 166 lakhs was released in 1991-92. The Committee are not satisfied with the progress of work since only drawings have been prepared by the Architect during the last one and a half years. The Committee would, therefore, like the work to be expedited and delay should be avoided. Identifying, selecting and producing of good native varieties and their propagation, which have natural disease and pest resistance, less water and chemical fertiliser requirement. Lesser time to mature and higher nutritional value, having good export potential should be made an integral part of Seed Production programme.

BUFFER STOCKING OF SEEDS

5.13 The Committee note that Buffer Stocking Scheme on seeds which was in operation since April, 1978 had been operated as a Central Sector Scheme upto March, 1987 and from 1987 after modification, it was operated as Centrally Sponsored Scheme. To incorporate participation of States SSCs. Further mention has been made that this scheme has been modified and will be operated as a Central Sector Scheme during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Consequent upon the decision of National Development Council Committee, the scheme stands transferred to States being shifted from Central Sector to Centrally Sponsored and now transferred to States. The Committee feel that shifting of scheme time and again will not bear the fruits. The Committee advise that the reasons in brief should be specified in the Annual Report for such shifting.

CHAPTER VI

PLANT PROTECTION

6.1 Plant Protection plays vital role in containing crop losses occurred due to incidence of pests and diseases. The considerable attention is to be paid in order to minimise crop losses. Having experienced ill-effects by the use of traditional chemical pesticides such as pest resistance, pest resurgence and environmental pollution, the focus has been laid on the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

6.2 Integrated Pest Management approach mainly focuses on reduction of ill effects of pesticides. The VIIIth Plan Working Group on Agricultural Chemicals (Sub-Group on Pesticides) has recommended Integrated Pest Management as major thrust area. Popularisation of the approach is being done through 26 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres among farmers and agricultural extension workers which is the main objective of IPM. The following are the activities of IPM:—

- (i) Pest and disease surveillance of major field crops;
- (ii) Bio-control of Pest by release of major parasite and predators, augmentation and conservation of natural enemies; and
- (iii) IPM demonstration and training of SMS and farmers.

6.3 The pest surveillance and monitoring is undertaken well in advance to inform State Departments of Agriculture for timely control of pest and diseases.

6.4 Against the target of 7.5 lakh ha. an area of 9.33 lakh has been covered during 1992-93. The Committee are happy to note that the achievement in Pest surveillance is satisfactory and hope that this trend would continue in future.

6.5 In order to reduce over use of chemical pesticides, conservation and augmentation of Biological Control Agents is essential. In a written note Ministry of Agriculture have stated that under bio-control 1130 million nos. of bio-control agents have been released as against target of 1050 million and 3.32 lakh ha. area has also been covered by way of augmentation and conservation of bio-control agents as against target

area of 2.67 lakh ha. during 1992-93. The physical targets (year-wise) of various activities during VII Plan (1992-93) are as follows:—

Physical Targets (year-wise) of various activities during VIIIth Plan (1992-97)

Activity	Parameter	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	Total
1. Pest Monitoring	Crop area scanned (in lakh ha.)	7.50	6.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	29.00
2. Bio-control	(i) Field releases of bio-control agents (millions nos.)	1050	1200	2000	3000	3000	10250
	(ii) Area coverage (augmentation/conservation lakh ha.)	2.67	3.00	5.50	7.50	7.50	26.17
3. IPM Demonstration	(i) By CIPMC (Nos.)	65	100	225	235	245	870
	(ii) By SAU/KVK	—	131	262	262	262	917
	Total	65	231	487	497	507	1787
4. IPM Training	(i) JD/DD(PP) at National level' by CPPTI	—	50	70	90	110	320
	(ii) State level	—	1220	1420	1420	1420	5480
	(iii) District level	650	4620	9740	9940	10140	35090
	(iv) Farmers	9900	13860	29220	29820	30420	113220

6.6 Demonstration and Training component of the IPM is vital for the dissemination of IPM approach. The Committee have informed that a massive exercise has already been undertaken during 1992-93 to organise 65 IPM demonstration of 40 ha. each (rice) and 10 ha. each (cotton) and trained 650 SMSs and 3250 farmers. Besides, rice and cotton, sugarcane, pulses and oilseed crops have also been taken up for IPM demonstration-cum-training during 1993-94.

6.7 One important factor which need to be kept in mind is that use of hazardous pesticides is to be stopped strictly. On being asked whether adverse effects were noticed particularly on vegetables, milk, foodgrains by the use of hazardous pesticides, the Ministry of Agriculture in their written reply stated:—

“The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 has so far banned 12 pesticides and restricted the use of 13 pesticides.”

Further as to the query that how implementation of banned pesticides is ensured, the Ministry stated:—

“The Registration Certificates for import and manufacture and the manufacturing licences are cancelled in respect of the pesticides which are banned in the country through a Gazette Notification. Further, the State

authorities ensure that the banned pesticides are not manufactured and sold in the Market.”

6.8 The Committee are of the opinion that emphasis should be laid on the plant origin pesticides as plant origin are comparatively cheaper and at the same time safer for use by the users than the chemical pesticides. Mass educational programmes through news papers and other media on biological control and making these controlling agents in adequate quantities according to the agro-climatic and crop requirement should be done.

CHAPTER VII

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY

7.1 Improved and modern Agricultural Implements and Machinery are conducive towards making the utilization of sources of farm power to the optimum level. Considering this aspect, continuous efforts are to be made to improve farm machinery and implements and particular attention have to be paid in ensuring the availability and easy access to the farmers of modern and improved implements.

7.2 Annual Report (1992-93) of the Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation indicates that programmes have been directed towards selective mechanisation with an aim to utilise available sources of farm power. Moving in this direction, fuel efficiency of tractors have been improved and focus is towards development of matching implements for tractors and other equipments.

7.3 Mention has been made in the Annual Report of Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute at Budni (MP), Hissar (Haryana), Garladinne (A.P.) and Biswarath Chariali (Assam) which impart training of farm machinery and also undertake testing of farm machinery. The approach of modernisation of Agriculture through increased use of implements and machinery for seedbed preparation, seeding, planting, harvesting and threshing operation has been adopted for the Eighth Five Plan, Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes are to be set up in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

7.4 About the progress in respect of establishment of Farm Machinery and Testing Institutes, the Ministry of Agriculture in their written reply stated:—

“The proposals for setting up of Regional Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes in the States of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are under process of approval and both the work for actual setting up of Institutes is expected to start during 1993-94. The site in Rajasthan State has been finalised and selection of site in Tamil Nadu State is in process.”

7.5 On the overall progress of agricultural mechanisation, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, during the course of evidence stated:—

“A beginning in farm mechanisation in our country was made in late sixties or early seventies and since then we have come a long way. Today we are self-sufficient in tractors. We annually produce about 1,50,000 tractors, about 9,000 power tillers, a large number of

thrashers and harvester combines, etc. The Indian agriculture is now at a threshold where new type of agricultural machinery is needed, both for the mechanised sector as well as for the small farmers which have bullock-drawn implements or hand-operated implements."

7.6 He further stated that further progress would be stepped up for agricultural mechanisation during Eighth Five Year Plan by using the Agricultural University of the respective states as the medium and they would develop the prototypes which would meet the needs of the farmers of that particular state. In order to make mechanisation programme successful, representative of the Ministry stated:—

"Another decision which we have taken is that we are going to provide financial assistance to the State Agricultural Universities and also to the the Directorates of Agriculture. If they feel that there is suitable machinery which is available in other countries but is not available in our country and if they need to import a few samples, they can do so, put those to extensive tests and then introduce those."

