

1

STANDING COMMITTEE ON

Agriculture

with Lok Sabha

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND COOPERATION)**

FIRST REPORT



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 1993/Vaisakha 1915 (Saka)

FIRST REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(1993-94)

(TENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND COOPERATION)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 29th April, 1993

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 1993



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

COA No. 1

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5	10	3.2	6	recommends	recommend
6	14	heading	2	Thursday, the 22nd April, 1993	Tuesday, the 20th April, 1993

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

CHAIRMAN

Shri Nitish Kumar

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri D. Pandian
3. Shri Birbal
4. Shri Nathuram Mirdha
5. Shri G. Ganga Reddy
6. Shri Ankushrao Raosaheb Tope
7. Shri Sarat Chandra Pattanayak
8. Shri Govindrao Nikam
9. Kumari Pushpa Devi Singh
10. Shri Channaiah Odeyar
11. Shri Tara Singh
12. Shri Anantrao Deshmukh
13. Shri Uttamrao Deorao Patil
14. Shri V.V. Nawale
15. Shri Rajvir Singh
16. Kumari Uma Bharati
17. Shri Rudrasen Choudhary
18. Shri Ganga Ram Koli
19. Dr. Gunawant Rambhau Sarode
20. Dr. Parshuram Gangwar
21. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma
22. Smt. Krishnendra Kaur (Deepa)
23. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi
24. Shri Shiva Sharan Singh
25. Shri Upendra Nath Verma
26. Shri Zainal Abedin
27. Shri B.N. Reddy
28. Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar
29. Dr. R.K.G. Rajulu
30. Shri Shibu Soren

Rajya Sabha

31. Shri Ram Narain Goswami
32. Shri H. Hanumanthappa
33. Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav
34. Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal
35. Dr. Bapu Kaldate
36. Shri David Ledger
37. Shri Maheshwar Singh

(iv)

38. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann
39. Shri N. Thangaraj Pandian
40. Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran
41. Shri Ramji Lal
42. Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy
43. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
44. Shri Som Pal
45. Shri K.N. Singh

SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

1. The Chairman, Standing Committee on Agriculture having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this First Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) for the year 1993-94.

2. The Standing Committee on Agriculture like other Standing Committees on various Ministries of the Government of India was constituted on 3th April, 1993. The functions of the Standing Committee as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha are:—

1. (a) to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make a report on the same to the Houses. The report shall not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions;
- (b) to examine such bills pertaining to the concerned Ministries/Departments as are referred to the Committee by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, as the case may be, and make report thereon;
- (c) to consider annual reports of Ministries/Departments and make reports thereon;
- (d) to consider national basic long term policy documents presented to the Houses, if referred to the Committee by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, as the case may be, and make reports thereon.

The Standing Committee shall not consider the matters of day-to-day administration of the concerned Ministries/Departments.

3. In this report owing to paucity of time the Committee have addressed self only to the task of examining the Demands for Grants (1993-94) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).

The Committee wish to express their grateful thanks to the Hon'ble Speaker Shri Shivraj V. Patil for ushering in a new era in the Parliamentary democracy by introducing the system of Departmentally Related Standing Parliamentary Committee and thus making the functioning of the executive more transparent and accountable to Parliament.

5. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture on 22nd April, 1993. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) for placing before them the material and information which they desired in connection with the examination of

Demands for Grants of the Ministry for 1993-94 and for giving evidence before the Committee.

6. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 27th April, 1993.

NEW DELHI;
29th April, 1993

9 Vaisakha, 1915 (Saka)

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

CHAPTER I

AGRICULTURE—AN OVERVIEW

1.1 Agriculture is regarded as the backbone of Indian economy as it is clear from the fact that during first 3 decades after independence, the growth rate in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which hovered around 3.5 % per annum increased to 5.5% per annum only due to the rise in the growth in agricultural income. Still growth in the national income is determined by the trends in agricultural production as agriculture is the largest component of GDP and has overall impact on other sectors also via input linkages, employment and incomes even though the share of agriculture in GDP has declined over the years from 55 per cent in the fifties to 33 per cent in the Ninties.

