

16

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
(1994-95)

TENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
ANNUAL REPORT 1992-93

[Action taken by Government on the
recommendations/observations contained in the
Sixth Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture]

SIXTEENTH REPORT



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

February, 1995/Magha, 1916 (Saka)

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*Action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations
contained in the Sixth Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture
(1993-94) (Tenth Lok Sabha)*

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 14.2.1995
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 14.2.1995*



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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(1994-95)

Shri Nitish Kumar — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri D. Pandian
3. Shri Birbal
4. Shri Nathuram Mirdha
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6. Shri Ankushrao Raosaheb Tope
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Rajya Sabha

31. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami
32. Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal

*Nominated w.e.f. 22.8.94

(iv)

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34. Shri David Ledger
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37. Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran
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- ***45. Shri Satyanarayana Dronamraju

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Roli Srivastave — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri P.D.T. Achary — *Director*
3. Shri S. Balshekar — *Under Secretary*

* nominated w.e.f. 21.4.94

** nominated w.e.f. 29.7.94

*** nominated w.e.f. 16.11.94

COMPOSITION OF SUB-COMMITTEE 'D'

1. Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar — *Convenor*
2. Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran — *Alternate Convenor*
3. Shri David Ledger
4. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma
5. Shri Birbal
6. Shri Ankushrao Raosaheb Tope
7. Shri Maheshwar Singh
8. Dr. Gunwant Rambhau Sarode
9. Dr. R.K.G. Rajulu

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1994-95) having been authorised by the Committee to submit Report on their behalf, present this 16th Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1993-94) (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Annual Report (1992-93) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The Sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 21st December, 1993 and contained 12 observations/recommendations. The Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report on 2nd August, 1994.

3. The Sub-Committee 'D' in its meeting held on 17th October, 1994 considered these action taken replies furnished by the Government. They decided to seek revised action taken notes from the Government in view of the incomplete nature of action taken in respect of all recommendations/observations. The Government furnished these modified/revised action taken replies on 17th November, 1994. The Sub-Committee again in its meeting held on 2nd December, 1994 considered these modified/revised action taken replies and approved the Draft Report and decided to place the same before the whole Committee for final approval.

4. The Committee considered and adopted the Sixteenth Report at their sitting held on 11.1.95.

NEW DELHI;
14 February, 1995

25 Magha, 1916 (Saka)

NITISH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I REPORT

1.1. This report of Standing Committee on Agriculture (1994-95) deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their 6th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Annual Report (1992-93) of the Ministry of Water Resources. The 6th Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 21st December, 1993. It contained 12 recommendations/observations. Action Taken Notes have been received in respect of all the 12 recommendations/observations. The Committee have categorised them as under:—

(i) Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by Government: Sl. No. 1, 2, 3 & 11.

(Total 4; included in Chapter II of the Report)

(ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply: Sl. No. 4, 5 & 12.

(Total 3; included in Chapter III of the Report)

(iii) Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee: Sl. No. 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10.

(Total 5; included in Chapter IV of the Report)

(iv) Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of Government are awaited: Nil.

(Total Nil; Chapter V of the Report)

The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of the recommendations/observations.

Recommendation No. 6

1.2. The Committee emphasized the need for adequate financial support towards maintenance and modernisation of existing irrigation projects as the State Governments are hardly paying any adequate attention towards this and they invested nothing substantial for this purpose for last 20—25 years. They recommended that the Ministry of Water Resources should provide adequate financial support towards maintenance and modernisation of existing irrigation projects.

1.3. The Government in their reply have stated:—

“With regard to maintenance of irrigation works, the National Water Policy, 1987 stipulates that:

"Structures and systems created through massive investments should be properly maintained in good health. Appropriate annual provisions should be made for this purpose in the budgets."

Irrigation being a State subject, the maintenance and modernisation of irrigation projects falls under the purview of State Governments/UTs. With the meagre allocation of funds in the Central plan, it will not be possible for the Ministry of Water Resources to provide financial support for the above purpose. However, in view of the importance of the matter, the Ministry have also submitted updated norms for maintenance and up keep of capital assets including major and medium irrigation projects for consideration of Tenth Finance Commission.

At present the financing of the maintenance of irrigation system is through non-plan funds which are difficult to be allocated adequately. A further serious problem is due to low irrigation rates aggravated by low recovery. Due to this, the actual revenue received is much less as compared to the working expenses on irrigation systems. To remedy this situation, it is essential to increase water rates. To examine the existing mechanism of pricing structure and modalities to improve its recovery and other related issues, the Planning Commission had constituted a Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water in October, 1991. The Committee has since submitted its report which is under consideration of the Government of India.

Considering the situation, the proposed Irrigation Management Policy envisages the interlinking of the cost recoveries with the expenditure on maintenance. It also envisages the upward revision of the water rates to highlight the scarcity value of the water and to meet the maintenance cost, to encourage participatory management by farmers, etc. Volumetric supply is also recommended since it would induce economic use of water".

3. The Committee note the stand taken by the Union Government that it will not be possible for the Ministry of Water Resources to provide financial support towards maintenance and modernisation of existing irrigation projects as the allocation of funds in the central plan was meagre and also due to the reason that maintenance and modernisation of projects falls under the purview of the State Governments and 'Irrigation' is a State subject. The Committee feel that the Ministry of Water Resources should have taken up the matter with the Planning Commission seeking additional funds in view of the Committee's recommendation. The Committee are unhappy to note that no such action was taken by the government and an attempt has been made to simply explain away the matter stating that the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the States. The Committee consider the action taken by the government hardly adequate and they urge upon the government to pursue the matter with the Planning Commission so that additional funds could be obtained to

provide adequate financial support for the maintenance and modernisation of the existing irrigation projects as recommended earlier by the Committee.

Recommendation No. 7

1.4. In the original Report, the Committee expressed their serious concern over the existing discrepancy in statistics maintained by the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture about the utilisation of irrigation potential created. The Committee noticed that the gap between the irrigation potential created and utilised was upto the tune of 20-25 per cent of the total potential created. Being aware of the importance of optimal utilisation of irrigation potential created, the Committee recommended that maximum attention must be paid to reduce the existing gap and adopt a viable method for verification of figures of actual potential created and utilized.

