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**STANDING COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE
(1998-99)**

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING)**

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1997-98)

*[Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations
contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee
on Agriculture (1996-97) Eleventh Lok Sabha]*

FOURTH REPORT



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

July, 1998/Asadha, 1920 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on

Laid in Rajya Sabha on



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(v)
CHAPTER I Report	1
CHAPTER II Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	3
CHAPTER III Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	18
CHAPTER IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee.....	20
CHAPTER V Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited.....	21

APPENDICES

I.	Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 17th June, 1998	23
II.	Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Eleventh Lok Sabha).....	26

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE (1998-99)

Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu — *Chairman*

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Lok Sabha

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3. Shri D.C. Sreekantappa
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5. Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria
6. Shri Baliram Kashyap
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SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G.C. Malhotra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri P.D.T. Achary — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri S. Bal Shekar — *Deputy Secretary*
4. Shri K.L. Arora — *Assistant Director*
5. Smt. Ratna Bhagwani — *Reporting Officer*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1998-99) having been authorised by the Committee to submit Report on their behalf, present this Fourth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture 1996-97 (Eleventh Lok Sabha), Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

2. The Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1996-97) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying) was presented to Lok Sabha on 11th April, 1997. The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying) was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received.

3. The Committee considered these action taken replies furnished by the Government and approved the draft comments and adopted the Fourth Report in its sitting held on 17th June, 1998.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Eleventh Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix II.

NEW DELHI;
July, 1998
Asadha, 1920 (Saka)

K. YERRANNAIDU,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1996-97) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) on the Ministry on Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying) which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 11th April, 1997.

2. Action taken notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the 16 recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorised as follows:—

- (i) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by the Government (Chapter II of the Report)

Recommendation para Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14

(Total 12)

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the government's replies (Chapter III of the Report)

Recommendation No. 2

(Total 1)

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which reply of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee (Chapter IV of the Report to be commented upon in Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 5

(Total 1)

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited (Chapter V of the Report)

Recommendation Nos. 15 & 16

(Total 2)

3. The Committee will now deal with the recommendations which have not been accepted and have been included in Chapter IV of the report.

Recommendation Sl. No. 5

Target for Growth in Animal Population

The Committee note that the Union Government does not have any specific target to increase the growth of population of various kinds of animals all over the country and without any such target they have been drifting along aimlessly all these years. The Committee feel that a time has come to systematically proceed in the matter so that the growth of animal population could be in accordance with the future requirements of the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a suitable action plan should be drawn up immediately in the matter so that the planning process is put on the rail and has a specific direction.

Reply of the Government

The National Commission on Agriculture as well as other Expert Groups have held the view that the country is not short of adequate number of animals to meet its requirement of livestock products but because of low productivity per animal, the production falls short of the requirement. Therefore, Government's policy has been to initiate programmes to enhance productivity of various species of livestock. Such programmes include breed improvement, better nutritional inputs, health coverage and technology transfer.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee find that the Department have not appreciated the need for fixing physical targets in order to make systematic and pointed efforts to achieve specific increases in identified categories of animals which are essentially required for serving the people. The Committee observe that the livestock population has increased from 445.28 millions in 1987 to 470.15 millions in 1992 and the annual growth rate is only 1.1% which is far below the future requirement of the country. In this context, the Committee wish to point out the attempts at increased production without any planned target would only waste away the scarce resources in an unorganized manner and, therefore, there is an urgent need to progress in a planned and organised manner in the matter. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire that the Government should fix some physical targets to increase the population of various kinds of animals to meet the requirements of the country.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation Sl. No. 1