1.2 Agriculture and allied sector outlays in the plan, including forestry and wildlife, increased from Rs. 238 crores in the first plan to Rs. 10,524 crores in the Seventh Plan. There is fluctuation of the share of this sector in the total outlay between 5.7 per cent in the Second Plan and 12.9 per cent in the Fourth Plan. Table below brings out the fluctuations clearly.

Public Sector Outlay for Agriculture Sector—All India

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Five Year Plan</i>	<i>1st 1951</i>	<i>2nd 1956</i>	<i>3rd 1961</i>	<i>4th 1969</i>	<i>5th 1974</i>	<i>6th 1980</i>	<i>7th 1985</i>	<i>Annual 1990-91</i>
	56	61	66	74	80	85	90	
<i>Agriculture including cooperation</i>	238	475	591	4059	3356	6440	10524	3803
<i>All</i>	2377	4800	8099	15902	39322	97500	18000	64717

1.3 Eighth Plan Strategy

The Eighth Plan's aim is to consolidate the gains from the base built over the years in agricultural production, sustaining the improvements in productivity and production to meet the increasing demands of the growing populations, enlarging the income of farmers and realising the country's potential by stepping up agricultural exports.

1.4 Eighth Plan Thrust

Some of the areas where Eighth Plan has the thrust are as following:

- (i) Promotion of conjunctive use of surface and ground water especially in Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Orissa as effective water management, through timely application of the minimal required volumes of water in the light of the prevailing agro-climatic factors can achieve higher level of agricultural production.

- (ii) Increasing the use of Integrated Pest Management in several major crops.
- (iii) Intensive promotion of efficient marketing by cooperative of producers themselves and their apex organisations especially in respect of perishable commodities in order to make diversification successful as envisaged in the objective of plan document.
- (iv) Strengthening closest involvement of the beneficiaries in the agricultural development programmes as it lead to better administration.
- (v) Demonstration of the latest technologies with respect to many important programmes to maximise production of several crops are to be streamlined, systematised and closely monitored to get the optimum results.
- (vi) Emphasis on production of Basmati rice which is one of the top foreign exchange earners.
- (vii) Expansion of area under oilseeds for accelerating its production.
- (viii) Emphasis on production of quality planting materials, area expansion, improvement in quality and increase in productivity in respect of horticulture crops.

Eighth Plan Allocation

1.5 Allocation with respect to agriculture and allied sector for the Eighth Plan is as follows:—

(in Rs. crores)

Sl. No.	Sub-Head of Developments	
1.	Crop Husbandry	4681
2.	Soil & Water Conservation	800
3.	Animal Husbandry	400
4.	Dairy Development	900
5.	Fisheries	400
6.	Plantations	190
7.	Food Storage & Warehousing	424
8.	Agriculture Research & Education	1300
9.	Agriculture Financial Institution	234
10.	Cooperation & Credit	1550
11.	Food Processing Industries	126
12.	Other Agricultural Programmes	100
	Total	11105

1.6 The outlays for agriculture sector including cooperation in the successive Five Year Plans are as follows:—

Five Year Plans	Outlays (Rs. Crores)	Share in Total Plan Outlay
First (1951-56)	238	10.0
Second (1956-60)	275	5.7
Third (1961-66)	591	7.3
Fourth (1969-74)	2059	12.3
Fifth (1974-79)	3356	8.5
Sixth (1980-85)	6440	6.6
Seventh (1985-90)	10524	5.9
Annual (1990-91)	3803	5.9
Annual (1991-92)	4473	6.2
Eighth Plan (1992-97)	22467	5.2

Source: (1) Agriculture Statistics at a Glance, March, 1991 Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

(2) Eighth Plan Document.

CHAPTER II

DEMAND-WISE OBSERVATIONS

SECRETARIAT—ECONOMIC SERVICES (3451)

Sub-Head - A.1 (1)(4)— TRAVEL EXPENSES

A. 1 (1)(8)— Hospitality Expenses and other Administrative Services (2070) office expenses.

2.1 In the Head 3451 i.e. Secretariat Economic Services, with regard to Travel Expenses, Hospitality Expenses and under other Administrative Services, other Expenses, the Committee would recommend that sustained effort may be made by the Ministry to reduce expenses under these heads.