1.5. The Government in their reply have stated:—

Creation of irrigation potential and its utilisation is a continuous process. A lag of a few years between the creation of irrigation and its full utilisation is unavoidable as it takes time for the farmers to construct the field channels and to prepare the land for irrigated farming. Also the switch over from rainfed agriculture to irrigated agriculture involves a major change in agricultural techniques which farmers take time to master. But even allowing for these, the pace of utilisation has been slow. The Ministry is very much concerned with the problem regarding the lag in utilisation of irrigation potential created in the country. In order to have speedy utilisation, the Central Government have taken various steps which, *inter alia*, include:

1. laying thrust on CAD programme during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992—97).
2. Better water management practices like motivation of farmers to form users organisation for their involvement in management of irrigation system.
3. Training of staff of irrigation deptt. as well as farmers in effecient use of water.
4. Improvement of older irrigation systems.

As regards the discrepancy between the figures of Irrigation Departments on irrigation potential utilised and Gross Area Irrigated as reported by Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Water Resources had launched a study in 1991. Detailed questionnaires alongwith the formats for collection of data separately in respect of Major & Medium Irrigation projects and Minor irrigation schemes were circulated to State Irrigation Departments/nodal offices in December, 1991 with a view to elicit information on methodology being adopted in collection of data on irrigation potential created/utilised as well as to furnish such data alongwith

area irrigated seasonwise. But due to poor response from States the study could not be continued. However, the Statistics Directorate of Central Water Commission has started the process of visiting the States to sort out the matter by mutual discussion with concerned State authorities.

Emphasis by Statistics Directorate in their reconciliation efforts is to visit State having maximum difference in the figures. They have already visited and held discussions with the State of U.P. who have agreed to revise their figures downwards. West Bengal, Bihar & Maharashtra are the other States which are being taken up next. The reasons for discrepancy generally relate to difference in the sources and methodology adopted by different departments. These are being reconciled.

To firm up the figures of irrigation potential created and its utilisation through minor irrigation schemes, minor irrigation census was conducted during 1986-87. For updating the data and for having a broad based information covering all aspects of minor irrigation schemes, the second census of minor irrigation schemes has already been initiated."

1.6 The Committee are not satisfied with the pace of action taken by the Government in the matter of reconciliation of water utilization statistics maintained by the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture. The Committee note the tardy progress made by the Government so far in the matter and find that so far only one state i.e. U.P. has been covered for the purpose of reconciliation of statistics although efforts have been initiated since December, 1991 in the matter. The Committee need hardly emphasize the fact that for any study or decision-making, correct statistical data is an essential requisite. The Government should, therefore, appreciate the urgent and imperative need to arrive at the correct position as the statistical data on the same event from different sources are widely different. The efforts made by the Government in the matter are highly inadequate and slow. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should proceed further dynamically in order to evolve an adequately appropriate methodology and procedure to obtain the most probable approximate data so that inputs for proper decision-making are available in matters of prime concern to the country.

Recommendation No. 8

1.7. The Ministry of Water Resources had informed the Committee that SYL Project which was cent per cent funded by the Centre was started in April, 1982 and was nearing completion, i.e. only about 3 per cent of earth work, 5 per cent of lining and 14 per cent of the structures remain to be completed. The Ministry also submitted that the Centre has released Rs. 496 crores against the latest approved cost of the project. The Committee having taken cognizance of the time and cost overruns of the project and its indispensability, desired that the Ministry must ensure the early completion of this project so that unnecessary non-plan expenditure can be avoided.

1.8. The Government in their reply have stated:—

“The Ministry is very much concerned with the issue. Punjab is being constantly pursued to fix up an agency and a time schedule for completion of the work of SYL Canal. Govt. of Punjab has accepted responsibility in principle for completion of SYL Canal. The matter pertaining to time schedule for resumption and completion of the canal is being pursued.”

1.9. The Committee are not satisfied with the vague reply of the Government that the matter of early completion of SYL Canal project is being pursued. They consider the reply of the Government too vague and inadequate as it does not indicate the time and details of each stage of negotiations with the state Government to take adequate immediate action for the finalization of a time schedule for the early resumption and completion of SYL Canal so that the actual work could be taken up urgently with a view to augment the irrigation potential and to increase the agricultural output.

Recommendation No. 9

1.10. The Committee having taken cognizance of large scale and tremendous devastation of houses, crops, soils as well as loss of human and animal lives every year by recurring floods in the country recommended that flood management schemes needed to be planned within the framework of an integrated long term plan. They also recommended to expedite negotiations with Nepal for reaching early solutions of flood problems created every year by the rivers flowing through Nepal's territories to the Indian Continent.

1.11. The Government in their reply have stated:—

“The annual flood damages in Ganga and Brahmaputra/Barak Basin States count for about 70% of the total area affected by floods in the country. For management of floods in Ganga Basin and to facilitate effective cooperation amongst the States, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) was set up in April, 1972. This Commission has prepared some basinwise comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 rivers systems of Ganga. These Plans have been sent to the concerned States for framing individual schemes based on actual ground surveys and investigations.

To carry out surveys and investigations in the Brahmaputra and Barak valley and to prepare master plans for management of flood, bank erosion and improvement of drainage in the valley, Brahmaputra Board was set up in December, 1981. The Board has prepared draft master plans for Part-I dealing with main stream of Brahmaputra, Part-II dealing with Barak and its tributaries and Part III dealing with 38 tributaries of Brahmaputra and 8 rivers of Tripura and circulated to the States and Central Agencies. The master plans are being updated on the basis of the data collected. The Board has also prepared detailed project report for 20 drainage development schemes.

The recommendations of the Committee are being sent to the concerned States for taking necessary action on the master plans prepared by Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board Ministry of Water Resources has been conducting negotiations with Nepal for reaching early solution of flood problems being created every year by the rivers which originate in Nepal. India had proposed to HMG Nepal for construction of reservoirs on the rivers Kosi, Karnali, Pancheshwar, Kamla and Bagmati. Negotiations with HMG on these projects are continuing. This also envisages extension of existing embankments to tie them to the high grounds in the Nepalese territory and establishment of flood forecasting network in Nepal. Recently, Minister of Water Resources has visited Nepal to review the progress on these works and an action plan has been drawn up for projects/works as were agreed during Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in October, 1992. As per the Action Plan Joint Project Office for Sapta Kosi High Dam was to be opened by June, 1994 to undertake field surveys and investigations. In the case of Pancheshwar project the investigation works are under progress and the Detailed Project Report was expected to be completed by September, 1994. Due to General Election in Nepal to be held in Nov. 94, HMG Nepal has requested to postpone all the activities till the new Government takes over. Matter will be pursued further with the HMG Nepal accordingly."

