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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
(1996-97)**

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

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**MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1996-97)**

FIFTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 1996/Bhadra, 1918 (Saka)

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (1996-97)

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1996-97)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 29.8.96

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 29.8.96



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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(1996-97)**

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar — *Chairman*

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SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
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| 4. Ms. Amita Walia | — | <i>Reporting Officer</i> |

PREFACE

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Agriculture having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifth Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 1996-97.

2. The Standing Committee on Agriculture was re-reconstituted on 2nd August, 1996. One of the functions of the Standing Committee as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha is 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.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries on 14th August, 1996. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for placing before them, the material and information which they desired in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry for the year 1996-97 and for giving evidence before the Committee.

4. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 23rd August, 1996.

NEW DELHI;
23 August, 1996
Bhadra 1, 1918 (Saka)

SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I

OVERVIEW OF DEMANDS

1.1 The latest survey of Industries 1990-91 reveals that the total share of the Food Processing Industries in the total gross value of output and net value added of the manufacturing sector was 15.54% and 10.02% respectively. Keeping in view the potential for export of processed food as also to generate substantial direct and indirect employment opportunities by this sector, Ministry of Food Processing Industries was set up in July, 1988 to act as a catalyst and facilitator for getting larger investments in food processing sector, increasing exports and creating a general atmosphere for healthy growth of the Food Processing Industries.

1.2 Accordingly, the Eighth Plan document envisages a moderate increase in food prices consistent with remunerative return to the farmers, a combination of infrastructure and favourable conditions for the growth of Food Processing Industries innovative organisational methods and forms which are important for Food Processing Industries and expanding employment, particularly in the processing and manufacturing activities.

1.3 Therefore, the thrust of the Eighth Plan for Food Processing Industries is to boost exports of agro-products covering processed fruits and juices including other processed food, processed egg, fish and fish products and meat and meat products by focussing greater attention on strengthening competitiveness of Indian products in the mega markets as well as to identify new export potential markets. In keeping with this thrust of the plan, setting up of Food Processing Training Centres in the rural areas, improvement in packaging systems and extension and training for rural artisans and other workers of the Food Processing Industries, development of infrastructure facilities, establishment of large private sector units in rural areas for production processed food items, financial assistance to food processing units for strengthening backward linkages between processors and growers, and diversification/modernisation/restructuring plans for M.F.I.L. and N.E.R.A.M.A.C. were to be paid greater attention in each of the successive annual plans during Eighth Five Year Plan.

1.4 Plan outlay during the Eighth Plan for Food Processing Industries is as follows :—

		(Rs. in Crores)
I.	Food, Storage and Warehousing	
	(a) Grain Processing Sector	11.00
	(b) Fruits & Vegetables Processing	35.00
	(c) Meat & Poultry Processing	23.00
	Total	69.00
II.	Fisheries	63.00
III.	Consumer Industries	08.00
IV.	Secretariat-Economic Services	06.00
	Grand Total	146.000

1.5 Ministry of Food Processing Industries have placed a demand of Rs. 45 crores (Plan) and 6.06 crores (Non-plan) totalling Rs. 51.06 crores during 1996-97 against the revised Budget Estimate of Rs. 45.00 crores (Plan) and Rs. 5.86 crores (Non-Plan) totalling Rs. 50.86 crores during 1995-96.

1.6 The Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actuals in each year of the Eighth Plan period are as follows :

							(Rs. in Crores)
Year	Budget	Estimate	Revised	Estimate	Actuals		
	Plan	Non-Plan			Plan	Non-Plan	
1992-93	40.00	04.39	41.84	03.58	33.15	03.16	
1993-94	47.00	04.05	48.57	08.04	38.53	04.28	
1994-95	46.00	05.63	45.00	05.94	30.33	04.43	
1995-96	45.00	05.13	45.00	05.86	40.84	05.01	
1996-97	45.00	06.06	—	—	—	—	

1.7 The following Statement shows the trend of expenditure in respect of various Eighth Plan Schemes :—
(Rs. in Crores)

Expenditure										
Sectors	VIIIth Plan Outlay	1992-93 Actuals	1993-94 Actuals	1994-95 Actuals	1995-96 Budget Estimates	1995-96 Revised Estimates	1996-97	Total of Cols. 3+4 +5+7+8	%age of Column 9 in Col. 2	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1. (A+B+C+ Food, Storage and Warehousing										
(A) Grain Processing	11.00	3.40 R.	3.25 R	3.52 R	3.70 R	3.78 R	3.30 R	17.17 R	156.09	
(B) Fruit & Vegetable Processing	35.00	5.08 R 1.68 C	9.29 R 1.00 C	7.08 R 2.00 C	10.50 R 3.00 C	10.50 R 3.00 C	10.60 R 5.00 C	42.55 R 12.68 C	157.80	
(C) Meat and Poultry Processing	23.00	1.06 R 2.02 C	2.08 R 1.18 C	1.39 R 0.20 C	2.10 R 3.50 C	2.10 R 3.50 C	2.60 R 3.00 C	9.23 R 9.90 C	83.17	
2. Fisheries	63.00	15.62 R 0.15 C	16.92 R 0.06 C	12.79 R 0.50 C	17.60 R 0.50 C	17.60 R 0.50 C	15.70 R 0.50 C	78.63 R 1.71 C	127.52	
3. Consumer Industries	8.00	0.51 R 1.50 C	2.20 R 1.20 C	0.13 R 1.38 C	0.30 R 2.00 C	0.30 R 2.00 C	0.30 R 2.00 C	3.44 R 8.08 C	144.00	
4. Secretariat Economic Services	6.00	1.13 R 26.80 R	1.35 R 35.09 R	1.34 R 26.25 R	1.80 R 36.00 R	1.80 R 36.00 R	2.00 R 34.50 R	7.62 R 158.64 R	127.00 130.83	
Total R C	146.00	3.35 C	3.44 C	4.08 C	9.00 C	9.00 C	10.50 C	32.37 C		
Grand Total	146.00	32.15	38.53	30.33	45.00	45.00	45.00	191.01	130.83	
C-Capital Section Expenditure										
R-Revenue Section Expenditure										

1.8 The following are the details of Non-Plan Expenditure of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries :—

(Rs. in Crores)

Sector	1992-93 Actuals	1993-94 Actuals	1994-95 Actuals	1995-96 B.E	1995-96 R.E	1996-97 B.E
1. (A+B+C) Food, Storage and Warehousing	0.50	0.57	0.55	0.63	0.68	0.74
(a) Grain Processing	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.11	0.12	0.13
(b) Fruit & Vegetable Processing	0.43	0.48	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.61
(c) Meat & Poultry Processing	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Fisheries	1.58	1.53	1.55	1.90	1.90	2.00
3. Consumer Industries	—	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
4. Secretariat Economic Services	1.08	1.59	1.74	2.00	2.08	2.12
5. Aid Materials (Danish Aid)	—	—	1.15	—	0.60	0.60
Total	3.16	4.29	5.59	5.13	5.86	6.06

Availability of Resources :

1.9 The Committee in their 23rd report on Demands for Grants have recommended that the budgetary plan allocations in respect of Food Processing Industries should be increased atleast to Rs. 100 crores. But the budget estimate for the current year is only marginally higher by Rs. 20 lakhs than the previous year and that too in non-plan estimates.

1.10 Keeping in view the inflation and decline in purchasing power of the rupee the allocation in real terms for the current year is much lower than the allocation of the previous year. When asked about the reasons for this, the Ministry in a written reply has stated that :

"For our Annual Plan 1996-97 an allocation of Rs. 88.79 crores was sought. During the Annual Plan discussion, it emerged that our outlay would be of the order of about Rs. 52 crores. However, while finalising the

budget an outlay of Rs. 45 crores only has been allocated. For getting an increased allocation the matter was taken up by the Minister of Food Processing Industries with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. However, it is informed by the Planning Commission that the increased outlay is not possible due to severe resources constraints."

SECTOR-WISE ANALYSIS

CHAPTER II

MAJOR HEAD — 2405B FISHERIES

Fisheries

2.1 In the fisheries sector, in the first four years of the plan from 1992-93 to 1995-96 a total expenditure of Rs. 62.86 crores (Rs. 60.47 crores on revenue side and Rs. 02.39 crores on capital side) has been incurred and this works out to about 100% of the total Eighth Plan outlay for fisheries. The Budget Estimate for 1996-97 for fisheries is Rs. 16.20 crores (Rs. 15.70 on revenue section and Rs. 0.50 crores on capital section).