CROP HUSBANDRY (MAJOR HEAD 2401)

Sub-Head C.1 (1) and C.1 (2) MINIKIT PROGRAMME OF WHEAT AND MILLET

2.2 The Committee have found that there is no budget provision under SC/ST components of these programmes for this year (1993-94). Further, it has been noticed that targets have never been achieved since 1988-89 to 1992-93, as far as the Minikit programme of Millets is concerned.

2.3 Ministry of Agriculture in its reply have stated that Budget provision for the programmes have been made under the major head 3601, Grant-in-aid to the State Governments in the year 1993-94 and the release of funds is subject to the condition that States have to ensure at least 25% of the total assistance flows to SC/ST. Ministry has stated that millets are mostly grown under rainfed conditions and because of the aberrations in monsoon in most parts of the millet growing areas, Minikit programmes could not be taken up in full.

2.4 The Committee, recommended that condition of rainfed farming should be improved and close monitoring of the scheme should be done to ensure proper utilisation of funds by the States under these schemes.

Sub-Head C.2 (3)— Transport subsidy on seeds

2.5 The Budget proposal for Transport subsidy on seeds to N.S.C./S.F.C.I for the year 1993-94 is Rs. 60 lakhs under plan which is double than the Budget provision of 1992-93. Therefore, there is 100% increase under the sub-head this year.

2.6 To subsidise the difference of cost of transportation of seeds by rail and road to the North States including Sikkim as also pending claim of Rs. 9.17 lakhs relating to 1992-93 and the claims likely to be received

during 1993-94 from N.S.C. and S.F.C.I. are stated to be the main reasons for increase in this head.

2.7 The Committee are happy to note that Transport Subsidy for this vital input is being provided by the Ministry to the North-Eastern States. The Committee is of the opinion that this facility should not be denied to other remote, hilly and inaccessible areas of the country and would recommend that this scheme be extended to other parts of the country.

MANURES & FERTILISERS

Sub-Head C.3(3) & A.A.2(1)

2.8 The Revenue Budget provision has been reduced from Rs. 75 lakhs in 1992-93 to Rs. 60 lakhs in 1993-94 and Capital Budget increased from 25 lakhs to Rs. 78 Lakhs keeping in view the policy framework laid down in the Eighth Plan. The Committee is, however, unhappy to note that targets and achievements in regard to analysis of Fertilizer Samples are far from satisfactory.

2.9 The Committee has been informed that Capital Budget increase to the tune of Rs. 78 lakh is kept in order to meet the expenditure relating to the construction of building and provision of infrastructure for the setting up of R.F.C.I. It has also stated that the targets could not be achieved as posts which were approved as part of the scheme were not allowed to be created. These posts have now been proposed under the 8th Plan in order to achieve capacity utilisation of infrastructure already created.

2.10 The Committee are concerned to note that the posts were not allowed to be created leading to non-utilisation of infrastructure facilities which were provided. The Committee can not help but conclude that creating of infrastructure facilities without the creation of post was not only a casual way of planning but also led to wasteful expenditure as without the posts the infrastructure facilities created could not be utilised.

2.11 The Committee recommend that more care may be taken for proper planning in future and posts be created as early as possible, as the Eighth Plan has also been in operation for more than one year.

Sub-Head C-3(7) (1) Assistance for Fertilizer Promotion

2.12 Under this head an amount of Rs. 340 crores was provided as assistance for Fertilizers promotion in the Revised Estimates for 1992-93. The Committee, however, note that there is no Budget Provisions for the

year 1993-94. On being asked for the reasons the Ministry in its reply stated:—

“In order to cushion the hike in prices of the decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, the Government approved a provision of Rs. 340 crores for concessional sale of these fertilizers to the farmers during Rabi 1992-93. This was a one-time concession for Rabi 1992-93 only after which the prices of these fertilizers were expected to come down and stabilise. The import of DAP has been decanalised and the State Governments have been asked to import DAP through their institutional agencies to ensure timely availability. No funds have been provided in the Budget for 1993-94”.

2.12A The Committee is of the view that the prices of fertilizers have not come down and stabilized so far. The Committee, therefore, recommend that this scheme should be continued this year also because the Committee apprehend that small and marginal farmers may not be able to get timely supply of fertilizers in the absence of this scheme which will result in decline in the production as well as loss to the farmers.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT CENTRE (2401)

Sub-Head C. 4 (1)(3)

2.13 This is one of the thrust programmes in the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Committee have observed that Rs. 315 lakhs has been provided on Plan for 1993-94 which is less than the last year's Rs. 400 lakhs whereas there is increase in non-plan in comparison to the last year. Thus there is reduction in plan budget provision instead of non-plan.