1.12 The Committee note that the reply of the Government in respect of integrated long term plan for flood management within the country is hardly adequate, as it does not give a comprehensive picture of the extent of action taken by various state Governments on the master plans sent to them by the Ganga Basin Flood Control Commission and by the Brahmaputra Board so far. It appears that the Ministry of Water Resources have not taken any action to have an overall picture in the matter by conducting a comprehensive review of the progress made in the implementation of the master plans for flood management by the State Governments. The Committee also note that the reply of the government covers only 70% of the flood-prone areas of the country and nothing has been said about the flood management measures undertaken in the rest of the 30% of the flood-prone areas and the Committee are at a loss to know whether any comprehensive flood management measures have been taken at all. The Committee are unhappy with this kind of inadequate reply and reiterate their earlier recommendation about the need for having flood management schemes within the framework of an integrated long term plan for the entire country.

Recommendation No. 10

1.13 The Committee having taken note of the tremendous increase of yield per hectare by adopting the micro irrigation system i.e. drip and sprinkler, recommended in their original Report that all kinds of taxes including customs, excise and sale tax etc. must be abrogated on

materials and products used in drip and sprinkler irrigation system. They also recommended that the Ministry should fix targets so that these two micro irrigation systems could in future become a farmers movement.

1.14. The Government in their reply have stated:—

“Most of the plastic materials and products used in drip and sprinkler irrigation systems are now manufactured within the country. Therefore, the Ministry is encouraging use of sprinkler & drip systems through mass awareness programme under which discussions/debates are held throughout the country on the occasion of Water Resources Day every year. As regards abrogation of taxes, the Ministry of Finance have opined that the plastic materials used in this system are general purpose items finding use in various sectors. As such, fiscal concessions to this sector alone will not be possible. Any such conditional exemption from custom or excise duty would also be against the present policy of the Government to widen the tax base and reduce the number of conditional exemptions. However, the general effective rates of excise duty resins on have been lowered from 46% to 30% in the recent past which would benefit consumers in the agriculture sector.

The Centrally Sponsored Programme of encouraging irrigation through use of sprinkler & drip systems which was launched by the Ministry of Water Resources in 1982-83 has been transferred to the respective States on the recommendations of National Development Council with effect from 1992-93. As such the scheme now falls in the state sector. The Ministry of Agriculture, however, is promoting use of drip irrigation through a programme ‘Drip irrigation for increasing production/productivity of Horticulture crops’ in the central sector.”

Regarding increase in the yield upto 230% due to sprinkler irrigation system, the results of the studies carried out by the Haryana Agriculture Department are given below:

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SUBSIDY SCHEMES RELATING TO MINOR IRRIGATION published by Ministry of Irrigation, Government of India in March, 1984 (page 8)

	Before Installation of Sprinkler system	After Installation of Sprinkler system
1. Increase in gross and net irrigated areas:		
(a) Gross irrigated areas (in acres)	1,366.25	2,503.50 (percent increase 83.24)
(b) Net irrigated area (in acres)	1,089.25	1,815.25 (percent increase 66.65)

	Before Installation of Sprinkler System	After Installation of Sprinkler system	
2.	Increase in irrigated area of Kharif and Rabi crops:		
a)	Irrigated (in ac.)	1,366.25	2,503.50
b)	Unirrigated (in ac.)	1,281.25	679.50
c)	Percent irrigated area	51.61	78.65
3.	Increase in cropping intensity (percent area to net are shown)	134.44	161.64
4.	Overall average yield in kg/ha.	1,238	1,535 (percent increase 23.99)
5.	Thus the increase in yield on per unit of water = increase in area irrigated × increase in yield = $1.8324 \times 1.2399 = 2.2719$ i.e. 227%		

1.15. The Committee are not convinced fully with the above plea of the Government that the material used in sprinkler and drip irrigation system are of general nature finding use in various sectors and as such fiscal concessions to that sector alone will not be possible. The Committee feel that the Government could have made a provision which could ensure reimbursement of the excise component in the cost of the spinkler/drip irrigation systems to the farmers who purchased the materials to be used in drip and sprinkler systems on production of authenticated and verified documents by a competent authority.

The Committee desire that the government should reconsider the entire matter in the light of the observations of the Committee expeditiously.

Implementation of Recommendations

1.16 The Committee would like to emphasise that the greatest importance should be attached to the implementation of the recommendations by Government. They, therefore, expect that Government would implement such recommendations expeditiously. In case, it is not possible to implement any recommendation in letter and spirit for any reasons, the matter should be reported to the Committee in time with reasons for non-implementation.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation No. 1

2.1 The Central Ministry of Water Resources lays down policy guidelines and programmes for the development and regulation of country's Water Resources. The Ministry's working recompasses sectoral planning, coordination, policy guidelines, technical examination of major and medium projects, technical assistance, monitoring of selected projects, facilitation of external assistance and resolution of inter-state water disputes.

2.2 Provision under the Constitution of India on Water at Entry 17 in the State List, namely, "Water that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals drainage and embankments, water storage and water power" is subject to the provision of Entry 56 of the Union List. The latter provides for the "regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys" by the Central Government to the extent to which such regulations and development under the control of Union as declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest.

2.3 The Committee are of the opinion that in view of the long standing unresolved inter-state water disputes and for better utilisation of common water resources, the need to bring water resources in the Concurrent List must be re-examined positively at various levels. The Union Government should also take initiatives in consultation with State Governments in starting negotiations with States. There is also a need to hold a national debate on this subject.

2.4 The Ministry in their reply stated:—

"There are practical difficulties and limitations in amending the Constitution. The matter is, however, under consideration of the National Water Board and will be placed before the National Water Resources Council for further directions."

Recommendation No. 2

2.5 A total of 352 major and 1057 medium irrigation projects have been taken up so far out of which 185 major and 798 medium projects have been completed besides tens of thousands of minor irrigation projects.