7.7 When asked about the Bhopal Engineering Institute which is also engaged in developing argicultural implements and equipments, he stated:

"For the animal drawn implements, our ICAR has a unit at Bhopal which designs agricultural machinery both power drawn and also animal drawn and that Institute has done very good work as far as designing of implements is concerned. But, may be the message has not gone to all the farmers and we can take steps to ensure that the machinery which has been designed by that Institute is produced and, made available to all the areas."

7.8 The Committee is of the view that neither publicity has been given to the implements developed by the Bhopal Institutes nor their utilization has been seen in vogue. The entire thing has been left on the states and no efforts have been made on the part of Central Govt. for their popularisation. The Committee feel that implements developed by Bhopal Institutes should be popularised and all efforts should be made by the Central Govt. in this regard. As a measure to popularise them, listing of the implements should be done by the Ministry of Agriculture so as these implements reach to the farmers.

7.9 The Committee, further, hope that proposals for setting up the institutes in Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu would be cleared early and the work for the setting up of the Institutes would be stepped up. The Committee, further, suggest that it should be ensured that the benefit of

training imparted in these Institutes reach to the farmers and desired goals are achieved.

Agro Industries Corporation

7.10 The information furnished in the Annual Report with respect to Agro-Industries Corporation does not give any idea about the objective, practical functioning of the Corporations and the role of the Central Government. No purpose can be served if little information is shared with the Parliament since the purpose of placing of Annual Report before Parliament is to place an account of activities before the Parliament.

7.11 In the light of above, the Committee wanted to know that how many States have got State Agro-Industries Corporation and what is the final and operational composition of these Corporations, State-wise. In their written reply, Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation) stated:

“There are 17 States in which State Agro-Industries Corporations have been established with Central assistance. The total share capital contribution in the State Agro-Industries Corporations is Rs. 31.55 crores. The Government of India's share in each of these Corporations may please be seen in Annexure-I. At the request of the State Governments, the National Development Council decided that with effect from 1.4.1979, the scheme of equity contribution to State Agro-Industries Corporations would be entirely transferred to the State Sector. India's contribution to the share capital has, therefore, been stopped with effect from 1979.”

7.12 The position as shown in Annexure I clearly indicates that most of the Agro-Industries Corporations are running into losses. The Committee find that no efforts have been made by the Central Ministry to improve the situation. The Committee are of the opinion that Central Government should give guidelines and directions to Agro-Industries from time to time and find out ways and means to improve them.

CHAPTER VIII

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

8.1 Land degradation has been a major problem and is one of the most urgent challenges that requires immediate attention to tackle it. From the inception of First Five Year Plan, formulation, implementation and monitoring of soil and water conservation programmes have been the responsibility of the Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation. The objectives of the various soil and water conservation programmes are stated to be prevention of land degradation, Reclamation of special problem areas and improvement of productivity, Building up of sound data base, Management of Land Resources and Human Resources development for soil and water conservation which are to be achieved by way of project approach for the treatment of catchments, integrated sectoral measures for comprehensive watershed development, emphasis on low cost vegetative measures, survey and investigate the problem areas by application of updated knowledge of Remote Sensing Technique.

SOIL CONSERVATION IN THE CATCHMENTS OF RIVER VALLEY PROJECTS (RVPs) AND INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN THE CATCHMENT OF FLOOD PRONE RIVERS (FPRs)

8.2 Controlling the premature siltation of multi-catchment areas has been the aim of the RVPs which is carried out through contour/graded bunding, construction of water harvesting, structures, drainage line treatment plantations and afforestation and reducing peak rate of run-off by increasing in-situ conservation of water and ground water recharge by increasing the time of concentration which helps in reducing flood hazards of FPRs.

8.3 Treatment mesures have been re-oriented and new guidelines have been formulated and issued in which focus has been given on low cost vegetative measures and active involvement of beneficiaries in planning, implementation and monitoring of the programme. Following are the reasons for issuing revised guidelines:

- (i) To reduce per Ha. cost of treatment
- (ii) To reduce the excessive emphasis on engineering structure to the exchange of vegetative treatment.
- (iii) Lack of integrated approach for treatment.
- (iv) Lack of project approach.

8.4 The Committee note that old guidelines had clearly mentioned for integrated land utilization programme, their planning and immediate

implementation within reasonable time frame of 3.5 years, small size watersheds of a notional size of 1000-2000 hectares would be practical and more convenient and emphasis was on mixed cropping pattern to improve soil moisture as water conservation measure as also the active participation of the local people, voluntary organisations and panchay bodies.

8.5 As regards the progress of RVPs and FPRs, the Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation) in their written reply stated:

“Under RVP only about 14.6% of the treatable area has been treated and under FPR only about 10.3% of the treatable area has been treated”. Lack of financial resource has been stated to be a constraint. State-wise & Catchment-wise information on total area, priority Area and area treated upto 1991-92 in RVP & FPR Catchments is at Annexure II and List of Catchment under RVP & FPR Schemes is at Annexure III.

8.6 The Committee find progress unsatisfactory keeping in view that this problem has been on the agenda of the Ministry Since Third and Sixth Five Year Plan and only 14.6% area has been treated. The Committee feel that if old guidelines were implemented in letter and spirit, no doubt progress would have been much more. The Committee also note new guidelines and improvement on the earlier guidelines as it involves beneficiaries and emphasize on low cost vegetative measures.

8.7 The Committee note that involvement of voluntary organisations and local people were given importance in the old guidelines which continues even after issuance of new guidelines. When asked about the involvement of NGOs and financial assistance to them, the Ministry in a written note stated:

“No financial assistance has been given to the NGOs for implementation of RVP and FPR programmes. However, new guidelines envisage their involvement in mobilising the community at grassroot level for participation in RVP and FPR project.”

8.8 The Committee feel that important aspect of incentives to NGOs who show tremendous success in the implementation of those projects should be looked into. Unless NGOs are provided some kind of assistance, their active participation would not be ensured wholeheartedly. Mere organising seminar for NGOs would not be enough.

8.9 The Committee are of the opinion that new guidelines should be followed strictly and financial assistance should be provided to the NGOs so as to ensure their active involvement in these programmes to accelerate the progress. The Committee, further, feel that fund allocation for these programmes should be increased since slow progress of these programmes is to the some extent due to financial resource constraints.

8.10 Unless concrete data are available, sound planning and effective management of soil and water conservation as also land use can not be undertaken.

8.11 All India Soil and Land use survey is engaged in providing sound data base for land based activities. The organisation, among other activities, undertakes three kinds of surveys: (a) Priority Delineation Survey, (b) Detailed Soil Survey, and (c) Sample Soil Survey. The objectives of these surveys are as follows:

- (i) Priority Delineation Survey identify and demarcates the vulnerable area to undertake soil and water conservation measures in order to reduce the sediment level in the Dams/reservoirs.
- (ii) Detailed Soil Survey undertakes mapping of the soil in detail with respect to morphological and physio-chemical characteristics of soil in order to prepare watershed management and agriculture development plan.
- (iii) Sample Soil Survey generates statistical data based on soil and land use on district basis. On being asked the actual meaning and implementation of these surveys, Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation) furnished the following information:

Type of Survey	Meaning	Implementation
1. Priority delineation survey	It deals with the prioritisation of sub-watersheds in the RVP/ FPR catchments on the basis of sediment yield/run off potential index.	To take up the very high and high priority sub watersheds for catchment area treatment in a phased manner.
2. Detailed soil survey	1000 deals with the detailed mapping of soils with 1:10/15, scale base map or Cerial photographs with one observation per 4 ha. The level of soil mapping is phases of soil series.	The reports and maps generated under detailed soil survey are required for Soil and Water Conservation Planning, Watershed Management Programme and land based programme for Agricultural Development.
3. Sample Soil Survey	It deals with the Soil Survey of 2% area of the Distt. by random by selecting the blocks of 64 ha following stratification random sampling approach.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Preparation of Land Resources Inventory ii) Formulation of development programme at Distt. level. iii) Creation of statistical data base District-wise.