Marine Fisheries

2.2 Following is the table indicating the position as it existed at the commencement of the Eighth Plan period and also as on date in respect of fishing and fish processing facilities available :

S.No.	Facility	At the Beginning of 8th Plan	Current
1.	Non-mechanised country crafts	180096	191207(1994-95)
2.	Mechanised fishing vessels	30316 (1991-92)	46918 (1994-95)
3.	Deep Sea Fishing vessels	180 Indian owned +41 under Charter	180 Indian owned +30JV/Leasing/Charter
4.	Freezing Plants	231 units	344 units (31.5.1995)
5.	Capacity of freezing Plants	2295.88 tons/day (31.3.1990)	5040.95 tons/day (31.5.95)
6.	Canning Units	24 (31.3.90)	22 (31.5.95)

S.No.	Facility	At the Beginning of 8th Plan	Current
7.	Capacity of canning units	83.5 tons/day (31.3.1990)	71.10 tons/day (31.5.1995)
8.	Individual Quick freezing plants (IQF)	53 units (1991-92)	94 units (1995-96)
9.	Capacity of IQF plants	295 tons	626.5 tons
10.	Cold Storages	304 units (31.3.1990)	418 units (31.5.1995)
11.	Production of marine fish	24.47 lakh tons (1991-92)	27.02 lakhs tons estimated 1995-96
12.	Production of inland fish	17.10 lakh tons	22.45 lakh tons (estimated for 95-96)
13.	Export of fish products	Qty. 171.8 (in thousand tons)	305.1 (in thousand tons (1994-95)
		Value 1375.89 crores	3553.08 crores (1994-95)

2.3 The following schemes are in operation under the Eighth plan in fisheries sector under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries :

1. Assistance in Deep-Sea Fishing and Processing Ventures.
2. Scheme for providing interest subsidy on loans for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels.
3. Assistance in Diversified Fishing.
4. Scheme for effective implementation of the Maritime Zone of India Act, 1981— Providing loans for installation of communication facilities for the coast guard.
5. Scheme for setting up Infrastructural Facilities for Preservation and Processing of Fish. (During the year 1992-93 and 1993-94, the Ministry was implementing two schemes for infrastructural development in the field of preservation and processing of fish. These were (i) scheme for cold chain and (ii) scheme for tuna and other fish processing. By merging these two schemes, the scheme for setting up of Infrastructural Facilities for Preservation & Processing of Fish was formulated for implementation from the year 1994-95 onwards).

6. National Marine Fisheries Development Board (since renamed as Deep-Sea Fisheries Development Board).
7. Scheme for providing grant-in-aid for promoting of R&D and Quality Improvement in Fish Processing Sector.

Assistance in Deep Sea Fishing and Processing Ventures — M.P.E.D.A.

2.4 The objective of the scheme is for assistance in Deep-Sea Fishing and processing ventures. The scheme provides for financial assistance (Grant-in-aid) to the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) to enable them to participate in the equity of the projects which undertake deep-sea fishing.

2.5 The details of expenditure under the scheme is as follows :-

	BE	Actuals
1992-93	Rs. 100 lakhs	Rs. 100 lakhs
1993-94	Rs. 75 lakhs	Rs. 28 lakhs
1994-95	Rs. 100 lakhs	Nil
1995-96	Rs. 100 lakhs	Nil
1996-97	Rs. 5 lakhs	
Total	Rs. 380 lakhs	Rs. 128 lakhs

2.6 When asked about the reasons for the poor financial performance of the scheme and whether the government would modify the scheme as there are no takers for it the Ministry have stated in a note that this matter was taken up with MPEDA, who had indicated that there is no requirement of funds for this purpose, since they had not received any proposals for the same. This is because the deep sea fisheries sector has been undergoing a slump in the last few years. There was no proposal to modify the scheme for interest subsidy. The 9th Five Year Plan is under preparation. The performance of various schemes will be considered while formulating the schemes for the 9th Plan.

2.7. The Ministry has informed that during the period of the Eighth Plan, MPEDA with funds provided by the Ministry, has participated in the equity of the following three companies only.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Triumala Fuji Tech Aqua Farms Ltd., Hyderabad | 50 Lakhs |
| 2. Indo Aquatics Ltd., Hyderabad | 36 Lakhs |
| 3. Sudesh Sea Foods Ltd., Bombay | 36 Lakhs |

Scheme for providing interest subsidy on loans for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels

2.8 The budget allocation and disbursements under the Scheme for providing Interest Subsidy on Loans for Acquisition of Deep Sea Fishing Vessels were as under :

Year	BE/RE (rupees in lakhs)	Disbursement
1992-93	150.00	103.54
1993-94	100.00	22.83
1994-95	50.00	50.00
1995-96	50.00	Nil
1996-97	05.00	—

2.9 Disbursements made under this Scheme are based on the fund requirements sought by SCICI Ltd. The SCICI calculates this amount on the basis of the eligibility of the loanees, taking into account their past performance regarding repayment of loan. A total number of two companies were assisted during 1992-93 to 1994-95.

2.10 It is observed that during the year 1995-96 Rs. 50.00 lakh were allocated but no amount was disbursed to SCICI. Moreover, only Rs. 5 lakhs have been allocated for 1996-97.

2.11 The Committee desired to know as to whether there was any proposal for reviewing the guidelines/norms for repayment of loans by loanees under the scheme as most of the loanees defaulted rendering them ineligible for the subsidy. The Committee is informed that :

"A Committee was set up to make recommendations for rehabilitation of the defaulting deep sea fishing companies. The recommendations of this Technical Committee were accepted by the Ministry and sent to the Finance Ministry for approval. This is still awaited."

Assistance in Diversified Fishing

2.12 Most of the Indian owned deep sea fishing vessels are undertaking demersal trawling. Experts and Associations of vessel operators have pointed out that a number of these vessels could be modified for diversified fishing so as to divert the same from shrimp resources. Under this scheme, it is envisaged to

provide financial assistance (grant-in-aid) for modification of vessels. The scheme is implemented through MPEDA. The details of funds disbursed under this scheme in the 8th Plan as under :

	B.E.	Actuals
1992-93	Rs. 50.00 lakhs	35.00
1993-94	Rs. 100.00 lakhs	Nil
1994-95	Rs. 100.00 lakhs	Nil
1995-96	Rs. 50.00 lakhs	Nil
1996-97	Rs. 05.00 lakhs	—

2.13 It is observed that allocation under this scheme has come down by 90%.

2.14 When asked as why the allocation has been drastically reduced Ministry informed that during the Eighth Plan period only Rs. 35 lakhs have been spent in 1992-93 and 11 companies have been assisted and no proposal under this scheme were received from MPEDA in the recent years.

Scheme for setting up of infrastructural facilities for preservation and processing of fish

2.15 Fish is a highly perishable item and utmost care has to be taken in its preservation and processing to avoid wastage and deterioration in quality. Establishment of cold storage facilities at the fish landing/producing centres, wholesale market places and consumer centres and providing refrigerated/insulated trucks/vehicles or other modes of transport will help ensuring availability of good quality fish for domestic consumption as well as for exports. Similarly, processing of good quality fish like tuna, shrimp etc. using the latest technology will go a long way in enhancing the export potential of fish and fish products from India. This scheme has therefore been formulated to create/help to create setting up of the required infrastructural facilities in this regard. Under this scheme, it is envisaged to provide financial assistance (grant-in aid) to the tune of 50% of the total cost of the plants and machinery. The States/UT Governments their undertakings/corporations/joint sector units/co-operatives, association of industries, voluntary organisations etc. are assisted under this scheme. Implementation of the scheme will help generate employment and remunerative prices to the fishermen for their

products. The details of assistance provided under the scheme during the 8th plan are as under :

	B.E	Actuals
1992-93	Rs. 200.00 lakhs	334.20 lakhs
1993-94	Rs. 300.00 lakhs	250.13 lakhs
1994-95	Rs. 360.00 lakhs	61.00 lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 360.00 lakhs	446.00 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 350.00 lakhs	—

2.16 Out of total allocation of Rs. 16.2 crores in 1996-97 under the fisheries sector only Rs. 3.50 crores has been allocated as grant-in-aid for setting up of infrastructural facilities for preservation and processing of fish. This works out to only 21.6% of the allocation for the fisheries sector.

2.17 The Committee have observed in their 35th action taken report that the proportion of allocation for development of fish processing facilities should be stepped up, as this alone will be the sure key for facilitating value addition to the fish catch. Despite the Committee's recommendation the allocation has not been stepped up.