2.6 Under the strategy of the VIII Plan, it has been emphasised that for completion of on-going projects (major & medium) states 'would be asked to allocate maximum resources to the Water Resources Sector to complete their ongoing major and medium projects as earliest as possible. The

Ministry has also stated that no new projects will be cleared for the present.

2.7 The Committee are perturbed over the fact that State Governments continue to add more and more projects without making adequate financial resources for their completion. The Committee, therefore, recommend that there should be a close association with the Planning Commission to ensure timely and adequate availability of funds by the concerned States for a time bound completion of these ongoing (major & medium) irrigation projects. The Committee have also come across instances of imbalances of both in time and cost overruns. They are of the firm opinion that it should be made mandatory on the part of State Governments to complete the ongoing projects within a specified time frame.

2.8 The Ministry in their reply stated:

“In view of the large number of ongoing irrigation projects requiring a huge amount to complete them, no new project is proposed to be undertaken during the Eighth Plan (1992-97) unless the needs of the ongoing ones are fully met. The Eighth Plan strategy envisages:

“Completion of ongoing projects with a strict prioritisation will be the first charge on funds under major and medium irrigation sector. No new projects will be included unless the needs of ongoing projects are fully met, and if at all done this should be restricted to medium schemes benefiting tribal and drought-prone areas and should be designed on the basis of volumetric supply of irrigation water.....”

The matter was also discussed in the Tenth National Conference of Water Resources and Irrigation Ministers of States and Union Territories held in September, 1992 which inter-alia recommended the following:

- (1) In view of resource crunch, it is imperative that thin spreading of funds is avoided and projects in advanced stage of construction allocated full requirement of funds to ensure their completion in the Eighth Plan period.
- (2) State Governments shall formulate and vigorously pursue comprehensive action plans for completion of identified projects year-wise, during Eighth Plan and allocate required funds for each.

Recommendation No. 3

2.9 Consequent upon the adoption of the National Water Policy in 1987, the need for an effective management policy has been keenly felt and a draft National Irrigation Management Policy has been framed by the National Water Board. This draft policy was deliberated upon in the Conference of the Water Resources and Irrigation Ministers of States/ Union Territories held on 21.9.1992. This Conference broadly agreed with the thrust of the policy on proper management of irrigation systems for the optimal use of water and recommended that the policy be finalised early.

2.10 The Committee concur with the view that management of an irrigation system is not only essential for the proper and maximum utilisation of water available for irrigation but it is also urgently required to enhance the rate of productivity of water, which is very low at present. They strongly urge that the Draft Irrigation Management Policy should be finalised within three months and the Committee be informed of the same.

2.11 The Ministry in their reply stated:

"Draft Irrigation Management Policy was considered by the National Board in its 6th meeting held on 17.3.94 for placing the same before the National Water Resources Council for adoption. This item is on the agenda for the forthcoming Third meeting of National Water Resources Council."

Recommendation Sl. No. 11

2.12 The Committee have been informed according to the report of Working Group appointed by the Ministry of Water Resources in 1986 that an area of 2.46 M.ha is affected by water logging, 3.06 M.ha by salinity and 0.24 M.ha by alkalinity in the irrigated commands. The Ministry of Water Resources have also not carried out any survey to assess that extent, nature and location of water logged, salined and alkalined lands. The Committee note with concern that no concerted efforts have been made by the Ministry in this direction. In the Committee's view the main cause of inundation of such area is due to seepage from unlined canals and channels which account for about 25% wastage of water. The Committee recommend that the scheme to stop this leakage by lining the canals and ancillary channels be embarked upon immediately. The Committee have been informed that effort are being made in the VIIIth Plan. The Committee would like to be apprised of the various schemes which have been proposed by the Central Govt. They strongly urge that the Ministry must ensure proper water management. They also suggest that the Ministry should ensure into international agreements on construction of dams to control floods.

There is an imperative need for an integrated approach on development and harnessing of available water resources in the country.

2.13 The Ministry in their reply stated:—

"Seepage from canals/channels is not the main cause of waterlogging and soil salinity in places where there is likely to be excessive leakage. Lining of canals/channels is being carried out sometimes on selective basis taking into account its economical viability. To check the spread of soil salinity, steps taken inter-alia include the following:

- (a) Conjunctive use of surface and ground water
- (b) Provide adequate drainage system
- (c) Introduction of improvement of irrigation and water management practices.

The measures being taken for water management include CAD programme, National Water Management Project, training of irrigation of agriculture staff and training of farmers and promoting involvement of farmers in irrigation management.

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation Sl. No. 4

3.1 The Committee strongly recommend that additional resources as demanded by the Ministry of Water Resources for completion of projects/programmes which are of prime national importance, should be provided to the Ministry immediately. The Committee also recommend that at least 15% of the total Plan outlay should be provided under the I & CAD sector.

Reply of the Government

3.2 At the time of formulation of Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) the following issues were taken up with/observations brought to the knowledge of Planning Commission:—

- (i) Irrigation and Floor Management should get a very high priority in the Plan allocation and should attract funds more than 20% of the Plan.
- (ii) Increase in the Central sector allocation from 5% to 10%.
- (iii) Taking up of following three new programmes in the Central sector with allocations thereof:
 - (a) Central assistance to some of the Nationally Important Projects.
 - (b) Irrigation Development Schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in specially identified backward blocks.
 - (c) Taking up multi-purpose projects in the North-Eastern sector.
- (iv) Greater Thrust to Command Area Development Programme.

3.3 On the above issues, the Planning Commission conveyed their views as under:—

Regarding the proposal for Central Funding to the selected Nationally Important Projects, the Planning Commission has examined the same with due care and has come to the conclusion that taking into consideration the implications of this proposal on devolution of financial resources between Centre and States as well as its likely fall out on other sectors and other States, particularly those who are not likely to be benefited, and the present policy for more decentralisation, the Planning Commission is unable to support this proposal.

As regards to the proposal for central funding for preparation of Master Plan for integrated development of irrigation facilities in the selected scheduled casts and scheduled tribes blocks, the same was considered along with the similar proposal received from the Ministry of Welfare and Planning Commission is of the view that this scheme should be handled by the States within the guidelines provided by the Centre rather than creating a new centrally sponsored scheme. We have now started transferring a number of schemes to the State Plans as a part of the decentralised planning.