8.12 The Committee find map showing areas covered by different intensities of soil survey under the All India Soil & Land use survey as shown in the Annual Report (1992-93) old one. In reply to the query that what are the reasons for showing old map, Ministry of Agriculture in their written reply stated:

“Efforts are being made to update the old maps by super imposing the district boundary of the new districts of various states. The lacuna in providing updated maps is regretted.”

8.13 The Committee note that Annual Report of the Ministry indicates that AIS & LUS is primarily engaged in conducting soil surveys in order to provide sound data base for land based activities and that about 60 field parties continued survey work during the year under report. But the reply of the Ministry is contradictory as nowhere in the Annual Report it has been mentioned that efforts are being made to update the old maps. The Committee view such mistakes seriously because Annual Report is an index of the activities of the Ministry undertaken in a year which are placed before Parliament. The Committee is of the opinion that if updated information is not furnished, reasons should be recorded in the Annual Report since the linkage of surveys is direct with the formulation of planning in respect of Land use management and soil & water conservation programmes.

8.14 Mention has been made of the task of preparation of Perspective Plan (PP) on land resources, conservation, development and management for the country in the Annual Report. On being asked about the progress in this regard, the Committee came to know that the preparation of PP was initiated on the decision of National Land Use & Conservation Board in 1986 and entrusted to Institute/Consultant of repute of Zonal basis during 1987-88. A National Consultation on finalization of PP for country's land resources was organized during October, 1991 in which Project Coordinators of all six zones presented their Report and representatives of various line Deptt. from states and Central Ministries attended the consultation. The Consultation recommended that the similar of consultation may also be organised at State Level and the draft Zonal PP may be reformulated by the Project Coordination in the light of the recommendation of National as well as State level consultation. Modified draft of the one Zonal PP has been received so far and remaining 5 are expected by the end of financial year. It has further been stated that once the PP for 6 zones are brought out, it is proposed to integrate them into a National PP and tie up with funding for implementation through Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

8.15 The Committee find that there is tremendous delay in finalising Perspective Plan. Even after 7 years since the first initiative was taken in 1986 in this direction, it is still difficult to ascertain that when the Plan would be finalised. The Committee are of the opinion that vigorous efforts should be made to expedite the work.

CHAPTER IX

HORTICULTURE

9.1 Horticulture has been accorded priority during Eighth Five Year Plan since Horticulture is not only labour intensive, provides protective diet, improves environment, checks soil erosion in hilly tracts and increases industrial avertones but also earn foreign exchange.

9.2 The Ministry of Agriculture has been undertaking various programmes to augment Horticultural production which have been indicated in their Annual Report (1992-93). No doubt, India is second largest producers of fruits and vegetables in world after Brazil and China, yet there has been regional imbalances in the field of Horticulture Development. Asked about the regional imbalances, the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation) stated:—

“Horticulture received lower priority in the previous Plan where we had only Rs. 24 crores as Plan outlay which was spent. In the Eighth Plan, with the intervention of people, Ministers, the Governments and the Planning Commission, we got Rs. 1000 crores which gave a major boost to developmental programmes. This is in addition to about Rs. 1.20 crores given to research which is with another department. You talked about the possibility of regional imbalance. That was a problem when we had smaller amount of money of Rs. 24 crores which we had to distribute over a large number of crops and naturally, where there was concentration, of a particular crop those areas got the maximum money. But this time, with Rs. 1000 crores outlay, we have taken a few major steps by which the outlay, to the extent possible, is allotted uniformly because all State and UTs are growing one or the other essential horticulture crops.”

9.3 The Ministry has admitted that regional imbalance was due to Law Ministry given to Horticulture during previous plan. Now with increased allocation, they have been taking special programmes. Taking major steps for the Horticulture development, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture stated:—

“We are investing huge amount on crops like cashewnut, pepper, cardamom and of areas is taken growing coconuts. Other crops include fruits and vegetables. All the seven States of the north-eastern region are going to receive a good share of the outlay. Apart from this, We have taken major steps of getting into non-traditional areas. Therefore, coconut and cashewnut will be given a major boost in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tripura, Assam and a large portion of West Bengal.”

9.4 The strategy is to develop horticultural crops into non-traditional areas. Cashewnut and Coconut are being given a boost in Eighth Plan.

Cashew

9.5 The Committee have been given to understand that the production of cashew for the year 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 was 3.05, 3.05 and 3.49 lac metric tonnes. Respectively the total processing capacity was 690 units during 1991-92. The indigenous raw cashewnut is not sufficient to meet the installed capacity of processing units. Against a demand of 5.3 lac metric tonnes, the indigenous production is only around 3.50 lac metric tonnes at the end of 1992-93. Rawnuts are imported. The import of raw cashewnuts during the past three years is as follows:—

1990-91	72506	M.T.
1991-92	71419	M.T.
1992-93	136000	M.T.

9.6 Above figures show that import of raw cashewnuts is on the increase which certainly consumes foreign exchange. Therefore, there is need to accelerate cashew production in order to reduce burden on foreign exchange reserve. Following programmes are being contemplated for 8th Five Year Plan:—

Central Sector Integrated Development Programmes of cashew for Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97)

<i>Programmes</i>	<i>Physical target</i>
(1) Programme for development of new plantations with clones conforming to export qualities (ha)	40,000
(2) Programme for replanting of old uneconomical and unthrifty cashew gardens with clones of export quality varieties (ha)	10,000
(3) Programme for intensive care for cashew (ha)	
(a) Adoption of comprehensive production technologies for cashew	25,000
(b) Adoption of comprehensive post control measures on cashew in private and small farmers.	1,00,000

<i>Programmes</i>	<i>Physical target</i>
(4) <i>Programme for generation of planting materials—Establishment of regional nurseries (nos.)</i>	40 (80 ha)

By executing the above programmes, the anticipated production as at the end of 8th Five Year Plan is expected as 4.40 lakh M.T. of rawnuts.

9.7 *The Committee note that even after executing above programmes the total production would be 4.40 M.T. at the end of Eighth Plan while current demand is of the order of 5.3 lakh M.T. which shows that there would be wide gap between demand and supply of raw cashewnuts. Keeping in view this factor, the Committee are of the view that more emphasis should be given to the reduction of cashew and if need be allocation could be increased.*

Coconut

9.8 Copra and coconut oil are the traditional productions of coconut. Decicated cocnut is more or less a recent product manufactured in India. Recently technology has been developed indigenously for the manufacture of coconut cream. Coconut shell powder, coconut shell charcoal, activated carbon from coconut shell charcoal are the main products from coconut shell.

9.9 Importance of the coconut is due to its very useful by-products as also it provides livelihood to the people. Increasing coconut production is essential particularly because its increasing demand.

9.10 In order to strengthen coconut Industry, Coconut Development Board was established with the following mandate:—

- (a) Adoption of measures for the development of coconut industry.
- (b) Imparting technical advice on coconut cultivation and processing and marketing.
- (c) Providing financial and other assistance for the development of high-yielding coconut hybrids, adoption of improved methods of cultivation, modern technology for processing and extension of area under the crop.
- (d) Adopting measures to assist the farmers to get remunerative prices.
- (e) Recommending measures for regulating import and export of coconut and its products.
- (f) Collection of statistics, fixing of grades, specification and standard for coconut and its products.
- (g) Financing schemes in consultation with the Central Government and State Governments for increasing production, improve the quality and yield of coconut.
- (h) Assisting, encouraging, promoting and financing agricultural technological, industrial or economic research.