2.14 The Committee was informed that the decrease in the plan provision for 1993-94 is mainly due to less requirement of funds for machinery and equipment.

2.15 The Committee hope that less requirement of funds for machinery and equipment may not affect the implementation of this scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend that taking into cognisance the factor, the Ministry should ensure that implementation of the scheme does not suffer on this account.

DEVELOPMENT OF PULSES

Sub-Head C. 5

2.16 Two schemes viz., National Pulses Development Project and Special Foodgrains Production Programme— Pulses are being implemented in the country. On scrutinising demands for grants and performance budget, the Committee is happy to find that government have as per Eighth Plan thrust and Agriculture Policy Resolution increased Budget Estimate for Research and Development in Post Harvest Technology in Pulses for the year 1993-94 from Rs. 40 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs.

2.17 The Committee are also happy to note that the Ministry has a provision to popularies TMOP through the manufacture of Small Dal Mills which have been developed by CFTRI through demonstrations and in NDDP extending subsidies for proposing small capacities dal processors by

the farmers. They would recommend that this thrust area continue in the next plan also.

DEVELOPMENT OF OILSEEDS (2401 & 3601)

Sub-Head C-6(2), C. 6(5), E. 3(3), E. (3)(3)(1), E. 3(3)(1)(1)

2.18 The Committee have noticed that during 1991-92, total outlay in the programme was Rs. 64.57 crores against which the actual release was Rs. 58.28 crores. As per Ministry's own submission, this under-utilisation was due to budgetary/resource limitation on the part of State Government. It has also been noticed that for the year 1993-94 the budget estimate is Rs. 97.50 crores. Correspondingly, the targets under input supply and support services, under OPP in respect of plant protection equipment and farm implementation were fixed lower in 1992-93 than in 1991-92. On being asked for the reasons for fixing lower targets as against increased budgetary support, the Ministry was unable to give any satisfactory reply. The Committee also wished to know that what was the Eighth Plan and Annual Plan targets for 1993-94 under area expansion for oil seeds production. The Ministry's reply was that under OPP, target is fixed for production only.

2.19 The Committee is of the opinion that unless target for area expansion are also fixed, there can be no meaningful implementation of the programmes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that target for area expansion under OPP may be fixed immediately.

Sub-Head C. 8(3)— Coconut Development Board

2.20 The Committee have observed that in 1992-93 only 9 crores were provided whereas this year (1993-94) it has been increased to Rs. 18.4 crores. The reasons for the substantial increase in the head are stated to be due to new schemes proposed to be taken up during 1993-94 subject to the clearance by the Competent authority.

2.21 The Committee hope that the clearance is obtained at the earliest so that the demand is not made infructuous. The Committee also recommend that new schemes should go on as per schedule.

MAJOR HEAD 3601

Sub-Head E.2(6) (1)— Oil Palm Cultivation in potential States

2.22 During Eighth Plan an area of 80,000 ha. is to be prepared for the development of oil palm out of which 20,000 ha. alone was to be developed during 1992-93.

2.23 On being asked whether Ministry have covered an area of 20,000 ha. during 1992-93, they have admitted that owing to lack of sufficient oil palm seeds, since the imported oil palm seeds were received in a phased manner through the year 1991-92 and 1992-93, the planting material to cover the entire 20,000 ha. could not be made ready for field planting.

2.24 The Committee failed to understand that how the targets have been fixed at, if the Ministry did not have the necessary input i.e. seeds. In the opinion of the Committee target fixed during 1993-94 seems only on paper unless seeds are made available in time.

2.25 The Committee, therefore, recommend that input services under this programme should be strengthened and the targets be refixed as per the capacity which the government can develop. It is not necessary to fix exaggerated and arbitrary targets if they can not be achieved.

Sub-Head E.2 (9)(1)—Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers for implementation of various schemes including infrastructure building

2.26 Under this Head no budget provision has been made for 1993-94. The Ministry of Agriculture have clarified that a sum of Rs.500 crores was approved by the Prime Minister mainly with the intention of creating infrastructural facilities for small and marginal farmers who do not benefit from the Minimum Support Prices for foodgrains and other crops. However, a sum of Rs. 365 crores only has been made available to the State Government under this scheme upto March, 1993. Ministry of Finance has stated that the scheme will not be continued for the year 1993-94.