Regarding central funding for multi-purpose projects in North-Eastern Sector, as you too know, these are primarily power projects and the power Sector has, therefore, to indicate their priorities for these projects during the Eighth Plan with taking the funds availability as well as mode of funding, costs involved in bulk transmission of power to be generated and the demand in the region etc. into account. Further, none of these projects is at present approved one. Therefore, a decision, based on all such related aspects, will be taken in due course of time.

Regarding Command Area Development Programme, no doubt, it is a Thrust Area Programme. However, the actual implementation of this programme during last 15 years has revealed certain deficiencies which need to be overcome in order to make it more effective and objective in context with its ultimate goal. The Ministry was requested to work out details of required restricting of this programme so as to realistically assess the funding requirements for the Eighth Plan. The Ministry accordingly prepared a EFC memo which was examined by the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission. As per their suggestions, the EFC memo has been revised. The EFC meeting is to be held shortly for its finalisation.

3.4 In the present economic situation it is imperative that the step-up in budgetary support under Eighth Plan is limited to a level consistent with available resources. Accordingly, budgetary support for Eighth Plan has been fixed at Rs. 1,03,725 crores (as against the outlay of the Rs. 77,878 crores during Seventh Plan) which works out to the Step-up as per the approved outlay for Central Sector Eighth Plan relating to Ministry of Water Resources works out to 162.34% which signified the high priority given by the Planning Commission to this sector in Eighth Plan.

3.5 As regards to setting up of National Irrigation, Management Institute (NIMI), we feel that various Water & Land Management Institutes (now existing in most of the major States), Institute of Technology and Institutes of Management, having the background and expertise, can serve as the focal points for the purpose for which NIMI is proposed. Reputed institutes can be selected on a regional basis and on the basis of specialisation for financial support to be given by the Government for some initial period say five years for imparting specialised training in water management, and

thereafter, they can become self-supporting without any Government funding. You will appreciate this kind of approach will be very much in tune with our present economic policies.

3.6 All issues including the above were again discussed by Minister (WR) with Dy. Chairman Planning Commission in March, 1992.

3.7 On the funding of Nationally Important Projects, the following observations were made during the discussion:—

“Keeping in view the background of Central funding as well as the other factors including the net availability of resources with the Centre, impact of such Central funding for irrigation projects on other sectors and states; it would not be rather possible for Central funding as net additionality of funds to the States but could be considered if it were to form a part of the total financial allocation to be made for irrigation sector, both State and Centre, during the 8th Plan, i.e. in other words the proposed Central funding would be a part of Central Plan assistance.”

3.8 A series of meetings were held with the concerned State Governments who were not agreeable to specifically earmark or set aside any plan funds for such projects.

3.9 On receipt of recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture, the matter was again taken up with the Planning Commission who have reiterated their view communicated to the Ministry in Feb. 1992 and June 1992 at the time of finalisation of Eighth Plan allocations and mentioned above. They have further intimated that since then there has not been any significant improvements in the resources position at the centre. The Ministry will continue its efforts for the enhancement of outlays in the Central sector through Annual Plan allocations.

Comments of the Committee

3.10 The Committee note the efforts made by the Ministry of Agriculture to persuade the Planning Commission for enhancement of outlays in the central sector. The Committee recommend that persistent efforts should be made to achieve tangible results in the matter so that sufficient outlays could be secured in the central sector in the Annual Plan allocations.

Recommendation Sl. No. 5

3.11 The Committee, after having analyzed the entire procedure of clearing major and multi-purpose irrigation projects, conclude that representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Power, Agriculture etc. in the Advisory Committee must be vested with power to validate clearance of major and multi-purpose projects.

Reply of the Government

3.12 The matter has been taken up with the concerned Ministries to consider delegation of powers to their representatives in the Technical Advisory Committee so that they are able to validate clearance of the major and multi-purpose projects at the stage of TAC clearance. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have responded as under:

“Environmental impact assessment of River Valley Projects was initiated in 1978, and procedures have since been further streamlined for appraisal and approval of projects. Environmental impact assessment of projects was till recently an administrative requirement but now, subsequent to the issue of Notification SO 60(E) on the 27th January, 1994, as amended on 4.5.1994, in exercise of powers conferred by the Environment (Protection) Act and Rules, this exercise has become statutory for specified developmental activities including development of water resource projects. Under this notification, Expert Committees have been constituted for scrutiny of the proposals, and decisions on projects have therefore, to be taken by the Impact Assessment Agency. i.e. the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Any representative from this Ministry, therefore, cannot validate clearance in the meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Water Resources as this would amount to non-compliance with the requirements of the aforementioned statutory Notification.

Similarly, as per the provisions of the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980, prior approval of the Central Government is required before any forest land can be diverted for non-forestry purposes including irrigation purposes. Under Forest (Conservation) Rules, 1981, detailed procedure has been laid down for examination of proposals received under the Act. Each proposal is examined on its merit and a final decision is taken in accordance with the provision of the Act. There is no provision in the act whereby a representative of the Ministry of Environment & Forests can be vested with powers to accord and/or validate clearance of any project under the Forest (Conservation) Act. the procedure as detailed in the Guidelines and rules is required to be followed before clearance under the said Act can be accorded.”

3.13 However, to cut short possible delays in clearance of the project from environmental and forestry angle, they have suggested that the Ministry of Water Resources/Central Water Commission furnish to the Ministry of Environment & Forests lists of priority projects which are likely to be placed before the Expert Committee. These proposals could then be discussed, if submitted by the project authorities with complete details to the Ministry, in the concerned Expert Committee of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. A time limit of 90 days is already included in

the notification of the 27th January, 1994. This would facilitate simultaneous processing of proposals in both the Ministries.

3.14 The Technical Advisory Committee examines all aspects regarding water availability, cropping pattern, general planning and lay out, broad design aspects, benefit-cost ratio, etc. Normally clearances of all concerned Ministries are obtained. Generally Clearances from the Environmental aspects and Resettlement & Rehabilitation aspects only are held up. Subject to the clearances from these angles to be obtained by the State Governments, clearance of TAC is issued so that advance action for planning for implementation by the State Governments is carried out. Investment clearance by Planning Commission is only given after the clearance on the Environmental and R&R aspects are obtained action for which will be expedited by the State Governments.