- (i) Undertake extension and publicity activities. The various development programmes envisaged and implemented by the Board are aimed at fulfilling the above mandate.

9.11 The Committee note that an area of 5000 ha. would be covered during 1992-93 under area expansion programmes in 14 States & 2 Union Territories. Further, a scheme for the biological control of coconut leaf eating caterpillar is being implemented in the States of Orissa and Karnataka. The Committee is happy to note that a coconut extration & purification plant has been set up at the Head Quarters of the Board and marketing of multifiltered oil in consumer packs is continued.

9.12 The Committee is of the opinion that biological control scheme should be implemented in other States also and the close monitoring should be done in expansion programme to ensure that coconut production is stepped up.

Cardamom

9.13 In India, two varieties of cardamoms are grown namely, Large Cardamom and Small Cardamom. The former type is commercially grown in Sikkim and Darjeeling District of West Bengal and the later in the Hills of Western Ghats of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The total area under Large Cardamom is estimated at 26300 hectares (23900 ha. in Sikkim and 2400 ha. in Darjeeling Districts). The total area under Small Cardamom in the country is estimated at 81845 ha; of which 4370 ha. are in Kerala, 6123 ha. in Tamil Nadu and the remaining 32502 ha. in Karnataka State.

9.14 The total production of cardamom estimates for the last five years are as follows:—

Qty. in M.T.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Large Cardamom</i>	<i>Small Cardamom</i>
1988-89	3970	4250
1989-90	3200	3100
1990-91	4400	4750
1991-92	3400	5000
1992-93	3550	4050*

*Final field estimates

9.15 In order to improve the quality of the Cardamom, the Committee was given to understand that "Flue Pipe" system of curing was introduced which was in operation from 1984-85 to 1990-91. Under the scheme growers has been assisted in setting up curing houses.

9.16 The Committee note that the scheme was operational from 1984-85 to 1990-91. The scheme remained in operation for 7 years. The Committee are unaware that what happened to this scheme after, 1991.

Whether it has been discontinued and what impact would be on the processing of Cardamom should have been analysed by the Ministry and alternative means be devised if Flue Pipe system has become outdated. Further, Committee feel that production of Large Cardamom should be increased since it is commercial crop and suitable schemes formulated in this direction.

9.17 One of the constraints that has been felt in the development of Horticulture is availability of plant material. On being asked whether any plan to meet the shortages have been made, the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture during evidence stated:—

“For area expansion, first and the foremost concern is planting material which is a constraint and if we are able to remove that we would have won 50 per cent of the battle. Irrespective of the crop the first thing is the multiplication of the planting material. We have worked out the requirement of individual group of crops. Up to the end of 8th Five Year Plan we would provide assistance for production of 20-30 per cent of the planting material. This time, for the first time in the history, we have also provided assistance for establishing nursery in the private sector. In each horticulture district we are advising the State Governments to locate one unemployed skilled youth who has 5-20 acre land and we are providing him some assistance to establish a nursery.”

9.18 Further, when asked whether there is any plan to establish tissue culture labs to meet the demand in a time-frame manner, he said:—

“Tissue culture has now been taken in a big way in our developmental programme. It has been confined to two major commodities; fruit and floriculture. In fruits we are giving one tissue culture unit in each State. We are also providing one unit to an entrepreneur. Tissue culture technology is not available for all the fruit crops. There are 22 tissue culture units established in the country. All of them are export oriented unit. As far as fruits are concerned, we have this technology available in case of banana, citrus and papaya. ICAR has taken up project for development of protocols for other major fruits.”

9.19 The Ministry of Agriculture stated that “125 million plants are required for fruits only. We will not be able to meet it in the 8th Plan. But for the time being, we are trying to fill up the gap.

9.20 The Committee are of the view that lack of plant material would definitely slow down the development of Horticulture and the benefit of increased allocation may not be reaped unless adequate plant material is made available. The Committee, therefore, feel that increasing plant material should be accorded first priority within the Horticulture developmental programmes and schemes to evaluate the potential of yield for fruit should be formulated with reference to the agro climatic suitability and planned area coverage in a targeted manners.

CHAPTER X FISHERIES

10.1 Fish production plays key role in the economy which is evident from the fact that export of marine products has increased from 3.92 crore in 1960-61 to 1375.00 crore in 1991-92. Since Fish production is vital, the Govt. of India has been undertaking various production oriented programmes which are supplemented by input supply and infrastructure development programme.

10.2 The Annual Report (1992-93) shows that total Water area under intensive fish culture so far is 3.66 lakh ha. and the total fish production during 1992-93 is expected 43 lakh tonnes. In reply to the query what is total potential and land available for fish cultivation and marine products, the Ministry of Agriculture supplies the following information:—

Marine Fishery Resources

(i) Length of coastal line	8085 kms.
(ii) Continental shelf	5.12 lakh sq.km.
(iii) Exclusive Econ. Zone (EEZ)	20.20 -do -
(iv) Estimated potential yield	39 lakh tonne

Inland Fishery Resources

(i) Rivers and Canals	1.64 lakh kms.
(ii) Reservoirs	19.73 lakh ha.
(iii) Tanks and Ponds	22.12 lakh ha.
(iv) Beels, Ox-bow lakes, derelict water bodies etc.	12.96 lakh ha.
(v) Brakishwater area	14.12 lakh ha.
(vi) Estimated annual production potential i.e. if all the possible areas are used for fish culture.	45 lakh tonnes.

10.3 Estimated potential yield in respect of Marine Fishery has been stated to 39 lakh tonnes while Estimated annual production potential for Inland Fishery arrives at 45 lakh tonnes. The Committee note that production of marine and Inland fish is 24.47 and 17.10 lakh tonnes respectively during 1991-92. The Committee feel that much of the potential area is yet to be tapped. The Committee are of the opinion that emphasis should be laid on tapping this vast potential in order to increase fish production which will ultimately increase our export capacity. Further, coastal land should be made available to traditional fisherman and processing units should be installed near that areas.

10.4 Mention has been made in the chapter-highlight (Annual Report) of a new centrally sponsored scheme viz. 'Infrastructure for Inland Fish Marketing, under which assistance is provided to the State Govt. for old storages, ice plants fish handling sheds, retail marketing outlets etc. besides providing insulated vans for transportation of fish and bicycles with insulated boxes for facilitating the retail trade. But, Committee do not find any details about this scheme in the chapter covering Fisheries. Therefore, Committee are not aware about the physical targets, achievement and actual progress of the scheme. The Committee feel that this lacuna should be rectified.

10.5 Under the welfare activity programmed for fishermen, highlight chapter of the Annual Report indicates that about 8.5 lakh active fishermen were insured while in the Fisheries chapter, it has been stated that 8.50 lakh active fishermen are expected to be insured during 1992-93. When asked, how many fishermen are yet to be insured, Ministry of Agriculture in a written note stated:—

“There are about 8 lakh active marine fishermen of whom about 7 lakh are insured while out of the 22.8 lakh inland active fishermen only less than 2 lakh are insured.

10.6 The Committee find that in one place just active fishermen, while in another place active fishermen under the programme for traditional fishermen have been mentioned. Further in written note active marine fishermen and inland active fishermen have been mentioned. The Committee is still confused to find out that how many fishermen have been insured and how many are still to be insured. The facts should be brought out in the Annual Report that there are so many marine fishermen and inland fishermen, so many has been insured and so many are yet to be insured so as to make transparency of the facts.