Health for all Animals

The Committee notes that at present the activities regarding animal health undertaken by the Union and State Governments reveal a piecemeal approach and no integrated package is available to ensure the comprehensive health coverage of various kinds of animals. The Committee, therefore, recommend that there should be a total and a comprehensive approach towards this problem and a programme of comprehensive package should be drawn up on the line of the programme of "Health for All" in respect of human beings in this country with a definite target of ensuring the health of all animals by 2010 A.D. The Committee recommend that suitable budget provisions should be made for this scheme and the implementation proper should start from this very financial year itself. The approach towards animal health requires reorientation during the Ninth Plan in the light of the observation of the Committee in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The Department has a scheme on Systematic Control of Livestock Diseases of National Importance for controlling certain diseases of national importance like Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Swine Fever, Canine Rabies, Pullorum disease, Infertility, Sterility and Abortions etc. This scheme *inter alia* has a component for controlling emergent and exotic diseases. The programme is being implemented in all the States and UTs on 50:50 sharing basis in case of States and 100% assistance for UTs. The approach to animal disease so far has been disease specific. However, during the 9th Plan, the Department has a proposal for Integrated Health Management System, which includes timely vaccinations, deworming, control of ectoparasites, treatment of diseased animals and removal of all residual foci/infections etc. For this purpose training programme to the livestock owners has also been proposed to orient the livestock owners in understanding all aspects of animal disease management.

Recommendation Sl. No. 3

Mobile Veterinary Clinics

In view of the difficulties in taking sick animals to the dispensaries situated far away, the Committee recommend that a Central Plan should be formulated to increase the number of mobile veterinary dispensaries all over the country and suitable budgetary provisions may be made in the current budget itself at the Revised Estimates stage.

Reply of the Government

There are more than 1100 Mobile Veterinary Dispensaries/Clinics functioning in the States/UTs catering to the needs of the people to treat their animals in those areas where the Veterinary Hospital/Dispensaries are not available. Apart from this the National Dairy Development Board under Operation Flood-III have created mobile veterinary clinics for catering to the needs of the animals falling in the milkshed areas/Dairy Cooperative Societies.

The Department is examining the feasibility as well as modality of making a beginning in Mobile Veterinary Service either through redesigning of existing schemes or a new scheme altogether.

Recommendation Sl. No. 4

Preservation of Traditional Medical Practices

The Committee note that no special effort under a Plan scheme has been made on the part of the Government to collect information on the various traditional medical practices being followed in the rural areas for combating various animal diseases. There is a danger of losing the knowledge of these time tested traditional methods in the normal passage of time if these methods could not be systematically brought on record. Since these medical practices have virtually no side effects and are eminently suitable for giving permanent relief from certain usual diseases, there is need to synthesize the traditional knowledge in this sphere under a specific Central Plan scheme. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Government should immediately initiate a Central Plan scheme to gather knowledge in this regard with adequate budgetary provisions from this financial year itself.

Reply of the Government

The Department have already constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor, Hamdard University, Delhi for preparing inventory of Traditional Indian Medical Practices, codify them and start undertaking empirical studies for verifying their efficacy in controlling cattle ailments with research and development of this age old indigenous system. The Committee is likely to submit its report soon.

Recommendation Sl. No. 6

Development of Indigenous Cattle

The Committee note that Centrally Sponsored Scheme—National Bull Production Programme has been launched in order to increase the number of genetically superior bulls of indigenous breeds which are required to cover the cattle population in various agro-climatic regions of the country. The Committee also note that certain projects have been undertaken from the financial year 1993-94 onwards for the development of bulls of indigenous variety, namely, Kankrej, Haryana, Gir, Sahiwal and Red Sindhi. However, it has been noted that the activities required for the full implementation of the sanctioned projects such as the construction of building and import of equipment are not yet complete and the actual production of bulls would start in the year 1997-98 only. The Committee recommend that the work towards the implementation of the scheme should be got expedited so that the actual production of bulls under the programme could actually start in the year 1997 itself.

Reply of the Government

The State participating in the National Bull Production Programme has been advised to complete the projects expeditiously so that test mating of bulls start without further delay and review meetings are being taken with the State Governments for expediting the process of implementation.