2.18 When asked about the reasons for the inability of the Ministry to refix their priorities, the Ministry in a written reply have informed that the total allocation for the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 1996-97 is at the same level as that of last year's *i.e.* 1995-96. Therefore, the budget allocation for this scheme has been kept at the same level as last year.

Murari Committee Report

2.19 In 1991 the Government had announced the deep sea fishing policy under which they permitted foreign joint ventures and leasing etc. But due to the agitations by the traditional fishermen the Murari Committee on Deep-Sea Fishing Policy under the Chairmanship of former Secretary was appointed. The Ministry has informed that a decision on the recommendations made by the Committee is expected to be taken very shortly.

Fishery Survey of India

2.20 The Fishery Survey of India, Bombay is the nodal agency under the Government of India for the survey and assessment of marine fishery resources of the Indian EEZ. Besides surveys, the Institute has undertaken assessment

studies of suitable craft and gear for deep sea fishing, preparation of fishery charts, training of post-institutional trainees of C.I.F.N.E.T. and consultancy work on various aspects of deep-sea fishing. The FSI, through Vessel-based surveys, provide the information base for the development of deep-sea fishing industry in the country.

2.21 The targets and achievements in terms of area surveyed for different types of surveys are furnished below :

Area Surveyed in 000' Sq. Kms.

Year	Demersal Trawling		Midwater Trawling		Purse Seining		Tuna longlining	
	Target	Achi- vement	Target	Achi- vement	Target	Achi- vement	Target	Achi- vement
1992-93	112	57	7	—	—	—	139	66
1993-94	112	40	—	—	—	—	92	24
1994-95	101	27	—	—	—	—	81	38
1995-96	72	25	15	—	6	—	58	43

2.22 The following are the details of plan budget allocation and expenditure in respect of the Fishery Survey of India :

	B.E.	Actuals
1992-93	12.95 crores	8.89 crores
1993-94	13.17 crores	13.17 crores
1994-95	11.32 crores	11.68 crores
1995-96	10.60 crores	9.80 crores
1996-97	11.10 crores	—

2.23 It has been observed that the projected achievements in respect of demersal trawling survey is only 2500 sq. kms. against target of 72000 sq. kms. In respect of Tuna longlining survey the projected achievement is 43000 sq. kms. against a target of 58000 sq. kms. for the year 1995-96.

2.24 About the poor performance in respect of area covered by the surveys the Government had informed that the survey vessels being very old required frequent repairs and a proposal for replacement of 4 existing vessels with new vessels is under process. It is further added that no funds have been provided

during 1996-97 for acquisition of vessels though funds for this purpose were asked for. This proposal is likely to be included in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

2.25 Under Indo-Danish Technical cooperation programme the rehabilitation works of 2 survey vessels of FSI, Matsya Darshini and Matsya Varshini, were started in June, 1994 and the vessels have been recommissioned in October/November, 1995.

CHAPTER III

MAJOR HEAD—2408 C-FOOD STORAGE AND WAREHOUSING

Grain Processing Sector

Modernisation of Rice Milling Industry

3.1 The details of outlays under the different schemes of the rice milling modernisation programmes are given below :

(Rs. in crores)				
S. No.	Schemes	Actual 1994-95	RE 1995-96	BE 1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
I. Plan				
(a)	Grants-in-aid to Post Harvest Technology Centre (PHTC), IIT, Kharagpur	0.45	0.45	0.45
(b)	Grants-in-aid to Regional Extension Service Centres	0.35	0.50	0.40
(c)	Grants-in-aid to Paddy Processing Research Centre (PPRC)	0.23	0.20	0.40
(d)	R&D and Processing Machinery Testing Centre	0.50	0.50	0.40
(e)	Assistance for Modernisation of Rice Milling Industry (Huller Subsidy)	1.00	1.00	0.45
(f)	Setting up of Food Engineering Centre	1.00	0.90	1.20
	Total Plan	3.38	3.70	3.30
II. Non-Plan				
(a)	Establishment of Rice Milling	0.08	0.09	0.10
(b)	Advertisement & Publicity	0.01	0.12	0.03
	Total (Non-Plan)	0.09	0.12	0.13

3.2 In a note furnished to the Committee it has been stated that as a result of implementation of Plan Schemes and other efforts made by the Ministry, the modern/modernised rice mills in the country have increased from 32969 as on 1.1.92 to 34163 as on 1.1.96.

3.3 Under the scheme of subsidy for setting up of modernised Huller mills revised estimate of 1995-96 is Rs. 100 lakhs as against the actual expenditure of Rs. 99.70 lakhs for 1994-95. But now for the year 1996-97 only Rs. 45 lakhs have been allocated for this scheme which amounts to 55% reduction.

3.4 During oral evidence it was enquired as to why the allocation has been reduced under the scheme of subsidy for setting up of Modernised Huller Mills, Ministry replied that since most of the States/Union Territories have already been granted assistance for this purpose, the allocation under this scheme has been reduced in the current years. Some State Governments have reported that the implementation of this scheme is slow in certain areas because the amount provided is about 50% of the cost of modernisation of a huller and the rest of the money is to be arranged by the owner himself.

3.5 The actual expenditure under the scheme for the setting up of Food Engineering Centre during 1993-94 was Rs. 70 lakhs, for 1994-95 the actual expenditure is Rs. 100 lakhs and the revised estimate is Rs. 90 lakhs for 1995-96. Now for the current year, the allocation has been increased by Rs. 30 lakhs amounting to Rs. 120 lakhs.

3.6 The Committee in their recommendation No. 3.4 (23rd Report) had recommended to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to formulate urgently a suitable scheme for processing of coarse-grains and launch them within three months and seek revised budgetary allocation for 1995-96 and suitable increased allocation for 1996-97. Ministry in their action taken reply has informed that it has formulated a plan scheme to be implemented from 1996-97 for encouraging backward linkages in this regard. But there is no provision of allocation for this scheme during 1996-97 and when asked about the reasons for this, Ministry in a written reply has stated :

This Ministry had formulated a scheme for strengthening backward linkages for maize, and coarse-grain processing industry. The same was sent to the Planning Commission for being implemented during 1996-97. However, the Planning Commission decided that this scheme, being a new scheme, may not be taken up in the terminal year of the Eighth Plan. Ministry of FPI will endeavour to include the scheme in the Ninth Plan.

Fruit & Vegetable Processing

3.7 Under this head, the following schemes are covered :

S.No.	Scheme Plan	R.E.	Actuals	R.E.	B.E.
		1994-95		1995-96	1996-97
1.	Assistance for creation of infrastructural facilities	4.80	2.99	5.00	4.00
2.	Assistance for setting up/ expansion/upgradation of F&VP Units and backward linkages etc.	3.00	3.00	5.00	7.95
3.	Generic Advertising on processed foods and for providing marketing assistance	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.65
4.	Research & Development	0.70	0.70	1.00	1.00
5.	Assistance for setting up Food Processing Centres	1.00	0.87	2.00	2.00
6.	Assistance for export infrastructure	0.01	—	—	—
Total		11.01	8.56	13.50	15.60

Non-Plan

1.	Continuous Inspection of Fruit Products Control order	0.33		0.34	0.36
2.	Establishment Fruit Products Control order	0.16		0.19	0.22
3.	Consultancy Service Cell	0.03		0.03	0.03
Total		0.52		0.56	0.61

3.8 It has been stated by the Ministry that with the implementation of the above mentioned 8th plan schemes, pertaining to F&VP sector, more and more rural people will be able to start their own enterprises as also get employment opportunity as well as remunerative price for their horticultural produce.

3.9 On the question of evolving a separate plan scheme of assistance for setting up fruit and vegetable processing units in the rural areas by entrepreneurs,

the Committee has been informed that it would be implemented while finalising the Ninth Plan.

3.10 Under the Scheme for development of infrastructure for mushroom cultivation and processing in the fruits and vegetable processing sector, during the first 4 years of the Eighth Plan, financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 271.065 lakhs has been extended to units in the States of Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Assistance for setting up of Food Processing Training Centres

3.11 With a view to encouraging rural processing, it is found necessary to create rural enterprises with appropriate technology for production of food products. The scheme envisages entrepreneur development and transfer of technology for rural processing of agricultural raw material into food products wherein "hand on" experience is provided to the trainees for operating and managing a small unit. The scheme also envisages training of rural entrepreneurs in each activity such as technology, production, marketing, book-keeping, quality control etc. so as to instil confidence in trainees to run commercial ventures. The centres also provide facilities to rural folk to process their own raw materials on payment of service fee.