CHAPTER XI COOPERATION

11.1 Cooperative movement in India has taken a long stride in so far it is engaged in distribution of agricultural credit, supply of inputs, marketing of farmers' produce, providing storage facilities agro-processing etc. The achievement of cooperatives are tremendous and keeping in view its key role, it is imperative that much more attention is to be paid for its development.

11.2 It has been observed that cooperative movement in some parts of the country is very successful while in other parts it is a neglected area. The Committee have been given to understand that "Cooperation" comes within the purview of the business to be handled by the States. Therefore, Cooperatives are managed by the State Governments as per the provisions of the respective State Cooperative Societies Act. Since, States have enacted their own Cooperative acts, many restrictive provisions are found in State Acts thereby impeding the development of Cooperative movement. Keeping this in view many committees were set up in the past to analyse various cooperative laws such as Committee on Cooperative Administration (1963). Mirdha Committee on Cooperation (1965). Working Group on Cooperation of Administrative Reforms Commission (1967).

11.3 When asked whether there is a model act to hold election in cooperative societies, Ministry of Agriculture in their written note stated:—

"The State Governments have enacted their own Cooperative Societies Acts. However, Choudhary Brahm Prakash Committee appointed by the Planning Commission has recommended a model Act, recommending, *inter-alia*, for regular elections. The report has been sent to State Govts./U.T. Administration for amending their state acts on the lines of the Model Act. The State Governments have to take final view in this regard."

11.4 The Choudhary Brahm Prakash Committee found in its analysis the various provisions concerning cooperative laws of restrictive nature which are as follows:—

- i) Compulsory Amendment of Bye-laws by the Registrar.
- ii) The Power of Govt. to nominate directors on the Committee of Management.
- iii) Powers of Govt. to veto Annual/Rescind Resolutions.
- iv) Powers of Registrar/State Govt. to give directives.

- v) Supersession/suspension of Committee of Management.
- vi) Automatic supersession of the Committee of Management of Cooperative Credit Societies.
- vii) Restriction on term of office of bearers of Cooperative societies.
- viii) Restriction on Holding Office in a number of cooperatives simultaneously.
- ix) Compulsory amalgamation & division of societies by the Registrar.

11.5 In its Annual Report (1992-93), revitalising cooperatives and making members more active in participation in the Management of Cooperatives have been stated one of the strategies for cooperative development. The Committee feel that there are practical difficulties in materialising the strategy because final view in the cooperative laws have to be taken by the State Government since Cooperat is a State subject.

11.6 The Committee are of the opinion that continuous efforts should be made on the part of Central Govt. to prevail upon State Govts. so as they amend their Cooperative laws on the lines of the Model Act.

11.7 Further, it has come to the light that in 1982, Parliament had made small attempt by exempting cooperatives with fewer than 10 employees from the provisions of the Industrial Dispute Act so as functioning of farmer-owned Cooperatives could be strengthened. But the amendment to Industrial Disputes Act has been notified so far even after more than 10 years have elapsed. Thus, the very purpose with which the legislation was framed has been defeated. The Committee take this seriously and are of the opinion that the amendment be notified without fail so as the strategy for the cooperative development could be successful.

11.8 Sugarcane is the most versatile Bio-mass production as it generates so many edible and natural products and by-products. The fact is that only slightly more than 50 per cent of India's sugarcane production is crushed by sugar mills. Rest goes to Khandsari units where recovery is about 40 per cent lower and they are incapable of utilising the valueable by-products of sugarcane like Begas and Molasses. There is also a very-serious regional imbalance as Maharashtra crushes almost 100 per cent of its sugarcane while U.P. which is the biggest producer of sugarcane, crushes only 31.5 per cent.

11.9 The Committee have been informed that application for the grant of letter of intent/industrial licences for establishment of new sugar

factories as also effecting substantial expansion in the existing units is under examination by the Government.

11.10 The Committee are of the view that new sugar factories should be established in the areas where sugarcane crushing capacity is very low in order to strike regional balance. Further Committee feel that establishment of new sugar factories and expansion of existing units should be expedited.

11.11 The Committee have also observed that generally farmers are under compulsion to sell their sugarcane to the Cooperative Societies for which a particular area have been delineated. The Committee have been given to understand that distribution and movement of sugarcane is regulated under Clause 6 of the Sugarcane Control Order 1966.

11.12 The Committee are of the opinion that farmers may not be made under compulsion to sell their sugarcane to particular Cooperative Society, it is imperative that sugarcane control order should be modified and made explicit by specifying that farmers on their own option can sell sugarcane either to the sugar factory as notified or to cooperative society so as interest of farmers is safeguarded.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) is an ambitious project which has been accorded priority during Eighth Five Year Plan. The Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation) during the course of evidence has admitted that some of the states have not done much progress even after providing them fund, training and necessary guidelines. The Committee regret to note that expected progress has not been achieved due to lack of concentrated efforts on the part of some of the states. The Committee therefore, recommend that particular emphasis should be given towards the states found to be slow in the progress of project and reasons should be asked from them as to what are the hurdles that are coming in their ways in implementing this project. Efforts should be made to iron-out their problems and in case it is felt that even after continuous pursuance of the Central Govt, no progress is achieved by the states, the same should be highlighted in the Annual Report of the Deptt. concerning specific states. The Committee also recommend that in order to avoid thin spread of resources it would be better if the watersheds are made contiguous so as to bring about cumulative effect.

2. The Committee are happy to note that a thinking is underway to prepare a 25 year perspective plan for the development of rainfed areas and hope that the plan will be prepared within a period of six months to one year. The Committee is of the view that a substantial amount would be required for the development of watershed areas. Considering that the NWDPR has been accorded the highest, priority, the Committee is of the opinion that the present allocation of Rs. 1100 crores is not realistic. The Committee is of the view that the plan allocation for five year plan should be approximately to the tune of 15,000 crores which is more realistic. Besides that, the Committee also feel that the ongoing rural development schemes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana should be tied up with the NWDPR.

3. 1849 Composite/kisan and Govt. nurseries have been established under NWDPR for producing planting material. The Committee are in the dark in respect of planned capacity, number of plants supplied and the population of surviving plants from the nurseries. The Committee are not satisfied with the reply from the Deptt. that local watershed development committees in consultation with the beneficiaries of the watersheds decide upon the type and quantity of planting material to be developed in the nurseries. The Committee, therefore, recommend that some estimation or assessment should be done so as to judge both the requirement of more nurseries to be set up in future and the requirement of planting material

because just mentioning about the establishment of nurseries do not serve the purpose.

4. Under the OPP, distribution of seed minikits is undertaken to popularise new improved varieties and distribution of seeds is ensured through retail outlets which are generally run by the State Deptts. of agriculture/Growfed/Market/Agros. The Committee observe that there is no equal distribution of retail outlets as a result strategy to popularise new improved varieties and opening additional retail outlets in remote areas has not been successful. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Central Govt. could open its own retail outlets in those areas and States where the need of such retail outlets are felt to be necessary and particularly where State Govts. have not opened their outlets as a measure to increase oilseed production.

5. NDDB and NAFED are engaged in the procurement of oilseeds and oils with the difference that NAFED procures oilseeds in the event of fall in prices below support prices to prevent distress sale whereas NDDB procures at prevailing prices to provide remunerative prices. The Committee find the existing set up as overlapping one. The Committee recommend that present set up should be reviewed in order to ensure that oilseed growers are not affected due to multiplicity of procuring agencies and whole work concerning oilseed and edible oil should be assigned to a single agency which could be able to manage the whole affair in a better manner.