Recommendation Sl. No. 7

Progeny Testing Programme

Approved VIII Plan outlay for this scheme was Rs. 1.83 crores and the expenditure incurred including the RE for 1996-97 was only Rs. 3.93 crores. It is difficult to understand how such an important programme, which aims at producing progeny tested cross-breed bulls was neglected. The reasons stated for low performance of the

programme are not convincing and the Committee would like the Department to spell out how the entire scheme would be recognised in IX Plan. In all, 276 bulls were testmated but there was no mention of how many tested bulls were finally released for genetic improvement. In the year 1996-97 against BE of the Rs. 1.20 crores, a target of testmating 90 bulls was kept. However, although RE remained a close Rs. 1.0 crore, only 58 bulls were testmated (anticipated achievement). During the evidence, the department failed to provide realistic estimate of cost of producing one progeny tested bull. The Committee desire that the department must work out a comprehensive programme for producing progeny tested cross-breed bulls involving its own farms, livestock farms of ICAR institutes, military farm and other State Government farms. Accordingly, a realistic budgetary estimate be presented so that during the ensuing IX Plan period, achievements are satisfactory.

Reply of the Government

Until now a total 64 cross-breed bulls have been proven (51 in Kerala and 13 in Maharashtra). The estimated cost of producing one progeny tested bull is of the order of Rs. 4.00 to Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

The Department has formulated a national project for cattle and buffalo breeding which integrates progeny testing programmes for cattle and buffaloes involving livestock farms of the ICAR, Military Farms, State Government Farms etc. The draft project will be discussed with the State Government and finalised. Thereafter it proposed to be implemented.

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 8 & 9

Sheep and Goat Development

The Committee note that sheep and goat rearing plays an important role in providing employment and income to the economically backward rural masses. The Committee have been informed that a Task Force was set up in 1993 to look into all the aspects relating to the development of sheep, goats and rabbits in the country and it has submitted its final report and the recommendations contained in the report have been accepted by the Government. The recommendations have been discussed at a high level meeting in February, 1997 and a strategy is being worked out to develop this sector. The Committee recommend that the strategy for development of sheep and goats

should be got finalised immediately without any further loss of time as the Ninth Plan period has already commenced and urgent action is required to put the strategy into action. In view of the economic importance of this activity for the rural poor, the Committee recommend that the schemes under this sector should receive full allocation of funds during the Ninth Plan and specific physical targets should be fixed year after year for the purposeful and pointed implementation of the programme.

Sheep and Wool Development

The Committee, in its Third Report, had very emphatically stressed the need for devising an action plan to improve health, nutrition and management experts rather than more breed improvement of sheep and wool production. No such proposal is available in the IX Plan document. The Committee would like the Department to submit a firm action plan which could be incorporated in the IX Plan proposal.

Reply of the Government

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying had set up a Task Force on Sheep, Goat and Rabbit production in 1993 to look into the problems of breeding programmes and other aspects of sheep, goat and rabbit development in the country. The Task Force submitted its final report to this Department in 1996.

The report has made extensive recommendations on various aspects of small ruminants development, i.e. breeding, feed and nutrition management, disease management, marketing etc. Recommendations made by the Task Force have been examined in this Department and have since been accepted for implementation.

Copies of the relevant extracts from the report of the Task Force were made available to each of the sub-groups set up to prepare the Ninth Plan document to take into consideration the recommendations of the Task Force. A copy of the Task Force report has also been sent to different units of this Department to implement the recommendations concerning their unit.

Since Animal Husbandry is a State subject and majority of the recommendations made in the report are to be implemented by the State Government, a copy of the report has also been supplied to each Director of Sheep/Animal Husbandry of the State for initiating early action for implementation of the recommendations concerning their State.

A meeting of the experts in this field was convened on 5-2-1997 to discuss various aspects of small ruminants development including the report of the Task Force. All the experts present in the meeting appreciated the work done by the Task Force for bringing out such a useful document. The experts desired that the recommendations of the Task Force, especially those relating to the development of sheep and wool resources in the country should be implemented expeditiously. It was also recommended in this meeting that a separate Organisation/Board should be constituted in the Ninth Plan for planning, organisation and development of projects and programmes for the small ruminants and rabbits.