3.12 In a note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has stated that the Plan Scheme for providing assistance for setting up Food Processing and Training Centres in rural areas in different States and Union Territories was formulated for the first time in 1992-93 by this Ministry for implementation during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Since the scheme was of pioneering nature and ultimate number would depend upon several factors such as availability of resource, availability of locally available raw materials, existence of infrastructural facilities for imparting training and processing facilities, an initial target of 250 such centres has been fixed for the 8th Five Year Plan.

3.13 During 1992-93 assistance could be rendered for setting up 38 such centres whereas the scheme became more popular and the Ministry could assist setting up of 83 centres during the year 1993-94. In other words, it is expected that the Ministry would be able to achieve the initial target of 250 centres in the 5 years period. However, if requests are received from different organisations and State Governments for setting up of more such Training Centres, depending upon the total outlay made available by the Planning Commission, a higher target would be considered.

3.14 The details of expenditure on the scheme is as follows :—

Year	B.E.	Actuals
1992-93	150.00 lakhs	110.35 lakhs
1993-94	100.00 lakhs	226.72 lakhs
1994-95	100.00 lakhs	87.65 lakhs
1995-96	200.00 lakhs	164.85 lakhs
1996-97	200.00 lakhs	

3.15 The details of achievements made under the scheme of assistance for setting up FPTCs during the first four years of the Eighth Plan are as under:

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	Total
(i) No. of FPTCs assisted	38	83	29	54	204
(ii) Nos. that have become functional	27	20	10	1	58
(iii) No. of trainees trained	1460	570	480	25	2535

Meat and Poultry Processing Sector

3.16 The details of the different schemes of the Meat and Poultry Processing Programmes and allocation therein are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97
	B.E.	Actual	B.E.	Actuals	B.E.
1. Assistance for National Livestock Product Development Council	25.00	—	10.00	—	10.00
2. Development of Poultry & Egg	100.00	50.00	125.00	165.00	225.00
3. Development of Meat Processing (Pork, Sheep, Goat, Rabbit & Buffalo Meat)	425.00	59.00	325.00	350.00	250.00
4. Development of Marketing Facilities, Infrastructure and Transport in Meat Industry	80.00	14.00	50.00	9.00	25.00
5. Research, Technology & Trained Manpower	83.00	48.90	50.00	24.94	50.00
Total	713.00	171.90	560.00	548.94	560.00

3.17 The Committee have been informed that although no specific targets were laid down, it was envisaged that during Eighth Plan, with the money available, assistance could be provided for the following :—

- 5 Buffalo meat processing units;
- 15 poultry processing plants;
- 6-7 pork processing plants;
- 10 sheep, goat and rabbit processing plants;
- Training of 1000 persons engaged in the meat and poultry industry;
- Establishment of deep freezer, etc. for 500 outlets.

3.18 However, out of the above programmes, in the first four years of the Plan period, assistance has been extended to set up following units :—

Name of the Scheme	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1. Buffalo Meat Processing Units	2	1	Nil	1	1 (proposed)
2. Poultry Processing Plant	2	1	1	4	2 (proposed)
3. Pork Processing Units	3	—	1	2	1 (proposed)
4. Sheep, Goat & Rabbit Processing Unit	1	1	1	—	1 (proposed)
5. Establishment of deep freezer for retail outlets	24	39	60	40	160 (proposed)
6. Number of persons trained	212	180	270	235	200 (proposed)

3.19 In meat and poultry sector the total expenditure during the first four years of the Eighth Plan has been Rs. 13.53 crores. The budgetary allocation for 1996-97 is Rs. 5.60 crores. The allocation for the Eighth Plan period works out to 19.13 crores against the original outlay of Rs. 23 crores.

3.20 The Committee observes that the average expenditure in the last four years has been only 3.32 crores and in the year 1994-95 the actual expenditure was as low as Rs. 1.71 crores.

3.21 The reasons for the poor utilisation of financial allocation during the last four years in this sector are attributed to (i) frequent change in the mode of releasing funds under the plan schemes during subsequent years; (ii) the non-release of the matching share by the State Governments/other State bodies; and

(iii) the delay in approval by State Authorities for taking up the projects of various Corporations/Cooperative Societies etc.

Assistance for Establishment of National Livestock Product Development Council

3.22 Under the scheme of assistance for establishment of National Livestock Product Development Council with a view to organising the meat industry and develop it in a scientific manner during the Eighth Plan, a sum of Rs. 100 lakhs was allocated. During 1992-93 Rs. 40 lakhs were allocated. During the year 1993-94 Rs. 50 lakhs, was the allocation. During 1994-95 Rs. 25 lakhs was allocated and during 1995-96 Rs. 10 lakhs have been allocated.

3.23 The Committee have observed that during these four years not even a single rupee has been spent on the scheme. Again the Budget Estimate for 1996-97 is Rs. 10 lakh for this scheme.

3.24 Ministry was asked as to why no amount has been utilised so far. They have stated in a written reply that :—

"With a view to organise the meat industry, the Ministry has proposed the establishment of National Livestock Products Development Council. The Planning Commission had also approved the setting up of the Council.

However, the Ministry of Agriculture have shown some reservations in supporting the case. Efforts are on to sort out the problems and get the support of the Ministry of Agriculture as the establishment of the Council is vital for the development of meat industry."

CHAPTER IV

MAJOR HEAD — 2852 INDUSTRIES

Consumer Industries

MFIL

4.1 The performance budget 1996-97 states that Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. made a net profit (after interest and depreciation) of Rs. 573.99 lakhs during 1994-95 as against Rs. 65.19 lakhs in 1993-94.

4.2 The Ujjain Oil Plant of the company has since been closed with the approval of the Government with effect from 1.4.94. The Fruit Juice Bottling Plant, Delhi made profit of Rs. 34.45 lakhs for the first time during the year 1994-95 as a result of diversification into production of Energy Food.

4.3 The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that MFIL has set up a high level Committee to recommend on the steps to be taken for improving the performance of the company in terms of bread sales and also other measures to be implemented so as to effectively operate in a competitive environment.

4.4 Regarding the report submitted by this High Level Committee, the Ministry stated :—

“The Committee observed that many steps have been taken since April, 1993 and some other steps are under implementation to improve the performance and sales of the Delhi Units. These steps encompassed areas of products, upgradation of technology, introduction of new varieties for strengthening of distribution, sales promotion etc. Some of the on-going steps mentioned in the report of the Committee related to extension of the scheme for advance of loans to distributors for purchase of three wheelers, modification in the formulation of bread and installation of wicketed poly bag packing machines and these have been implemented. Recommendations relating to loans to distributors for four wheeler vehicles and appointment of sales promoters are being considered.”

4.5 In respect of Indore Unit, the performance of the Company during 1995-96 has shown significant improvement. The drop in sales of bread during 1993-

94 was mainly due to non-receipt of orders from the State Governments in respect of nutritional supplies. The plant has, however, been running to its full capacity during 1995-96.

4.6 It has been stated in the Performance Budget that MFIL proposes to set up projects for Energy Food at Varanasi, Udaipur and States of Orissa, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland. Setting up of an energy food plant of 30 MT capacity per day would cost Rs. 90.00 lakhs approximately. Apart from this, the company has a proposal for setting up a Biscuit unit on a Joint venture basis with a company of International standing and repute. The Company had taken steps to enter into joint venture agreement with NABISCO International. However, the response from the foreign collaborators is not encouraging. But the efforts are on to get the favourable response.

North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. NERAMAC

4.7 The Corporation was set up on 31st March, 1982 by the Government of India with an authorised capital of Rs. 5 crores. The main objective of the Corporation is to undertake marketing and processing of fruits and vegetables grown in the North-Eastern Region and thereby to foster the development of horticulture in the region.

4.8 In its Annual Plan (1996-97), the Ministry has stated that the corporation intends to increase its activities by setting up one project each for preservation and processing of fresh ginger at Meghalaya and post-harvest handling centre either in Manipur or in Mizoram. The total outlay of Rs. 100 lakhs has been kept for these two schemes to be provided as equity participation in NERAMAC during the year 1996-97.

4.9 The Corporation has diversified its marketing activities from traditional agro food products to products based on minor forest produce, export of True Potato Seeds, marketing of energy food, etc. The increase in production and sale of Pineapple Juice Concentrate has also contributed towards increased turnover.

4.10 The Ministry in their performance budget (1996-97) has stated that the total anticipated turnover of the Corporation during the year 1995-96 is Rs. 220.18 lakhs as against Rs. 91 lakhs during the year 1994-95.