6. For oil palm cultivation an area of 80,000 ha. has to be developed during Eighth Five Year Plan. The total number of nurseries established so are 14 and the total domestic production of oil palm seedlings is only 4 lakh. Since there is limited domestic availability, 15 million oil palm seedlings are required to be imported during Eighth Plan. The Committee recommend that focus should be on adequate seed availability of oil palm seeds so as an area of 80,000 could be developed well in time during Eighth Five Year plan keeping in view highest yielding capacity of oil palm which would no doubt, ultimately, augment supply of indigenous edible oil.

7. Lesser coverage of area due to unfavourable weather condition in the major pulses growing states has been the cause for the slow production of pulses during 1991-92. The Committee observe that weather condition remains erratic and uncertain which may affect pulse production in future also. The Committee recommend that National Production Programme Pulses, the objective of which is to increase production of pulses through adoption of location specific varieties and improved technology with particular emphasis on increasing the area through multiple and inter-cropping as also increasing yield per unit of area should be given utmost attention and technology developed and harnessed so far should be utilised fully and properly. Further, alternative measures should be devised and technology improved in order to tackle situation arising out of unfavourable weather condition.

8. The Committee is happy to note that the scheme which was taken up during 1992-93 in order to make fertiliser available to the farmers at reduced cost has now been continued this year also. However, Committee regret to note that another scheme for the Benefit of Small and Marginal farmers for the development of infrastructure which is likely to increase the consumption of phosphatic/potassic fertiliser is still pending the approval. The Committee observe that the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture has admitted during the course of evidence that fertiliser has become expensive and in regard to potassic fertilizer total dependence is on foreign supplies. In such a situation if the approval to this scheme is delayed or the scheme is itself discontinued the consumption of phosphatic/potassic fertiliser would be affected badly and the infrastructure already created after expending Rs. 365 crores in the scheme will become infructuous. The Committee strongly recommend that the approval to the scheme should be given forthwith in order to safeguard the interest of farmers.

9. The Committee note that continuous mono-cropping pattern is causing depletion of micro-nutrients in the soils which are ultimately responsible for slowing down the Agriculture production. The Committee recommend that depleting trend of micro-nutrients should be contained and efforts made to change the cropping pattern.

The Committee would also like to stress that use of Bio-fertilizer should be increased particularly in view of the fact that bio-fertilizers are conducive to save chemical nitrogen. Further, there is wide gap between demand and supply of bio-fertilizers. The Committee strongly recommend that the steps taken to increase production of Bio-fertilizers should be reviewed and efforts made to narrow down demand and supply gap. The Committee would also like to know the concrete action plan for producing these bio-fertilizers in adequate quantities as also the total potential taking into account those areas where it is possible to grow these bio-fertilizers.

10. The target for the distribution of certified seed has been fixed for the year 1992-93 only but no such target has been fixed in respect of quality seed. The Committee do not find any reason mentioned in the Annual Report for fixing the target. The Committee recommend that reasons should be mentioned in the Annual Report for not fixing targets in order to have first hand knowledge about the subject. Further, distribution of seed in respect of oilseeds has not been even for the last 4-5 years despite the fact the overall availability position of seed was satisfactory to meet the requirement. The Committee recommend that distribution of seed for oilseeds should be augmented so as production of edible oil could be increased which would ultimately reduce burden of foreign exchange required for import of edible oil.

Identifying, selecting and producing of good native varieties and their propagation, which have natural disease and pest resistance, less water and chemical fertiliser requirement, lesser time to mature and higher nutritional

value, having good export potential should be made an integral part of seed production programme.

11. New Policy on seed development as also Annual Report (1992-93) envisage incentives to the seed producing/distributing agencies. However, Ministry of Agriculture in their written reply stated that incentives were 'proposed' to be given for increasing the production and availability of certified seeds of high yielding varieties specific to the problem areas. The Committee is unaware whether incentives have actually been given or it were merely proposed as replied by the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, recommend that concrete position should be specified in the Annual Report in this regard.

The Committee also note that for the construction of NSTC at Varanasi fund was released in 1991-92 but only drawings have been prepared by the Architect so far. The Committee is unhappy to note the slow progress of work. The Committee would, therefore, like the work to be expedited and delay be avoided.

12. Buffer stocking scheme on seeds was operated as a Central Sector scheme upto 1987 and thereafter as Centrally sponsored scheme. But Annual Report stated that with some modification, the scheme will be operated as a Central Sector Scheme during the Eighth Five year Plan. Further it has been stated that consequent upon the decision of National Development Council Committee, the scheme stands transferred to states. The Committee observe that shifting of scheme time and again will not bear fruits. The Committee therefore recommend that efforts should be made to make the schemes stable and if shifting is felt necessary reasons in brief should be recorded in the Annual Report.

13. The Committee recommend that emphasis should be laid on the plant origin pesticides as plant origin pesticides are comparatively cheaper and at the same time safer for use by the users than the chemical pesticides. Mass educational programmes through newspapers and other media on biological control and making these controlling agents in adequate quantities according to the agro climatic zones and crop requirement should be done.

14. The Committee have observed that due publicity has not been given to the agricultural implements developed by the Bhopal Engineering Institute as a result farmers have been deprived of the benefit of modern and improved implements. The Committee recommend that the implements developed by this Institute should be popularised among the farmers and listing of them should be done by the Ministry of Agriculture so as these implements may be exposed to the farmers. The Committee, further, recommend that the proposals for setting up of Farm Machinery and Testing Institutes in the States of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu should be cleared speedily to augment the availability of implements with an easy access to the farmers.

15. 17 States have their own state Agro Industries Corporation which have been established with Central assistance. But w.e.f. 1.4.1979, the scheme of equity contribution to state Agro Industries Corporation has been entirely transferred to the state sector. The Committee observe that most of the Agro Industries Corporation are running into losses. However, no efforts have been made by the Central Ministry to improve the situation. The Committee recommend that Central Ministry should give guidelines and directions to the states from time to time and ways and means should be found out to improve Agro Industries Corporation.

16. The Committee are unhappy to note that only 14.6% of the treatable areas has been treated under RVPs and only about 10.3% of the treatable area has been treated under FPRs which is not satisfactory since soil and water conservation programmes have been on the agenda of the Ministry from the third and sixth five year plan. The financial resource constraint has been stated as the reason for slow progress. The Committee also note that no financial assistance has been given to NGOs for implementation of RVPs and FPRs programmes. The Committee recommend that fund allocation should be increased for these programmes and financial assistance should be provided to NGOs in order to encourage them so as they take active participation in the implementation of these programmes.

17. The Committee are dismayed to note that map showing areas covered by different intensities of soil surveys under the All India Soil & Land use Survey as shown in the Annual Report (1992-93) of the Department is old one. The Committee recommend that as far as possible updated information should be furnished in the Annual Report and in case updated information is not furnished, reasons alongwith the present status of the work should be mentioned in the Annual Report.

18. The Committee note that the preparation of Perspective Plan on land resources was initiated on the decision of National Land Use & Conservation Board in 1986 and since then a national consultation of finalisation of PP was organised in 1991. The nation consultation has recommended that similar type of consultation may also be organised at state level and draft Zonal PP may be reformulated in the light of recommendation of national and state level consultation. The Committee regret to note that even after 7 years since the first initiative was taken, the PP is yet to be prepared and it is difficult to ascertain that when the plan would be finalised. The Committee find tremendous delay in finalising perspective plan. The Committee would like the work to be expedited for the better utilization of land resources.