Comments of the Committee

3.15 The Committee note the suggestion of the Ministry of Environment & Forest that the Ministry of Water Resources/Central Water Commission should furnish to the Ministry of Environment & Forests list of priority projects which are likely to be placed before the expert Committee so that possible delays could be cut short in the clearance of the projects from environmental and forestry, as these listed projects would be cleared by the Ministry of Environment & Forests on a priority basis within a time from of 90 days. The Committee hope that the Ministry of Water Resources would promptly act upon the suggestion for simultaneous processing of proposals in both the ministries to eliminate delays in clearance of project proposals.

Recommendation Sl. No. 12

3.16 The Committee, in this regard, are of the firm view that at least those inter-state major project whose early completion serve the national interest must be declared as National Projects and consequent upon this their implementation and financial management should be taken over by the Centre.

Reply of the Government

3.17 A proposal for providing Central assistance to States for some of the nationally important projects with a provision of Rs. 750 crores was incorporated in the Eighth Plan (1992—97) proposals formulated by the Ministry. The matter was taken up with the Planning Commission at the time of formulation of Eighth Five year Plan (1992—97) whose views are as under:—

Regarding the proposal for Central Funding to the selected nationally Importance Projects, the Planning Commission has examined the same with due care and has come to the conclusion that taking into consideration the implications of this proposal on devolution

of financial resources between Centre and States as well as its likely fall out on other sectors and other States, particularly those who are not likely to be benefited, and the present policy for more decentralisation, the Planning Commission is unable to support this proposal.

3.18 The matter was again taken up with the Planning Commission who suggested that the issue of funding for the national projects be first discussed with the states as the overall national resource availability for irrigation sector was not going to change thereby. Accordingly, a series of meetings were held with the concerned State Governments who were not agreeable to specifically earmark or set aside any plan funds for such projects.

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation Sl. No. 6

4.1 It has been observed that over the years more and more new projects are being taken up by the State Governments without paying adequate attention towards the maintenance and modernization of the already existing irrigation projects. For the last 20—25 years nothing substantial has been invested for this purpose.

4.2 The Committee are of the view that Ministry should provide adequate financial support towards maintenance and modernisation of existing irrigation projects.

4.3 The Ministry in their reply stated:—

“At present the financing of the maintenance of irrigation system is through non-plan funds which are difficult to be allocated adequately. A further serious problem is due to low irrigation rates aggravated by low recovery. Due to this the actual revenue received is much less as compared to the working expenses on irrigation systems. To remedy this situation. It may be essential to increase water rates. To examine the existing mechanism of pricing structure and modalities to improve its recovery and other related issues, the Planning Commission had constituted a Committee on pricing of Irrigation Water in October, 1991. The Committee has since submitted its report which is under consideration of the Government of India.”

4.4 Considering the situation, the proposed Irrigation Management Policy envisages the interlinking of the recoveries with the expenditure on maintenance. It also envisages the upward revision of the water rates to highlight the scarcity value of the water and to meet the maintenance cost, to encourage participatory management by farmers etc. Volumetric supply is also recommended since it would induce economic use of water.

Recommendation Sl. No. 7

4.5 The Committee have been informed that the maximum irrigation potential is estimated to be 113.5 M ha comprising 58.5 M ha through major and medium and 55 M ha under minor irrigation (40 M ha from ground water and 15 M ha from surface water). In addition interbasin transfer can enable irrigation in about 35 M ha. Against this ultimate potential, created potential by the end of 1992-93 is 83.5 M ha

comprising 31.4 ha through medium and major and 52.14 M ha through minor irrigation schemes. Out of this about 75.1 M ha is utilised leaving a gap of 8.4 M ha. But the actual utilisation as per revenue record of the Ministry of Agriculture is less compared to that of the Ministry of Water Resources. There is 20—25 per cent gap between the potential created and utilized.

4.6 The Committee, in this context, are of the opinion that optimal utilization of the potential created is more important than creating additional potential. There is also a need to survey whether this present potential figures are authentic. In the Committee's opinion the present figures as given are unrealistic and doubtful. The Committee, therefore, recommend that maximum attention must be given to reduce the existing wide gap existing between the potential created and utilized. The Committee, further, fail to understand how there can be a difference in utilization statistics as given by Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Agriculture. There is a need to reduce the existing discrepancy and for this, the Committee urge that the Ministry adopt a viable method for verification of the figures. They also urge that the final figures as arrived at should be the official figure. They, therefore, urge that reasons for this discrepancy be analysed at the earliest and the Committee informed of the same.

4.7 The Ministry in their reply stated:—

“Creation of irrigation potential and its utilisation is a continuous process. A lag of a few years between the creation of irrigation and its full utilisation is unavoidable as it takes time for the farmers to construct the field channels and to prepare the land for irrigated farming. Also the switch over from rainfed agriculture to irrigated agriculture involves a major change in agriculture techniques which farmers take time to master. But, even allowing for these, the pace of utilisation has been slow. The Ministry is very much concerned with the problem regarding the lag in utilisation of irrigation potential created in the country. In order to have speedy utilisation the Central Government have taken various steps which, *inter-alia*, include:

- (i) Laying thrust on CAD programme during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992—97).
- (ii) Better water management practices like motivation of farmers to form users organisation for their involvement in management of irrigation system.
- (iii) Training of staff of irrigation deptt. as well as farmers in efficient use of water.
- (iv) Improvement of older irrigation systems.

The Ministry is also very much seized with the problem of reducing gap between utilisation statistics given by Ministry of Water Resources and

figures brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture and also for bringing out authentic set of figures on the above variables.

Statistics Directorate in CWC has already started reconciling the figures of irrigation department with corresponding figures of Agriculture Deptt. by having meeting with State authorities, to identify the reasons for differences by mutual discussions. Discussions with U.P. Officials where the difference was maximum were held and a number of major reasons for discrepancies were located. State authorities have agreed to revise their figures. It has been planned to take up such reconciliation in respect of other States also.