2.27 The Committee fail to understand what are the reasons which weight with the Ministry for discontinuing the scheme and why only Rs. 365 crores has been made available out of Rs. 500 crores.

2.28 The Committee is of the view that the scheme should be continued and allocation for this year should be enhanced.

2.29 Since the provision in this scheme apply to small and marginal farmers who are really the poor section of our society, the Committee strongly recommend that the increased allocation should be made in the first year so as to create the necessary infrastructure. Moreover since this scheme related to building of infrastructure, the committee recommend that the amount should be doubled. i.e. Rs. 1000 crore.

DEMAND NO. 2 MAJOR HEAD (6425)

Sub-Head D.D.2 (5)—Loans through NCDC for share Capital participation in Cooperative Sugar Mills

2.30 Initially NCDC had proposed for the setting up of 20 new Cooperative Sugar Mills involving an amount of Rs. 116.40 crores. However, only Rs. 86.61 crores have been provided during 1993-94. Further only 15 new units have been proposed to be set up.

The Committee is of the opinion that the amount of Rs. 86.61 crores is insufficient. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the proposal of NCDC should be accepted in toto so as to strengthen cooperative movement.

AGRICULTURAL & RURAL DEBT SCHEME

2.31 Agricultural & Rural Debt Scheme was started in 1990-91 for providing Debt Relief to farmers, landless cultivators, artisans and weavers upto Rs. 10,000/ from PSBs and RRBs. During 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 a sum of Rs. 1500 crores, Rs. 1425 crores and Rs. 1500 crores were released respectively. During the current year *i.e.* 1993-94 only Rs. 500 crores have been provided for this scheme.

2.32 Asked whether the Government would be able to fulfil its commitment by providing only Rs. 500 crores for the year 1993-94, the Ministry of Agriculture has stated, that the liability of the Government of India as on 1.7.92 was Rs. 5739.42 crores. However, by the time the scheme is completed, the liability would be around Rs. 5882 crores. Out of this Rs. 4425 crores have already been spent up to the year 1992-93. Thus balance would be only Rs. 1457 crores. In order to contain liability of Government of India the Ministry of Finance has decided to exclude:

- (a) Penal and Compound Interest;
- (b) The amounts already received by banks from deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee corporation and kept in Suspense Account.

2.33 It is estimated that these measures would reduce the liability of the Government of India by Rs. 1000 crores. After excluding this the total liability of the Government of India under the scheme would come to Rs. 4882 crores.

2.34 For the year 1993-94, a Budget Provision of Rs. 500 crores has been made which would be sufficient to take care of the total liability of the Government of India under the scheme.

2.35 Many State Governments have already represented against the decision of the Ministry of Finance to exclude penal and compound interest, from the compensation claims. The view points of the State Government on this issue have already been brought to the notice of Finance Ministry as well as Prime Minister by Hon'ble Agriculture Minister and Ministry of Finance is looking into this aspect.

2.36 The Committee is of the opinion that decision to exclude penal and compound interest and the amounts already received by banks from deposit would be discriminatory in nature. It has been observed that State Government have also represented against the decision.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that this scheme should be implemented in a uniform basis and the decision to exclude penal and compound interest and the amounts already received by banks from deposit should be rescinded and accordingly allocation should be as per requirement.

CHAPTER III

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

3.1 The Committee have observed that the figures showing amount in the Demands for Grants are in thousands of rupees whereas in performance budget the same is in lakhs. Further, in Annual Plan it is in crores. Due to diversity in showing amounts, the Committee have to over exercise in arriving at the figure which is time consuming. The Committee, therefore, recommend that uniformity should be brought in Budget in relation to the amounts in order to easily make out and understand the figures.

3.2 The Committee regret to note that share of agriculture in total plan outlay has declined in successive plan periods. Its share in total plan outlay has gone down from 10.0% from First Plan to 5.2% in Eighth Plan. In the opinion of the Committee, this is not a healthy trend. When more than 68% of the population is dependent on Agriculture, the Committee strongly recommends that more funds should be made available for this vital sector.