In pursuance of the above recommendations, this Department is initiating action to prepare the EFC Memo for Constitution of Small Ruminant Development Board in the Ninth Five Year Plan. The Department also proposes to hold a meeting of the Directors of Animal/Sheep Husbandry of the States some time in August/September to review the progress of actions taken by them for implementation of recommendations of the Task Force.

Recommendation Sl. No. 10

Piggery Development

The Standing Committee on Agriculture had recommended in its Third Report that a piggery development scheme exclusively for the North-Eastern States be developed. The Committee is disappointed to note that no such scheme has been proposed by the Department. The Committee, therefore, desire that necessary action be initiated so as to incorporate a comprehensive programme on these lines so that budget at the RE stage of 1997-98 can be allocated for the scheme.

Reply of the Government

A special conference for Secretaries and Directors of Animal Husbandry Departments of all North Eastern States was convened on 6th June, 1997, and was presided over by MOS(IC). Based on detailed discussions, the North Eastern States including Sikkim has been requested to despatch detailed proposals for sanction and implementation.

Recommendation Sl. No. 11

Duck Breeding

The Committee is disappointed to note that despite its earlier recommendation with regard to development of an integrated duck breeding programme involving Central Duck Breeding Farm and outreach stations in the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and other North-Eastern States are established and local ducks are replaced by improved Khaki Campbell in five years. The Committee recommend that a Plan be developed within next three months so that there is mass replacement of local ducks in these regions by improved Khaki Campbell variety.

Reply of the Government

This Department has established a large scale Duck Breeding Farm at Hesserghatta. This farm is only of its kind and engaged in development and production of high yielding egg type Khaki Campbell Ducks. The parental line is being made available in the form of day old ducklings/hatching eggs to all the States as per their demand for in turn multiplication and distribution of commercial ducklings. This farm is capable of meeting the requirement of breeding stock of all the States. Recently the meat type of stock has also been procured as a gift from the Government of Vietnam. The breeding stock of the meat type ducklings is also likely to be made available shortly from this farm. A part of the consignment of meat type stock received as a gift from the Government of Vietnam was also supplied to Government of Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal and Assam from where we have received encouraging responses about the performance of this stock. During 1996 leading duck producing States like Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal were impressed upon to initiate the various steps like strengthening the infrastructure of the State Farms to increase the offtake of hatching eggs and ducklings, farmers training programme, Mycotoxin screening facilities, extension and health care programmes etc. to fully exploit the potential of duck production in their respective States.

During the 9th Five Year Plan there is a proposal to assist the State Governments in suitably strengthening their poultry/duck farms with inbuilt provision to provide breeding stock of poultry/ducks from Central Poultry Breeding Farms/Central Duck Breeding Farm for intum multiplication and supply of improved quality of commercial chicks/ducklings to the farmers. Purchase and indication of imported varieties is also being considered in consultation with State Governments of the North Eastern Region.

Recommendation Sl. No. 12

Milk Production in Non-Operation Flood Areas

The Committee note that the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance did not provide higher allocation for the implementation of the scheme meant for the development of dairies in Non-Operation Flood areas and hilly and backward areas, although only a sum of Rs. 83.6 crores was allocated for this programme against the original Eight Plan outlay of Rs. 200 crores exclusively for this scheme. The Committee feel that the physical performance under this scheme should be toned up so that even with the meagre resources that are made available the desired results could not be achieved to ensure the improvement of the social nutritional and economic status of the residents of these disadvantaged areas.

Reply of the Government

The observation of the Committee has been taken note of. More concerted efforts would be made to tone up the physical performance under the project through vigorous monitoring, reviews and field visits.