To firm up of the figures of irrigation potential created and its utilisation through minor irrigation schemes, minor irrigation census was conducted during 1986-87. For updating the data and for having a broad based information covering all aspects of minor irrigation schemes, the second census of minor irrigation schemes is being initiated shortly.

Recommendation Sl. No. 8

4.8 SYL Project which was reimbursed by the Central Government is still far from its completion. This project was started in April, 1982 and came to a halt in July, 1990. Against the latest approved cost of Project *i.e.* Rs. 500 crores, Ministry of Water Resources has released Rs. 496 crores so far. Only about 3 per cent of earth work, 5 per cent of lining and 14 per cent of the structures are remaining to be completed.

4.9 The Committee desire that the Ministry of Water Resources must ensure the early completion of this project so that unnecessary non-plan expenditure can be saved.

4.10 The Ministry in their reply stated:—

“The Ministry is very much concerned with the issue. Punjab is being constantly pursued to fix up an agency and a time schedule for completion of the work of SYL Canal. Govt. of Punjab has accepted responsibility for completion of SYL Canal, but no time schedule for resumption and completion of the canal has been given.”

Recommendation Sl. No. 9

4.11 An average area annually affected by floods in the country is estimated about 7.7 M ha and total area prone to floods is to the tune of 40 M ha in the country. Astronomical and tremendous losses of human and animal life, house, crops and top soils are caused by flash floods every year. Huge emergent funds are provided for relief measures, which usually go down the drain. Substantial portion of these funds are also misappropriated. The Committee observed that during 46 years of independence, Rs. 3000 crores have been spent for flood management. This amount is very meagre as compared to the devastating loss during the years. The Committee recommend that flood management must be accorded top priority and this should be commensurate with this realistic fund allocation.

On the whole, there has not been a clear-cut and integrated policy of the State and Central Governments to deal with the management and regulation of Water resources in the country. The Committee is of the view that without proper flood management, no fruitful purpose can be served while developing and regulating the available water resources in the country.

4.12 Hence, the Committee recommend that flood management schemes need to be planned within the framework of an integrated long term plan and in conjunction, where appropriate, with plans for other water resources development such as irrigation, power and domestic water supply. This will help increase effectiveness of flood control measures and may also improve their economic viability. The Committee also urge the Ministry of Water Resources to speed up negotiations with Nepal for reaching early solutions of flood problems being created every year by the rivers which have their origin in Nepal but flowing towards Indian territories.

4.13 The Ministry in their reply stated:—

“The annual flood damages in Ganga and Brahmaputra/Barak Basin States count for about 70% of the total area flood in the country. For management of floods in Ganga Basin and to facilities effective cooperation amongst the States, Govt. of India had set up Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) in April, 1972. This Commission has prepared some basinwise comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 rivers systems of Ganga. These Plans have been sent to the concerned States for framing individual schemes based on actual ground surveys and investigations.”

To carry out surveys and investigations in the Brahmaputra and Barak valley and to prepare master plans for management of floods, bank erosion and improvement of drainage in the valley, Brahmaputra Board was set up in December, 1981. The Board has prepared draft master plans for Part I dealing with main stream of Brahmaputra, Part II dealing with Barak and its tributaries and Part III dealing with 38 tributaries of Brahmaputra and 8 rivers of Tripura and circulated to the States and Central Agencies. The master plans are being updated on the basis of the data collected. The board has also prepared detailed project report for 20 drainage development schemes.

The Recommendations of the Committee are being sent to the concerned States for taking necessary action on the master plans prepared by Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board.

Ministry of Water Resources has been conducting negotiations with Nepal for reaching early solution of flood problems being created every year by the rivers which originate in Nepal. India had proposed to HMG Nepal for construction of reservoirs on the rivers Kosi, Karanali, Pancheswar, Kamala and Bagmati. Negotiations with HMG Nepal on these projects are continuing. This also envisages extension of existing embank-

ments to tie them to the high grounds in the Nepalese territory and establishment of flood forecasting network in Nepal. Recently, Ministry of Water Resources has visited Nepal to review the progress on these works and an action plan has been drawn up for projects/works as were agreed during Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in October, 1992. As per the Action Plan, Joint Project Office for Sapta Kosi High Dam is to be opened by June, 1994 to undertake field surveys and investigations. In the case of Pancheshwar project the investigation works are under progress and the Detailed Project Report is expected to be completed by September, 1994."

Recommendation Sl. No. 10

4.14 The Committee have noted that one of the main priorities of the VIIIth Plan is the installation of sprinkler and drip irrigation system in water scarce and drought prone areas. The Committee note that importance and indispensability of micro irrigation systems and recommend that utmost priority must be given by the Ministry of Water Resources to drip and sprinkler systems of irrigation in the rainfed, water scarce and drought prone areas. They urge that Ministry should cover more areas and evolve more programmes to propogate encourage the use of these water techniques. Availability of cheap materials specially pipe used in these systems is of paramount importance, the Government should see that the prices of these materials brought down drastically.

4.15 All kinds of taxes including customs, excise and sale tax must be abrogated. The Committee feel that there is no point in indulging on a double futile exercise in imposing taxes on one hand and giving subsidies on the other. The Committee observed that a lot of funds are filtered away in both these processes, through avoidable public expenditure and misappropriation. They also urge that Ministry should fix targets so that this programme could in the future become a farmer's movement.

4.16 The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that the use of this system increase the yield upto 230%. They would like to be apprised of the basis of statistics so recorded.

4.17 The Ministry in their reply stated:—

Most of the plastic materials and products used in drip and sprinkler irrigation systems are now manufactured within the country. Therefore, the Ministry is encouraging use of sprinkler & drip systems through mass awareness programme under which discussions/debates are held throughout the country on the occasions of Water Resources Day every year. As regards abrogation of taxes, the Ministry of Finance have opined that the plastic materials used in this system are general purpose items finding use in various sectors. As such, fiscal concessions to this sector alone will not be possible. Any such conditional exemption from custom or excise duty would also be against the present policy of the Government to widen the tax base and reduce the number of conditional exemptions. However, the general effective rates of excise duty resins have been lowered from 46%

to 30% in the recent past which would benefit consumers in the agriculture sector.