4.11 The Corporation's operation during the year 1995-96 is anticipated to result in a loss of Rs. 166 lakhs as against loss of Rs. 116 lakhs during the year 1994-95. The Corporation plans to reduce the losses by improving the capacity utilisation of Nalkata Plant. The Corporation is also trying to take up the

diversification of processed products by installing canning lines at Nalkata Plant to produce Pineapple and other fruit and vegetable products. The Corporation has taken up processing of cashewnut in a big way and has procured over 200 tonnes of raw cashew for processing.

National Perspective Plan for Food Processing Sector

4.12 The Committee in their Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (1994-95) have emphasised the need for formulating a National Perspective Plan for Food Processing Section to achieve the objectives behind the setting up of a separate Ministry for Food Processing Industries. Accordingly, a Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of a Member of the Planning Commission to evolve a National Perspective Plan for Food Processing Industries and three sub-committees have also been constituted under this Committee for formulating different strategies.

4.13 In their 23rd Report on last year's Demands for Grants 1995-96, the Committee emphasised the earliest finalisation of the perspective plan in order to undertake the implementation of the plan by raising suitable demands in their Demands for Grants for 1996-97.

4.14 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply has stated that the term of the Committee set up to evolve National Perspective Plan has been extended upto July, 1996.

4.15 When asked about the final report, the Ministry has informed that "Work is already on hand for evolving the National Perspective Plan. A study of food processing industry in informal sector is already done and the report prepared. The process of collecting the comprehensive data and preparation of a draft report has already started. Taking into account the time required for preparation of such a Plan, it is proposed to extend the term of the Committee by a few more months.

CHAPTER V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Total Outlay

5.1 The Committee have observed that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has the responsibility to plan, assist and develop a very sound and vibrant food processing industry in the country and to provide necessary assistance in bringing about new technology in storage, transportation etc. The Committee in their 23rd report 1995-96 has observed that the total budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries should be increased to at least Rs. 100 crores during 1995-96 in order to do some justice though not fully to the mandate given to the Ministry. The Committee are constrained to observe that even this year, the plan allocations are Rs. 45 crores only that is at the same level as these were in 1994-95 and 1995-96. The Committee could not appreciate the attitude of the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance towards this vital sector which has immense potential to help improve the lot of the rural poor in general and the farming community in particular. They wish to impress upon the Government that all planned efforts have a main focus on the challenge of alleviation of poverty and the improvement of the Food Processing Industries is one of the surest tools by which a definite dent could be made on the hardened surface of want and hunger and malnutrition. Therefore, this sector cannot be slighted this way as is evident from the continued paltry allocations and the investment in this sector cannot be dismissed away as an exercise in futility.

Food Processing is a high priority sector and has potential to transform the economy of the rural poor. The Committee is of the firm opinion that a serious attempt should be made by the Ministry to widen its area of operation and the scope of its activities and seek higher budget allocations year after year. The Committee desire that while finalising the Ninth Plan proposals, the Ministry should come out with an effective package of varied programmes which could be implemented on a much larger scale and pose it for funding to the Planning Commission. It should enable them to receive at least an allocation of Rs. 2000 crores for the Ninth Plan to achieve definite targets.

Fishing & Fish Processing Facilities

Deep Sea Vessels

5.2 The Committee note that the number of India owned Deep Sea Fishing Vessels has not increased over the last five years and the number had remained stagnant at 180. The Committee desire that an in-depth study should be undertaken to know as to why the number of India owned Deep Sea Fishing Vessels did not increase and for identifying the root causes for such a phenomenon. Thereafter, the Ministry should formulate suitable schemes to assist the entrepreneurs and fishermen cooperatives to acquire more vessels in order to increase their presence in deep-sea fishing and to increase the total catch.

Canning Units

5.3 The Committee note that the number of canning units which was 24 in 1990 has come down to 22 in 1995 and their canning capacity has decreased to 71.10 tonnes per day in 1995 from 83.5 tonnes per day in 1990. The Committee desire that the reasons for the decline in the number of canning units and the decrease in their canning capacity should be gone into by undertaking an exercise by the Ministry with a view to coming up with suitable remedial measures and revival packages, as this is an essential component in marketing fish and fish-products especially in foreign markets.

Fixation of Targets

5.4 The Committee note that most of the Schemes of the Ministry do not have any identifiable physical targets set for achievement during the Eighth Plan period. In the absence of any fixed targets, they appear to meander aimlessly and consequently could not assess their financial requirements against those fixed targets. The Committee feel that in respect of almost all the items listed in the Table in Para 2.2 of the Report, they could have fixed definite targets and they could have chalked out facilitating plans to achieve those targets with adequate financial outlays. In the absence of this approach the Committee could only conclude that the entire planning exercise done in the Ministry was only a half-hearted attempt made quite mechanically without any aim. They, therefore, recommend that meaningful programmes/schemes should be chalked out with definite physical targets by the Ministry and they should be taken up for implementation with total involvement and sincerity in order to actively participate in the onerous and thrilling experience of nation-building.

Schemes for Deep Sea Fisheries

5.5 The Committee note that there are three schemes in operation under the Eighth Plan for promotion of deep-sea fishing under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, viz. Scheme for assistance in deep-sea fishing and processing ventures; scheme for providing interest subsidy on loans for acquisition of deep-sea fishing vessels; and scheme for assistance in Diversified Fishing.

The Committee observe that with the funds provided by the Ministry, MPEDA could participate in the equity of 3 companies only and that too only upto 1993-94. The performance of MPEDA, under the scheme for Grant-in-aid for Deep-Sea Fishing and Processing Ventures, is 'nil' during the last two years of Eighth Plan period. This year there is provision of only 5 lakhs rupees under this scheme. The Committee note that under the scheme for Interest Subsidy no amount has been disbursed out of Budget allocation of Rs. 50 lakhs. Under the third scheme i.e. Scheme for assistance in Diversified Fishing the performance is 'nil' during the last 3 years and Budget Estimate for 1996-97 is only 5 lakhs as against B.E. of Rs. 50 lakhs during 1995-96.

The Committee are of the opinion that in view of heavy short-falls, non-utilisation of funds and almost 'nil' performance, the Ministry should have a relook at these schemes. The Committee feel that heavy reduction in budget allocation under these schemes by way of only a token grant indicates that the Ministry is no longer interested in the continuation of these schemes.

The Committee find that under the scheme for providing interest subsidy on loans for acquisition of deep-sea fishing vessels most of the loanes defaulted due to slump in deep sea fisheries sector and they are not eligible for the loans according to the criteria/guidelines of funding. The Committee desire that the report of the Committee set up to make recommendations for rehabilitation of the defaulting deep-sea fishing companies should be implemented at the earliest so that the objective of the Scheme could be realised.

The Committee regret to point out that the Ministry with all its planning expertise could not formulate even a single scheme which could be successfully and completely implemented, as these schemes miserably failed to take-off with no takers for them. Even after successive failures year after year, no mid-course correction/modification was attempted by the Ministry and

things were allowed to drift, as the Ministry could not come up with new plans or modified plans as an alternative. The Committee feel that the users in the fishing industry should have been first consulted to know what they want and then the Ministry should have formulated need-based plans which would have become sure success. The Committee strongly feel that at the time of formulating estimates for IXth Plan the performance of these schemes should be kept in mind and Ministry should review them before their further continuation or otherwise.

Slump in Fisheries Industries

5.6 The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should study the factors that have contributed to the slump in the deep-sea fisheries sector immediately and draw up a plan of action to facilitate the revival of the industry which has immense potential for earning precious foreign exchange for the country.

Primacy for Fish Processing/Preservation Schemes

5.7 The Committee observe that under the scheme for setting up of infrastructural facilities for preservation and processing of fish, which envisages to provide financial assistance (grant-in-aid) to the tune of 50% of the total cost of the plant and machinery, the actual expenditure was Rs. 446.00 lakhs as against a Budget Estimate of Rs. 360.00 lakhs during 1995-96. The Committee are surprised to note that during 1996-97 only Rs. 350.00 lakhs have been allocated under the scheme whereas there is a need for enhanced allocation as fish is a highly perishable item and utmost care has to be taken in its preservation and processing to avoid wastage and deterioration in quality. The Committee desire that the Ministry should refix their priorities by according prime of place to development of processing infrastructure among other schemes under the fisheries sector, as value-addition is directly dependent on the availability and adequacy of processing facilities. The Committee recommend that allocation for development of fish processing facilities should be stepped up at the revised estimate stage, as there has been heavy reductions in allocations under the three schemes for the development of Deep Sea Fisheries and the extent of money reduced in those schemes should be re-allocated to this vital schemes.