3.3 There is a need to increase the budgetary allocation both for the Non-Plan and Plan sectors. The Committee have observed that while there has been a reduction in Non-Plan expenditure mainly on account of reduction in Non-Plan scheme for debt relief to farmers and Assistance for Fertilizer Promotion which has contributed to the over all reduction in Non-Plan expenditure for 1993-94, there has been no reduction in Non-Plan expenditure on account of curtailment of establishment expenses. The Committee strongly recommends that there should be serious and concerted efforts towards restriction of Non-Plan expenditure in establishment expenses and not on welfare activities.

3.4 As per information given by the Ministry, the number of re-appropriation orders issued during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 were 83, 99 and 115 respectively. The amount involved in re-appropriation orders was Rs. 168.31 crores, Rs. 535.75 crores and Rs. 1205.39 crores for the year 1990-93. During evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Committee were informed that re-appropriation was basically done by the States. The Committee wished to have detailed break-up of the amount of re-appropriation done by States and Centre. However, the Ministry has not furnished any reply in this regard so far. While increase in re-appropriation shows an unhealthy trend, the Committee would also urge that the Ministry should go into the reason as to why re-appropriation is on the rise and suggest ways and means to contain this practice which indicate lack of financial control.

3.5 While the allocation for Fishery have substantially increased for the year 1993-94, the Committee feel that this is area which has a potential for further expansion as it is a rich source of export earning for the nation. The Committee, therefore, feel that in subsequent plan period also fishery should be a thrust area and plan allocation should be substantially enhanced.

3.6 The Committee on Agriculture in its 10th report have commented on the need for movement of foodgrains without any restrictions in order to act as an incentive to the farmers for increasing his agricultural produce. The Committee's recommendations as given by the Committee in Para 118 of the report mentioned above should be implemented in toto.

NEW DELHI;
29th April, 1993

9 Vaisakha, 1915 (Saka)

NITISH KUMAR
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

MINUTES OF FIRST SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON FRIDAY, THE 16TH APRIL, 1993

The Committee set from 1100 hrs. to 1200 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Nitish Kumar—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Birbal
3. Shri Sarat Chandra Pattanayak
4. Shri Tara Singh
5. Shri V. V. Nawale
6. Shri Ganga Ram Koli
- 7 Dr. Parshuram Gangwar
8. Smt. Krishnendra Kaur (Deepa)
9. Shri Upendra Nath Verma
10. Shri B. N. Reddy

Rajya Sabha

11. Shri H. Hanumanthappa
12. Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav
13. Shri S. K. J. Ramachandran
14. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann
15. Shri Ramji Lal
16. Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy
17. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
18. Shri Som Pal
19. Shri K. N. Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G. L. Batra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri Haripal Singh — *Under Secretary*

At the outset, the Chairman felicitated the Members on their nomination to the Committee and welcomed them to the first sitting of the Committee.

Most of the Members of the Committee expressed their views that the Ministry of Rural Development should also have been brought under the purview of Committee on Agriculture, as agriculture and rural development are inter-related and they cannot be separated from each other. The Members requested the Chairman to take up the matter with the Hon'ble Speaker. However, the Chairman clarified that this question was outside the purview of the Committee. The Committee thereafter started deliberations in connection with examination of the demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture—Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

The Committee decided that due to paucity of time, it should examine the Demands for Grants of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture only and present a report thereon to the Parliament.

The Committee also decided to meet on 20th and 21st April, 1993 to discuss the Demands for Grants of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and to take official evidence of the representatives of the Department on 22nd and 23rd April, 1993.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF SECOND SITTING OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 22ND APRIL, 1993.

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1700 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Nitish Kumar— *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri D. Pandian
3. Shri Birbal
4. Shri Ankushrao Rao Saheb Tope
5. Shri Channaiah Odeyar
6. Shri Tara Singh
7. Shri Uttarmrao Deorao Patil
8. Shri Rajvir Singh
9. Kumari Uma Bharati
10. Shri Rudrasen Choudhary
11. Shri Ganga Ram Koli
12. Dr. Gunawant Rambhau Sarode
13. Dr. Parshuram Gangwar
14. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma
15. Smt. Krishnendra Kaur (Deepa)
16. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi
17. Shri Shiva Sharan Singh
18. Shri Zainal Abedin