19. The Committee observe that indigenous raw cashewnut is not sufficient to meet the installed capacity of processing units and there is wide gap between demand and supply of cashewnut as total production is only around 3.50 lakh metric tonnes against the demand of 5.3 lakh metric tonnes. Therefore, raw cashewnuts are imported. Various programmes are being contemplated for Eighth Five Year Plan. But even after executing

these programmes there would persist demand and supply gap. The Committee, therefore, recommend that more emphasis should be given to the production of cashew so as import of rawnuts could be reduced.

The Committee, further recommend that the scheme for the biological control of coconut leaf eating caterpillar which is being implemented in two states viz. Orissa & Karnataka presently should be extended to other states also and the close monitoring should be done of the area expansion programme in respect of coconut.

20. The Committee observe that one of the constraints that has been felt in the development of Horticulture is shortage of plant material and even after launching various programmes, Ministry of Agriculture have admitted that they would not be able to meet the requirement of plant material during Eighth Five Year Plan. The Committee are concerned to note that lack of plant material would definitely slow down the development of Horticulture and benefit of increase allocation which the Horticulture has received during 8th five year plan may not be reaped unless adequate plant material is made available. The Committee recommend that increasing plant material should be accorded first priority within the Horticulture development programmes and schemes to evaluate the potential of yield for fruit should be formulated with reference to the agro climatic suitability and planned area coverage in a targeted manner.

21. Estimated potential yield of Marine Fishery and Inland Fishery is of the order of 39 lakh tonnes and 45 lakh tonnes respectively while the production of marine and inland fish during 1991-92 is 24.47 and 17.10 lakh tonnes respectively. The Committee observe that much of the potential area is yet to be tapped. The Committee would like that emphasis should be laid on tapping this vast potential so as fish production is increased which would ultimately increase our export capacity. Further, coastal land should be made available to traditional fisherman and processing units should be installed near that areas.

22. The Committee observe that cooperative movement in some parts of the country is very successful while in other parts it is a neglected area. The Committee find that Model Cooperative Act by Choudhary Brahm Prakash Committee the most suitable one for the development of cooperative movement. The Model Act has been sent to the state govt./U.T. Administration for amending their state acts on the line of Model Act. The Committee recommend that continuous efforts should be made to prevail upon state governments so as they take steps to amend their cooperative laws. Further, as a measure to strengthen cooperative movement, the Committee would like the amendment to the Industrial Dispute Act notified without fail which was passed in 1982 and providing therein exemption of cooperatives with fewer than 10 employees from the provision of IDA.

23. The Committee observe that generally farmers are under compulsion to sell their sugarcane to the cooperative societies for which a particular

area has been delineated. The distribution and movement of sugarcane is regulated under clause 6 of the sugarcane control order, 1966. The Committee, however, recommend that sugarcane control order should be made more explicit specifying that farmers on their own option can sell sugarcane either to the sugar factory as notified or to cooperative society so as interest of farmers is safeguarded.

24. The Committee recommend that the avenues for the promotion and export of flower in such areas where they are particularly grown with particular reference being given to orchid farming may be developed so as to bring about value addition products. The Committee further stress the need for producing flowers of Aromatic and medicinal value. There has been no attempt for cataloguing and listing the existing species. This should be done at the earliest.

Status of Financial results of state Agro Industries Corporations

ANNEXURE I
(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Authorised Capital (As on 31.3.92)	Paid-up State	Capital Central	Total	Total Turn-over 1991-92 Actual	1992-93 Anticipated	1991-92 Actual Loss	1992-93 Anticipated	Profit/ Loss	Accumulated Loss/ Profit as on 31.3.92	Dividend paid to Govt. of India	Year for which last report laid/ received
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
1.	Assam	500.00	110.00	110.00	220.00	2400.00	3000.00	2.97 (+)	7.00 (+)	78.09 (-)	78.09 (-)	Nil	1981-82
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1000.00	654.90	269.00	923.00	5883.56	7718.59	7.13 Prov. (-)	35.26 (+)	92.08 (-)	92.08 (-)	Nil	1985-86
3.	Bihar	800.00	518.52	245.00	763.52	858.77	Not given	160.00 (-)	Not estimated	2385.79 (-)	2385.79 (-)	Nil	1982-83
4.	Gujarat	1000.00 (As on 31.7.91)	258.00	248.00	506.00	21822.95	25106.03	98.40 (+)	50.00 (+)	Nil	Nil	12.88	1989-90
5.	Haryana	600.00	319.21	94.830	414.04	15561.82	19887.55	442.78	353.34 (+)	Nil	Nil	5.97	1990-91
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1000.00 (As on 31.7.91)	866.50	171.50	1038.00	983.21	1450.00	170.00 (-)	175.00 (+)	694.00	694.00	2.54	1990-91
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	200.00	102.00	93.76	195.76	589.93	1189.20	73.39 (-)	69.91 (-)	209.01 (-)	209.01 (-)	Nil	1979-80

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
8.	Kerala	500.00	310.013	163.187	474.10	600.00	948.00	39.10 (-)	34.10 (-)	441.71 (-)	Nil	1990-91
9.	Karnataka	2400.00	460.09	294.00	754.09	6121.26	13862.49	360.30 (-)	88.75 (+)	2152.62 (-)	Nil	1988-89
10.	Maharashtra	800.00	300.00	250.00	550.00	18000.00	24531.00	270.00 (+)	510.00 (+)	Nil	108.33	1990-91
11.	Madhya Pradesh	500.00	244.49	75.00	319.49	4971.62	6000.00	54.19 (+)	12.00 (+)	27.10 (+)	7.20	1984-85
12.	Orissa	1000.00	335.777	66.772	402.549	2941.85	4585.74	157.29 (-)	10.67 (+)	1091.23 (-)	Nil	1983-84
13.	Punjab	7500.00	4546.36	120.00	4666.36	13500.00	14175.00	300.00 (+)	275.00 (+)	Nil	2.50	1990-91
14.	Rajasthan	500.00	380.96	187.775	568.73	1837.48	3695.90	151.75 (-)	24.93 (-)	1370.61 (-)	Nil	1988-89
15.	Tamil Nadu	400.00	195.00	165.00	360.00	3870.81	6031.63	98.65 (-)	4.86 (-)	950.64 (-)	Nil	1989-90
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2000.00	1567.75	332.00	1899.75	8988.73	15034.00	483.74 (-)	94.38 (+)	3539.00 (-)	46.66	1984
17.	West Bengal	1000.00 (As on 31.7.91)	571.30	269.021	840.52	1560.70	3113.26	5.87 (+)	20.50 (-)	348.36 (-)	1.47	1984
		21700.00	11741.970	3154.845	14896.891110624.690150328.390			527.14 (-)	1175.32 (+)	13326.04 (-)	187.55	

ANNEXURE II

State Wise & Catchment wise Information on Total Area, Priority Area and Area Treated upto 1991-92 in RVP & FPR Catchments.

(Area in 'Lakh hect.)