Murari Committee Recommendations

5.8 During the evidence, it was pointed out that nearly 80 lakh people are employed in various aspects of the deep sea fishing industry and hence

the problems they face due to the licences granted to the foreign fishing vessels should not be allowed to persist for long. The Committee are at a loss to understand as to why there is delay in implementation of Murari Committee's recommendations on the subject which have been already examined and agreed upon. The Committee recommend that Murari Committee recommendations should be implemented forthwith.

Promotion of Fisheries Cooperatives

5.9 The Committee are of the opinion that an action plan should be prepared for promoting cooperatives to undertake large scale deep sea fishing. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should put up a proposal for adequate fund allocation for the schemes for encouraging cooperatives in the IX Plan.

One Ministry For Fisheries

5.10 The Committee find that at present the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation), the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the Ministry of Commerce deal with the promotion of fishing industry by implementing various schemes leading to duplication and triplication of efforts with lot of establishment costs. The Committee recommend that all the activities relating to the promotion of fishing industry should be under one Ministry to achieve the best results and to ensure accountability.

Intrusion by Foreign Fishing Vessels

5.11 During evidence, the Committee pointed out that a lot of foreign fishing vessels intrude into our exclusive economic zone and there is an urgent need to step up activities to guard our fishery resources from poaching by them. The Committee recommend that the matter should be suitably taken up with the Ministry of Defence to come up with adequate proposals to augment the presence of our Coast Guards in the EEZ.

Fishery Survey of India

5.12 The Committee have noted that the Fishery Survey of India through vessel based survey, provide the information base for all deep sea fishing developmental activities and is a nodal agency under the Government of India for the survey and assessment of marine fishery resources of Indian EEZ. The Committee observe that the achievements with respect to area

surveyed under different types of surveys are far below the targets despite full utilisation of the allocated funds. About the poor physical performance in respect of area covered by surveys the Committee have been informed that the survey vessels being very old required frequent repairs. The Annual plan of the Ministry has made a mention of the recent recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture for modernization of the existing fleet and acquisition of new vessels to carry on resource survey activities at an accelerated pace. It has been proposed to acquire 4 survey vessels which would require about Rs. 36 crores. The Committee suggest that adequate funds should be made available for this purpose during 1996-97 itself at the Revised Estimate stage without waiting for the purchase after the commencement of the Ninth Plan.

The Committee strongly feel that there is an urgent need to acquire modern survey vessels. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Ministry should have a perspective plan to completely modernize/rehabilitate/replace all the existing survey vessels available with the FSI and suitable demands should be raised in 9th Plan.

Subsidy for Modernisation of Huller Mills

5.13 The Committee are unhappy to note that under the scheme of subsidy for setting up of modernised Huller Mills, the actual expenditure in the last two years was in the order of about Rs. 100 lakhs and now for the year 1996-97 only Rs. 45 lakhs have been allocated for this scheme which amounts to 55% reduction. About the reasons for reduction, the Committee have been informed that as reported by some State Governments the implementation of this scheme is slow in certain areas because the amount of subsidy provided is about 50% of the cost of modernisation of a huller and the rest of the money is to be arranged by the owner himself.

The Committee are surprised to note that all of a sudden how there could be low demand of funds under the scheme whereas during the first four years of 8th Five Year Plan the expenditure under the scheme is 107% of total 8th Plan outlay for the scheme. The Committee strongly feel that there is lack of vigour on the part of Ministry and the States in implementing this scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should seek revised enhanced estimates for this scheme and more and more persons should be encouraged to avail the benefits of this scheme.

Deregulation of Rice Milling Industry

5.14 The Committee note that the Ministry came up with a bill for the de-regulation of the Rice Milling Industry during the Tenth Lok Sabha and the Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. The Committee recommend that the Bill should be revived and introduced in the Parliament for immediate enactment.

Process of Coarse Grains

5.15 The Committee have noted that food grain milling activities which have been covered by the Ministry relate mainly to wheat, rice and pulses. The Committee in their report on the last year's Demands-for-Grants had recommended that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries should formulate urgently a suitbale scheme for processing of coarse-grains and launch them urgently and seek budget allocations for 1996-97. But the Committee have found that there is no allocation made for this scheme in 1996-97. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry had formulated a scheme for strengthening backward linkages for maize and coarse-grain processing industry but the Planning Commssion was not willing to take up a new scheme in the terminal year of 8th Plan. The Committee are constrained to observe that such grains are grown over large tracts of land owned by resource-starved farmers and an initiative on the lines suggested would fetch them better returns and the need to help them out can brook no delay. The Committee, hence, recommend that the comprehensive proposal submitted by the Ministry should be given adequate outlay during 1996-97 itself at the revised estimate stage instead of waiting for the finalisation of the Ninth Plan.

The Committee further recommend that research activities in processing of coarse grains to convert them into attractive food products to catch the large urban markets should be initiated and be supported with adequate budget outlays for the purpose.

Incentives for locating Industries in rural areas

5.16 The Committee in their 23rd report on Demands for Grants 1995-96 have recommended that special incentives should be offered to enterprises to set up units closer to the rural sources of raw materials and to reorient the Government policy of assistance which might induce the entrepreneurs to set up food processing industries in rural areas to take advantage of the benefits offered by the Government. The Committee is disappointed to note

that no budgetary allocation has been made in this regard. The Committee recommend that the special efforts should be taken in this direction while finalising schemes for the Ninth Five Year Plan and the Government policy should be reviewed in this regard to have exclusive schemes of assistance to promote the establishment of food processing units in the rural areas.

FPTC

5.17 The scheme for extending assistance for setting up Processing units and Training Centre envisages granting of financial assistance. The Committee note that during the first four years of 8th plan Rs. 589.57 lakhs have been spent to assist 204 Food Processing Training Centres against an Eighth Plan target of 250 such centres where entrepreneurs who intend to set up food processing units are trained. Out of 204 Centres, only 58 FPTCs have become functional and a total of 2535 trainees were trained therein. The Committee find that during 1995-96 only 1 FPTC has become functional and only 25 persons could be trained. The Committee strongly feel that there are some drawbacks in the scheme content, as out of the 204 centres assisted by the Ministry, only 58 could become functional in the course of the last four years. The Committee desire that suitable arrangements should be incorporated in the scheme to ensure that all the FPT Centres assisted become fully functional within a time frame. The Committee desire that farmers should also be trained in these Centres so that benefits of the scheme could be passed on to the farmers. The Committee recommend that some product specific and location specific curricula may be evolved and the scheme for assistance for the training centres should be adequately published to generate awareness and to create demands for assistance so that more and more persons are trained in food & vegetable processing and the farmers could be encouraged to produce more in view of the increase in demand from the entrepreneurs.

Cold Storage Facilities in rural areas

5.18 The Committee find that huge quantities of fruits and vegetables produced in the farms have to be virtually discarded by the farmers, as they do not have any cold storage facilities in their vicinity in the far-flung rural areas. Many farmers also are not aware of various post-harvest preservative methods to safeguard their produce and many cannot afford to adopt them even if they are aware of it. Under these circumstances, the farmers resort to distress sale and even abandon their produce and suffer great losses. The Committee, therefore, recommend that suitable schemes of assistance to the public sector and private sector and cooperatives to establish an

infrastructure of cold storage facilities exclusively in the rural areas should be drafted by the Ministry and taken up for implementation. The Committee recommend that the Ministry may also move the other sister ministries to offer other incentives such as tax concessions, concessional electricity tariff etc. for the rural infrastructure.

Brochure for Fruits & Vegetables Cultivation

5.19 The Committee recommend that separate brochures in respect of various agro-climatic zones may be got prepared in local languages indicating the various kinds of fruits and vegetables which could be taken up profitably in each season and round the year. These brochures may be liberally distributed among the farmers to create awareness among them about the various potentials for cultivation of fruits and vegetables.

Remunerative prices in backward linkages

5.20 The Committee also recommend that suitable arrangements should be devised to examine the terms of trade where backward linkages are established to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices and they are not subjected to exploitation by the big companies.

Meat & Poultry Sector

5.21 The Committee have observed that in meat and poultry sector the total expenditure during the first four years of the Eighth Plan has been Rs. 13.53 crores and the allocation for the 8th plan period works out to Rs. 19.13 crores against the original outlay of Rs. 23 crores. The Committee observe that the average expenditure in the last four years has been only Rs. 3.32 crores and in the year 1994-95 the actual expenditure was as low as Rs. 1.71 crores.