The Centrally Sponsored Programme of encouraging irrigation through use of sprinkler & drip systems which was launched by the Ministry of Water Resources in 1982-83 has been transferred to the respective States on the recommendations of National Development Council with effect from 1992-93. As such the scheme now fails in the state sector. The Ministry of Agriculture, however, is promoting use of drip irrigation through a programme. "Drip irrigation for increasing production/productivity of Horticulture crops in the central sector."

Regarding increase in the yield upto 230% due to sprinkler irrigation system, the results of the studies carried out by the Haryana Agriculture Department are given below:

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SUBSIDY SCHEMES RELATING TO MINOR IRRIGATION published by Ministry of Irrigation Government of India in March, 1984 (page 8)

	Before installa- tion of Sprinkler system	After Installation of Sprinkler
1	2	3
1. Increase in gross and net irrigated areas:		
(a) Gross irrigated area (in acres)	1,366.25	2,503.50 (percent increase 83.24)
(b) Net irrigated areas (in acres)	1,089.25	1,815.25 (percent increase 66.65)
2. Increase in irrigated area of Kharif and Rabi crops:		
(a) Irrigated (in. ac.)	1, 366.25	2,503.50
(b) Unirrigated (in ac.)	1,281.25	679.50

	1	2	3
(c) Percent 51.61 irrigated area			78.65
3. Increase in cropping intensity (per cent area to net are sown)		134.44	161.64
4. Overall average yield in kg/ha.		1,238	1,535 (per cent increase 23.99)
5.	<p>Thus the increase in yield on per unit of water = increase in area irrigated x increase in yield</p> <p>= $1.8324 \times 1.2399 = 2.2719$ i.e. 227%</p>		

CHAPTER V
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH
REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE AWAITED

—NIL—

NEW DELHI;
14 February, 1995

25 Magha, 1916 (Saka)

NITISH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE 'D' OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON 17.10.94 IN ROOM NO. 118, PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE

The Sub-Committee sat from 1515 hrs. to 1545 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar—*Convenor*

MEMBERS

2. Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran
3. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma
4. Shri David Ledger
5. Shri Birbal

Members of the Sub-Committee discussed the action taken notes furnished by the Ministry of Water Resources in respect of all 12 recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Committee. They expressed their dissatisfaction over the inadequate and sketchy replies in regard to the action taken on all the 12 recommendations. They observed that all action taken notes were vague, evasive and do not reflect the seriousness of approach which is required in dealing with the recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee. The Committee wants to be apprised of the outcome of the action taken by the Ministry on these recommendations. They directed that the Ministry be asked to furnish concrete and specific action taken replies afresh.

Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar, Convenor authorised Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran, Alternate Convenor, Sub-Committee 'D' to preside over the forthcoming sittings of the Sub-Committee till the election in his State (Bihar) were over.

The Sub-Committee also tentatively decided to discuss and ponder over the fresh Action Taken Replies to be sought from the Ministry of Water Resources on 7th November, 1994 at 1500 hrs.

The Sub-committee then adjourned.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE 'D'
OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON
2ND DECEMBER, 1994 IN ROOM NO 118, PHA

The Sub-Committee sat from 1515 hrs. to 1630 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran—*Alternate Convenor*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma
3. Dr. Gunwant Rambhau Sarode
4. Shri Maheswar Singh

Members of the Sub-Committee considered the revised/modified action taken replies furnished by the Government *i.e.* Ministry of Water Resources in respect of all twelve recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Ministry of Water Resources—Annual Report 1992-93) of the Committee.

Having gone through all the recommendations, the Sub-Committee decided to categorise them as under:

- (i) Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government are at Serial Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 11.

(Total 4, to be included in Chapter of the Action Taken Report)

- (ii) Recommendations which the Sub-Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply are at Serial Nos. 4, 5 & 12.

(Total 3, to be included in Chapter of the Action Taken Report)

- (iii) Recommendations in respect of which action taken replies have not been accepted by the Sub-Committee are at Serial Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10.

(Total 5, to be included in Chapter and commented upon in Chapter I of the Report)

The Sub-Committee did not find any action taken reply of an interim nature out of all the twelve recommendations.

Members of the Sub-Committee unanimously approved the above categorization with their comments on action taken replies of the Government in respect of recommendation Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 and decided to place it before the whole Committee for final approval in the near future.

The Sub-Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE 63RD SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
11TH JANUARY, 1995 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'B', PARLIAMENT
HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1220 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Som Pal — *In the Chair*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri D. Pandian
3. Shri Birbal
4. Shri G. Ganga Reddy
5. Shri Ankushrao Raosaheb Tope
6. Shri Govindrao Nikam
7. Shri Tara Singh
8. Shri Anantrao Deshmukh
9. Shri Uttamrao Deorao Patil
10. Shri V.V. Nawale
11. Shri Rudrasen Choudhary
12. Shri Ganga Ram Koli
13. Dr. Parshuram Gangwar
14. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma
15. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi
16. Shri Upendra Nath Verma
17. Shri Zainal Abedin
18. Dr. R.K.G. Rajulu

Rajya Sabha

19. Shri Ram Narain Goswami
20. Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal
21. Dr. Bapu Kaldate
22. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann
23. Shri N. Thangaraj Pandian
24. Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran
25. Shri K.N. Singh
26. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
27. Shri H. Hanumanthappa

SECRETARIAT

Shri P.D.T. Achary — *Director*

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, Shri Som Pal, M.P., who was authorized by the Chairman to chair the meeting of the Committee welcomed the members to the sitting of the Committee. He placed the agenda before the Committee.

2. ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **

3. Taking up the Draft Action Taken Reports the Chairperson informed the Members of the Committee that all the three Action Taken Reports on the Second, Fifth and Sixth Reports of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1993-94) had been finalized by the respective Sub-Committees of this Committee after an exhaustive study by the respective Sub-Committees. The Committee adopted the three Draft Action Taken Reports as approved by the respective Sub-Committees and simultaneously also authorized the Chairman to present the same to the Parliament during the Budget Session (1995-96).

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

(Vide Introduction of the Report)

Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the 6th Report of Agriculture Committee (10th Lok Sabha)

I. Total number of Recommendations	12
II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government (Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 11)	
Total	4
Percentage	33.33.
III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (Nos. 4, 5 & 12)	
Total	3
Percentage	25
IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee (Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10)	
Total	5
Percentage	41.66
V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies are still awaited	NIL