S. No.	STATE/Catchment	Total Catchment Area	Priority Area		Area Treated till 91-92	
			Area	%w.r.t. total area	Area	%w.r.t. priority area
1.	Andhra Pradesh					
	i) Machkund Bileru	3.10	1.12	36.1	0.73	65.2
	ii) Nagarjunasagar	32.62	9.94	30.5	0.39	3.9
	iii) Nizamsagar	7.52	1.92	25.5	0.20	10.4
	iv) Pochampad	17.83	4.02	22.5	0.12	3.0
	Sub-Total	61.07	17.00	27.8	1.44	8.5
2.	Assam					
	Pagladia	0.59	0.33	55.9	0.13	39.4
3.	Bihar					
	i) Mayurakshi	1.87	0.72	38.5	0.54	75.0
	ii) Rengali Mandira	15.70	1.63	10.4	0.22	13.5
	Sub-Total	17.57	2.35	13.4	0.76	32.3
4.	Gujarat					
	i) Dantiwada	0.95	0.41	43.2	0.29	70.7
	ii) Damanganga	0.38	0.33	86.8	0.06	18.2
	iii) Mahi	2.08	0.87	41.8	0.16	18.4
	iv) Ukai	0.99	0.10	10.1	0.12	120.0
	Sub-Total	4.40	1.71	38.9	0.63	36.8
5.	Himachal Pradesh					
	i) Beas	12.51	4.52	36.1	0.25	5.5
	ii) Sutlej	18.20	5.64	31.0	1.36	24.1
		30.71	10.16	33.1	1.61	15.1
6.	Jammu & Kashmir					
	Pohru	1.86	0.64	34.4	0.16	25.0
7.	Karnataka					
	i) Nagarjunasagar	113.70	34.16	30.0	0.40	1.2
	ii) Nizamsagar	3.69	1.20	32.5	0.28	23.3
	iii) Tungabhadra	28.28	8.72	30.8	2.31	26.5
	Sub-Total	145.67	44.08	30.3	2.99	6.8
8.	Kerala					
	Kundah	0.61	0.25	41.0	0.18	72.0

S. No.	STATE/Catchment	Total Catchment Area	Priority Area		Area Treated till 91-92	
			Area	%w.r.t. total area	Area	%w.r.t. priority area
9.	Madhya Pradesh					
	i) Chambal	20.80	4.02	19.3	2.60	64.7
	ii) Hirakud	72.80	6.31	8.7	2.29	36.3
	iii) Matatila	19.76	7.80	39.5	0.66	8.5
	iv) Mahi	5.46	2.73	50.0	0.53	19.4
	v) Rengali-Mandira	0.96	0.16	17.8	0.13	81.4
	vi) Tawa	5.98	2.11	35.3	0.29	13.7
	vii) Ukai	7.29	1.90	26.1	0.45	23.7
	Sub-Total	132.99	25.03	18.8	6.95	27.8
10.	Maharashtra					
	i) Damanganga	1.34	0.55	41.0	0.02	3.6
	ii) Ghod	3.64	1.11	30.5	0.18	16.2
	iii) Nagarjunasagar	69.70	21.23	30.5	0.10	0.5
	iv) Nizamsagar	10.58	1.92	18.1	0.11	5.7
	v) Pochampad	72.57	25.50	35.1	0.15	0.6
	vi) Ukai	54.12	0.11	0.2	0.18	163.6
	Sub-Total	211.95	50.42	23.8	0.74	1.5
11.	Orissa					
	i) Hirakud	10.40	0.05	0.5	1.12	2240.0
	ii) Machkund	1.92	0.67	34.9	0.55	82.1
	iii) Rengali-Mandira	8.65	1.59	18.4	0.38	23.9
	Sub-Total	20.97	2.31	11.0	2.05	88.7
12.	Rajasthan					
	i) Chambal	5.20	3.10	59.6	1.62	52.3
	ii) Dhantwada	1.87	0.59	31.6	0.58	98.3
	iii) Mahi	13.26	5.30	40.0	0.41	7.7
	Sub-Total	20.33	8.99	44.2	2.61	29.0
13.	Sikkim					
	Teesta	9.68	2.30	23.8	0.10	4.3
14.	Tamil Nadu					
	i) Kundah	0.69	0.04	5.8	0.27	675.0
	ii) Lower Bhavani	2.56	0.91	35.5	0.34	37.4
	Sub-Total	3.25	0.95	29.2	0.61	64.2
15.	Tripura					
	Gomti	0.55	0.35	63.6	0.07	20.0
16.	Uttar Pradesh					
	i) Matatila	1.30	0.46	35.4	0.36	78.3
	ii) Ramganga	3.63	1.04	28.7	0.70	67.3
	Sub-Total	4.93	1.50	30.4	1.06	70.7

S. No.	STATE/Catchment	Total Catchment Area	Priority Area		Area Treated till 91-92	
			Area	%w.r.t. total area	Area	%w.r.t. priority area
17.	West Bengal					
	i) Kangsabati	3.79	1.52	40.1	0.62	40.8
	ii) Teesta	2.98	0.62	20.8	0.05	8.1
	Sub-Total	6.77	2.14	31.6	0.67	31.3
18.	Demodar Valley					
	Damodar-Barakar	18.17	9.34	51.4	3.17	33.9
19.	Other Catchments saturated earlier				0.37	
	Grand Total	692.07	179.85	26.0	26.30	14.6

State-wise & Catchment-wise Information on Total Area, Priority Area and Area Treated upto 1990-91 in EPR Catchments

Area in Lakh hect.

Sl. No.	State/Catchment	Total Catchment				
		Area	Priority wise Area	% w.r.t. total area	Area Treated till 1991-92	
				% w.r.t. priority area		
1)	Bihar					
i)	Sone	16.00	7.42	46.4	0.31	
ii)	Ajoy	3.35	0.66	19.7	0.16	
iii)	Punpun	8.50	2.30	27.1	0.19	
	Sub Total	27.85	10.38	37.0	0.66	
2)	Haryana					
	Sahibi	3.96	0.24	6.1	0.23	
3)	Himachal Pradesh					
i)	Pabbar & Tons	3.79	2.96	78.1	0.26	
ii)	Giribata	2.80	1.18	42.1	0.18	
	Sub Total	6.59	4.14	62.8	0.44	
4)	Madhya Pradesh					
	Sone	47.77	1.34	2.8	0.48	
5)	Rajasthan					
	Sahibi	4.26	2.61	61.3	1.01	
6)	Uttar Pradesh					
i)	Gomti	30.14	9.31	30.9	1.07	
ii)	Sone	5.93	0.21	3.5	0.15	
iii)	Upper Ganga	21.46	8.90	41.5	0.12	
iv)	Upper Yamuna	5.70	4.40	77.2	0.14	
	Sub Total	63.23	22.82	36.1	1.48	
7)	West Bengal					
i)	Ajoy	2.56	0.88	34.4	0.04	
ii)	Rupnarain	10.32	1.11	10.8	0.12	
	Sub Total	12.88	1.99	15.5	0.16	
8)	Delhi					
	Sahibi	0.88	0.08	9.1	0.02	
Head Quarter						
Grand Total		167.42	43.60	26.0	4.48	10.3

List of Catchments under RVP & FPR Schemes

Sl. No.	Name of Catchment
A—RVP	
1.	Beas
2.	Chambal
3.	Damodar-Baraker
4.	Damanganga
5.	Dantiwada
6.	Ghod
7.	Gunti
8.	Hirakud
9.	Kangsabati
10.	Kundah
11.	Lower-Bhawani
12.	Machkund-Sileru
13.	Mahi
14.	Matatila
15.	Mayurakshi
16.	Nagarjunasagar
17.	Nizamsagar
18.	Pagladia
19.	Pochampod
20.	Pohru
21.	Ramganga
22.	Rengali-Mandira
23.	Sutluj
24.	Tawa
25.	Tecsta
26.	Tungabhadra
27.	Ukai
B. FPR Catchments	
1.	Ajoy
2.	Gomti
3.	Punpun
4.	Rupnarain
5.	Sahibi
6.	Sone
7.	Upper Ganga
8.	Upper Yamuna

catchment. rvp