The Committee are unhappy about the heavy shortfalls in achieving the financial as well as physical targets in meat and poultry processing sector. In most of the schemes shortfalls are noticed. One of the reasons for poor utilisation of funds is the frequent change in the mode of releasing the funds under the plan schemes. The Committee desire that the Ministry should evolve a firm procedure with adequate safeguards for expeditious release of funds under various schemes and put the procedure into practice. The Committee are of the opinion that more direct contacts at very high levels with the State Governments, approvals for projects could be got expedited and timely release of funds could be ensured from the states. The Ministry should, therefore, make some extra efforts in hard cases in order to ensure full utilisation of the funds.

National Livestock Products Development Council

5.22 The Committee observe that with a view to organising the meat industry, there was a proposal for the establishment of National Livestock Products Development Council in the 8th Plan. The Committee are pained to find that not even a single rupee has been spent for this scheme against the provision of Rs. 100 lakhs during 8th plan. When asked about the reasons for non-utilisation of funds it was informed that the Ministry of Agriculture have shown some reservation in supporting the case.

To the Committee it appears that the scheme was initiated/proposed without any consultation with the Agriculture Ministry and precious 4 years have been wasted in wasteful wranglings with no solution in sight. The Committee strongly recommend that the Council should be established immediately within a period of three months, as the establishment of National Livestock Products Development Council is vital for the development of the otherwise deteriorating meat industry.

Modern Food Industries Ltd.

5.23 The Committee note that the Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. has started making profits since 1992-93 and the company has made a net profit of Rs. 573.99 lakhs during 1994-95 against a profit of Rs. 65.19 lakhs in 1993-94. The Committee in their 23rd report on Demands for Grants 1995-96 have desired that the reasons for lower sales in Delhi and Indore units should be found out and remedial steps to be taken to tone up the sales among the discerning consumers. Pursuant to the observation a high level Committee was set up and the recommendation of that Committee are to be implemented.

The Committee desire that the quality of bread manufactured by MFIL should be improved in order to compete with private manufactures and to keep up the trend of making profits. The Committee also wish to point out that there is a need to adopt modern methods in production and sales and recommend that some specific schemes must be launched in this regard.

With reference to the Modern Food Industries Ltd. the Committee had recommended that a crash programme should be launched to achieve higher rates of profits in the years to come. The Committee are not aware of any action initiated in this regard. The industry has earned a profit of Rs. 10 crores only when a subsidy of Rs. 18 crores was provided. During evidence the Ministry have stated that the benefit of Rs. 14 crores was passed on to consumers in the form of reduced price of the bread.

The Committee recommend that the Ministry should submit an action

plan within 3 months to improve the performance in a way that does not require subsidy at a later date and still sell the product at competitive prices.

NERAMAC

5.24 The Committee note that the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. (NERAMAC) is trying to increase its turnover as the total turnover of the Corporation during the year 1995-96 is Rs. 220.18 lakhs as against Rs. 91 lakhs during 1994-95.

The Committee have observed that the Ministry in their Performance Budget 1996-97 gave the estimated loss of NERAMAC during 1995-96 as Rs. 38 lakhs and now in month of August at the time of factual verification they are stating that the losses are to the tune of Rs. 166 lakhs. The Committee wonder as to how the estimate of losses would vary so much and how losses to the tune of Rs. 128 lakhs could creep in two months. The Committee desire that the situation may be clarified urgently as to how they could project a bright picture of NERAMAC in their Performance Budget.

The Committee strongly feel that the Corporation is becoming unviable and recommend that strict measures should be taken to make it viable. However, the Committee would like that the process of revitalization should be accelerated so that by the end of this fiscal year the trend is reversed and the Corporation begins to earn profits.

The Committee recommend that the Ministry should give a special help to NERAMAC, which is located in backward States and the working capital of the Corporation be increased to enhance their activities.

Tripura Unit of NERAMAC

5.25 The Committee wish to point out that the Pineapple Plant of NERAMAC could be put to use only during the season when pineapple is available. The Committee recommend that the machinery installed in the Tripura unit may be modified suitably to enable it to process other horticultural produce as well in order to make use of the idle capacity. This would encourage the farmers of Tripura to cultivate a variety of horticultural crops round the year to feed the fruit processing unit. The Committee wish to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the soil of Tripura is extremely suitable for a number of horticultural crops and, therefore, there is an urgent necessity to tap its full potential in this regard.

APPENDIX

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON FRIDAY, THE 23RD AUGUST, 1996 AT 11.00 HRS. IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'D' PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1310 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot
3. Shri Padamsen Chaudhary
4. Shri Bhimrao Badade
5. Shri Bhupender Singh Hooda
6. Shri Gangadhar Kunturkar
7. Shri Gulam Mohd. Mir Magami
8. Shri Bajuban Riyan
9. Shri Mahaboob Zahedi
10. Dr. K.P. Ramlingam
11. Dr. Mohan Singh

Rajya Sabha

12. Maulana Habibur Rahman Nomani
13. Dr. Ranbir Singh
14. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami
15. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P.D.T. Achary — *Director*
2. Shri S. Bal Shekar — *Under Secretary*

At the outset Chairman (AC) welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and requested them to take up the adoption of the Draft Report on Demands for Grants 1996-97 in respect of Ministry of Agriculture, (Department of Agricultural Research & Education), Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

The Draft Reports were considered one by one and unanimously adopted without any change.

The Members of the Committee, thereafter, authorised the Chairman to present the Reports on Demands for Grants 1996-97 in respect of Ministry of Agriculture, (Department of Agricultural Research and Education), Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Food Processing Industries to the House on a date and time convenient to him.

The meeting then adjourned.

Vide Para 2.3 of Chapter II
Plan outlays and expenditure during first four years of 8th Five Year Plan
(from 1992-93 to 1995-96 for the MFPI)

FISHERIES

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Scheme/Project/Programme	Eighth Plan approved outlay	1992-93		1993-94	
			Outlay	Actual	Outlay	Shortfall
FISHERIES						
1.	Scheme for assistance for deep sea fishing and processing ventures	300	100	100	75	28 47
2.	Scheme for interest subsidy loan for acquisition of deep sea vessels.	400	150	103.54	100	46.46 77.17
3.	Scheme for Diversified Fishing	600	50	35	15	100
4.	Scheme for Implementation of MZI Act - Communication facilities to Coast Guard	300	100	100	75	75 -
5.	Scheme for Cold Chain facilities	-	100	135.50	-	175 182.63 -
6.	National Marine Fisheries Development Board	200	100	-	100	50 - 50
7.	Scheme for tuna & other fish processing	-	100	198.70	-	125 67.50 57.50
8.	Scheme for R & D in fish processing	-	-	-	-	- -
*9.	Scheme for setting up of infrastructural facilities for preservation & processing of fish	200	-	-	-	- -

* This scheme was formulated for implementation from the year 1994-95 onwards by merging the schemes at Sl. Nos. 5 & 7.

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/Programme	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97 B.E.	Likely % of expenditure during last four years
		Outlay	Actual	Shortfall	Outlay	Actual	Shortfall
1.	Scheme for assistance for deep sea fishing and processing ventures	100	-	100	100	-	100
2.	Scheme for interest subsidy loan for acquisition of deep sea vessels	50	50	-	50	-	50
3.	Scheme for Diversified Fishing	100	-	100	50	-	50
4.	Scheme for Implementation of MZI Act—Communication facilities to Coast Guard	40	40	-	40	40	-
5.	Scheme for Cold Cabin facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	National Marine Fisheries Development Board	50	-	50	50	-	50
7.	Scheme for tuna & other fish processing	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Scheme for R&D in fish processing	-	-	-	50	7.50	42.50
*9.	Scheme for setting up of infrastructural facilities for preservation & processing of fish	360	61	299	360	446	-

* This scheme was formulated for implementation from the year 1994-95 onwards by merging the schemes at Sl. Nos. 5 & 7.