Rajya Sabha

19. Shri H. Hanumanthappa
20. Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal
21. Shri Bapu Kaldate
22. Shri Maheshwar Singh
23. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann
24. Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran
25. Shri Ramji Lal

26. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
27. Shri Som Pal
28. Shri K.N.Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shrimati Revathi Bedi — *Deputy Secretary*
2. Shri Haripal Singh — *Under Secretary*

At the outset, the Chairman informed the Members that in the last sitting of the Committee held on 16th April, 1993, it was decided to present report only on the Demands for Grants of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. He also stated that the Committee Secretariat had prepared a list of points for official evidence which may be considered. The Committee then took up for consideration, the List of Points and approved the same after making some changes.

Some Members expressed their view that the impact of Debt Relief Scheme initiated by the Government in 1990 on Demands for Grants 1993-94 of Ministry of Agriculture may be examined. A few Members expressed their concern regarding increase in Secretariat expenses and Non-Plan expenditure in Demands for Grants 1993-94. They were of the opinion that the Ministry should chalk out the ways to curtail Non-Plan expenditures. A Member pointed out that various centres for procurement of Rabi crops had not started functioning yet. Funds and gunny bags were not available for procurement of food grains. Farmers were, therefore, being forced to sell their products in the open market below the M.S.P. He requested that although this question did not relate to the Demands for Grants, hence it should be taken up with the Ministry on a priority basis. He also stated that though for purpose of movement of foodgrains the entire country had been declared as a single zone, yet in actual practice there are still restrictions on the movement of foodgrains to various parts of the country.

The Committee also decided to cancel the sitting to be held on 21st April, 1993. The Demands for Grants of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation were then taken up for consideration. The Committee also decided to take evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture—Department of Agriculture & Cooperation regarding Demands for Grants 1993-94 on 22nd April, 1993.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THIRD SITTING OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 22ND APRIL, 1993.

The Committee sat from 0930 hrs. to 1045 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Nitish Kumar — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri D. Pandian
3. Shri Birbal
4. Shri Ankushrao Rao Saheb Tope
5. Shri Tara Singh
6. Shri Uttamrao Deorao Patil
7. Shri Rajvir Singh
8. Shri Rudrasen Choudhary
9. Dr. Parshuram Gangwar
10. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma
11. Smt. Krishnendra Kaur (Deepa)
12. Shri Shiva Sharan Singh
13. Shri Zainal Abedin
14. Shri Kamlá Mishra Madhukar

Rajya Sabha

15. Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal
16. Shri Maheshwar Singh
17. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann
18. Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy
19. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
20. Shri Som Pal
21. Shri K.N.Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shrimati Revathi Bedi — *Deputy Secretary*
2. Shri Haripal Singh — *Under Secretary*

Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation)

1. Shri J.C.Pant — *Special Secretary (P)*
2. Shri M.C.Aggarwal - *Joint Secretary & Finance Advisor*

The Committee discussed with the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) the various points arising out of the Demands for Grants (1993-94) of the Ministry.

The Committee decided to meet again on Tuesday, 27th April, 1993 at 1500 hrs.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF FOURTH SITTING OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 27TH APRIL, 1993

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1815 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Nitish Kumar — *Chariman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri D.Pandian
3. Shri Birbal
4. Shri G. Ganga Reddy
5. Shri Ankushrao Rao Saheb Tope
6. Shri Tara Singh
7. Shri Uttamrao Deorao Patil
8. Shri Rajvir Singh
9. Shri Rudrasen Choudhary
10. Dr. Parshuram Gangwar
11. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma
12. Shri Shiva Sharan Singh
13. Shri Zainal Abedin
14. Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar

Rajya Sabha

15. Shri Ram Narain Goswamy
16. Shri David Ledger
17. Shri Maheshwar Singh
18. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann
19. Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy
20. Shri Som Pal

SECRETARIAT

1. Shrimati Revathi Bedi — *Deputy Secretary*
2. Shri Haripal Singh — *Under Secretary*

The Committee considered and adopted the Draft First Report on Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)—Demands for Grants (1993-94) with certain modifications and authorised the Chairman to finalise the Report and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee also decided that the Report may be presented to Lok Sabha on Thursday the 29th April, 1993.

The Committee then adjourned.