*Vide Para 3.1 of Chapter III
Plan Outlays and Expenditure during first four years of Eighth Plan (from 1992-93 to 1995-96 for the Ministry of Food
Processing Industries)*

GRAIN PROCESSING

		1992-93				1993-94		(Rs. in Crores)
Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/ Programme	Eighth Plan Approved outlay	Approved outlay	Actual Expend.	Short-fall	Approved outlay	Actual Expend.	
1.	P.H.T.C. IIT, Kharagpur	1.20	0.4500	0.4000	0.0500	0.4000	0.4500	-
2.	R.E.S.C	1.10	0.2500	0.1360	0.1140	0.3000	0.3885	-
3.	P.P.R.C. Thanjavur	1.20	0.3500	0.4000	-	0.4000	0.3100	0.0900
4.	Other Grants-in Aid for R&D & Testing Centres	1.75	0.6000	0.5500	0.0500	0.6000	0.4796	0.1204
5.	Subsidy for modernisation of Hullers	3.50	1.0000	1.1270	-	1.0000	0.9390	0.0610
6.	Food Engineering Centre	2.25	0.8000	0.8000	-	0.7000	0.7000	-
	TOTAL	11.00	3.4500	3.4130	0.0370	3.4000	3.2671	0.1329

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/ Programme	Eighth Plan Approved Outlay	1994-95			1995-96			1996-97		Likely Percentage Expend. during last four years (Col. No. 5+8+11+14) as %age of Col. 3
			Approved Outlay	Actual Expend.	Short- fall	Approved Outlay	Actual Expend.	Short- fall.	Budget Estimate		
1.	P.H.T.C. I.I.T. Kharagpur	1.20	0.4500	0.4500	-	0.4500	0.4000	0.0500	0.4500	141.6%	
2.	R.E.S.C.	1.10	0.3500	0.3500	-	0.5000	0.3350	0.1650	0.4000	109.9%	
3.	P.P.R.C. Thanjavur	1.20	0.4000	0.2300	0.1700	0.2000	0.1900	0.0100	0.4000	100.1%	
4.	Other Grants-in Aid for R&D & Testing Centres	1.75	0.5000	0.5000	-	0.5000	0.2217	0.2783	0.4000	94.2%	
5.	Subsidy for mode- rnisation of Hullers	3.50	1.0000	1.0000	-	1.0000	0.6800	0.3200	0.4500	107%	
6.	Food Engineering Centre	2.25	1.0000	1.0000	-	0.9000	1.2000	-	1.2000	164.5%	
	Total	11.00	3.7000	3.5300	0.1700	3.5500	3.0267	0.5233	3.3000	120.3%	

Plan Outlays and Expenditure during first four years of Eighth Plan (1992-93 to 1995-96) for the Ministry of Food Processing Industries

(Rs. in lakhs)

Fruits & Vegetable Processing

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/ Programmes	8th Plan Approved Outlay	1992-93 B.E.	A.E.	Short Fall	1993-94 B.E.	A.E.	Short Fall	1994-95 B.E.	A.E.	Short Fall	1995-96 B.E.	A.E.	Short Fall	1996-97 B.E.	A.E.	Short Fall	Likely percentage Expenditure during Last 4 Years (Col. 5+8+11+ 14 as of Col. 3)
Fruits & Vegetables Processing																		
1.	Assistance for setting up of Food Processing and Training Centres in rural areas	600.00	150.00	110.35	49.65	100.00	226.72	-	100.00	87.65	12.35	200.00	164.85	35.15	200.00	-	-	98%
2.	Assistance for providing Generic advertising processed Foods and for providing marketing assistance	500.00	150.00	116.18	33.82	150.00	34.25	115.75	100.00	100.00	-	50.00	73.39	65.00	-	-	-	65%
3.	Assistance Research & Development in P&VP Sector	50.00	10.00	8.98	1.12	25.00	35.00	-	70.00	70.00	-	100.00	100.00	-	100.00	-	-	428%
4.	* Assistance for setting/upgradation/expansion of P&VP unit	1400.00	300.00	350.30	-	80.00	433.08	-	300.00	300.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	* Assistance for strengthening of Backward Linkages in P&VP industry	400.00	75.00	00.00	75.00	75.00	29.18	45.82	50.00	50.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	* Assistance for establishment of P&VP units and backward linkages. (From 95-96 Scheme at Sl. No. 4 & 5 rationalised/clubbed)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	535.15	795.00	-	-	-	114%
7.	** Assistance for creation of infrastructure for Post-harvest handling and setting up of Cold Storage (Scheme separated from Sl. No. 4 for 93-94 & 94-95)	-	-	-	-	300.00	183.30	112.00	351.00	265.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Assistance for creation of infrastructure of cultivation and processing of mushrooms	400.00	100.00	44.40	55.60	100.00	49.90	50.10	100.00	33.83	66.17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Assistance for cultivation of Hops.	150.00	40.00	40.00	-	40.00	33.00	7.00	30.00	00.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	*** Assistance for creation of infrastructural facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	476.60	400.00	-	-	-	123%
	*** From 95-96 Scheme at Sl. No. 7, 8, 9, clubbed/rationalised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23.40	-	-	-	-
Total		3500.00	825.00	670.01	-	1100	1029.13	-	1101.00	907.38	-	1350.00	1349.99	-	1560.00	-	-	-

Vide Para 3.16 of Chapter III

ANNEXURE IV
Plan Outlays of expenditure during first four years of Eighth Plan (from 1992-93 to 1995-96) for the Ministry of Food Processing Industries

MEAT & POULTRY PROCESSING

S.No.	Name of the Scheme/ Project/Progress	8th Plan Approved	1992-93			1993-94			(Rupees in Crores)
			Apr. outlay	Actual cutlay	shortfall Expn.	Apr. Outlay	Actual Expn.	shortfall	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1.	Development of Poultry, Egg. processing	3.50000	0.80000	0.74000	0.06000	1.75000	0.65170	1.09830	
2.	Est. of National Livestock Development Council	1.30000	0.40000	-	0.40000	0.50000	-	0.50000	
3.	Development of Infrastructure for Storage & transportation of meat for export	2.00000	0.50000	-	0.50000	0.60000	-	0.60000	
4.	Development of Marketing facility transport	2.50000	1.10000	0.03900	1.06100	1.00000	0.12750	0.87250	
*5.	Dev. of marketing facilities, infrastructure & transport in meat industry								
6.	Development of trained manpower	0.50000	0.10000	0.07200	0.2800	0.10000	0.06950	0.03050	

* Schemes at S. No. 3 & 4 clubbed/rationalised from 95-96.

S.No.	Name of the Scheme/ Project/Progress	1994-95			1995-96			Likely Percentage Expenditure During last 4 years (Col. 5+8+11+14) as % of Col.3
		Apr. Outlay	Actual Expn.	Shortfall	Apr. Outlay	Actual Expn.	Shortfall	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Development of Poultry Egg processing	1.00000	0.50000	0.50000	1.25000	1.65000	-	101.4%
2.	Istt. of National Livestock Development Council	0.25000	-	0.25000	0.10000	-	0.10000	NA
3.	Development of Infrastructure for storage & transportation of meat for export	0.50000	-	0.50000				NA
4.	Development of Marketing facility Transport	0.30000	0.14000	0.16000				12.2%
5.	Development of Marketing facilities, infrastructure & transport in meat industry				0.50000	0.09000	0.41000	NA
6.	Development of Trained Manpower	0.15000	0.10840	0.04160				36%

S.No.	Name of the Scheme/ Project/Progress	8th Plan Approved Outlay	1992-93			1993-94		
			Apr. Outlay	Actual Expn.	shortfall	Apr. Outlay	Actual Expn.	shortfall
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	R&D for meat processing & packaging	1.00000	0.30000	0.27600	0.02400	0.30000	0.30000	-
8.	Research Technology & trained manpower development of meat industry							
9.	Development of Pork Processing	4.50000	1.00000	0.80000	0.20000	1.00000	0.23700	0.76300
10.	Development of Sheep, Goat, Rabbit meat processing	2.50000	1.50000	1.03000	0.47000	2.75000	2.05000	0.70000
11.	Development of Buffalo meat processing	5.00000		0.00000	-			
12.	Development of meat processing (Pork, Sheep, Goat, Rabbit & Buffalo meat)							

S.No.	Name of the Scheme/ Project/Progress	1994-95		1995-96		Likely Percentage Expenditure during last 4 years (Col. 5+8+11+14) as % of Col.3		
		Apr. Outlay	Actual Expn.	Shortfall	Apr. Outlay		Actual Expn.	Shortfall
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
7.	R&D for meat processing & packaging	0.68000	0.38110	0.29890				95%
** 8.	Research Technology & trained manpower development of meat industry				0.50000	0.24943	0.25057	NA
9.	Development of Pork Processing	1.00000	0.50000	0.50000				34%
10.	Development of Sheep, Goat, Rabbit meat processing	3.23000	0.09000	3.16000				42.3%
11.	Development of Buffalo meat processing							NA
***12.	Development of meat processing (Pork, Sheep, Goat, Rabbit & Buffalo meat)				3.25000	3.50000		NA

** Schemes at S. No. 6 & 7 clubbed/rationalised from 95-96.

*** Schemes at S. No. 9, 10 & 11 clubbed/rationalised from 95-96.