Recommendation Sl. No. 13

Inclusion of Technical Personnel in Delegation to Foreign Countries

The Committee note that under the International Cooperation Arrangements, several delegations of officers have been deputed to visit various countries to participate in seminars, exhibition, international congresses of international bodies, etc. The Committee find that the composition of these delegations on various occasions has been in favour of the bureaucrats. The Committee desire that the policy of deputing officers to foreign countries should be re-oriented in favour of the professional and technical scientists available in the department to make the visits fruitful and more meaningful.

Reply of the Government

The observation of the Committee has been noted.

Recommendation Sl. No. 14

Vacant Technical Posts in the Ministry

The Committee have been time and again recommending that various continuing vacancies of technical positions including that of Animal Husbandry Commissioner should be filled up urgently. Despite repeated recommendations of the Committee, the position of Animal Husbandry Commissioner is yet to be filled up and several posts are still lying vacant. The Committee take serious note of filling up these vacancies and desire that all these vacancies should be filled up within a time frame of six months from now on. The Committee strongly recommend that wherever relaxations have to be provided for it should be done and the posts should be filled up without any delay. The Committee would like to be apprised of the position obtaining in the matter by means of a special report to the Committee by September, 1997.

Reply of the Government

Keeping in view the recommendation of the Committee, Vigorous efforts have been taken to fill up all the vacant posts. The progress of the filling up of the post with major Constraints/Problems concerning each post are indicated in the following paragraphs:—

1. Animal Husbandry Commissioner

The post is vacant since 31.05.94. Since then Deptt. has tried two times to fill up the post on regular basis as well as on *ad hoc* basis as per the existing R/Rs. However, the post could not be filled up either for want of a suitable candidate or due to non-approval of ACC for *ad hoc* appointment. Thereafter a proposal to amend the R/Rs was initiated and with the concurrence of DOPT, UPSC and vetting by the Ministry of Law it has been notified on 21-03-1997. Further, the proposal to fill up the post on regular basis was initiated and the vacancy was circulated on 31-03-1997 and also advertised in the Employment News dated 7-13 June, 1997 giving 60 days time for receipt of application. On completing formalities a consolidated proposal will be sent to UPSC.

2. *National Project Coordinator, NPRE*

Filled up.

3. *Director (Vaccine Production) NPRE*

Filled up.

4. *Coordinator (Quality Control and Cold Chain) NPRE*

The post is vacant since 9.2.1993. The UPSC vide their letter dated 21.8.1995 recommended Dr. S.N. Saha, Senior Scientist, IVRI, Bangalore for this post. The proposal to appoint Dr. Saha on this post was approved by the ACC vide their OM dated 19.10.1995. Dr. Saha, however accepted the offer of appointment on certain conditions. The Deptt. tried to accommodate him to the extent possible. Since Dr. Saha did not join the Deptt. or sent any further communication till July, 1996, offer of appointment made to him was cancelled with the approval of MOS(AH&D). Now ACC has also approved the cancellation of his appointment. The matter has been taken up with UPSC to allow the Deptt. to fill up this post again on transfer on deputation basis (vide letter No. 11013/5/93-A.I. dated 31.10.1996. The UPSC has allowed the Deptt. to re-circulate the post as per mode of Rectt. determined by UPSC. The vacancy has been re-circulated on 25-03-1997 and also advertised in the Employment News dated 7-13 June, 1997 giving 60 days time for receipt of applications. On completing formalities a consolidated proposal will be sent to the UPSC.

5. *Director (Information and Communication) NPRE*

The post is vacant since its inception w.e.f. 9.2.1993. A proposal was sent to UPSC to fill up the post on transfer on deputation basis vide this Department's letter dated 9.12.1993. However, UPSC has intimated vide their letter dated 17.5.1995 that none of the candidates who applied for the post of Director (Information and Communication) on transfer on deputation was found eligible to be considered for the post. Since then the Department is requesting UPSC to allow the post to be filled up on the basis of one time exemption given by UPSC, i.e. the post is allowed to be filled up on transfer on deputation basis. But the UPSC is insisting on framing the recruitment rules for the post. Meanwhile, the post has been downgraded to the level of Deputy Commissioner level in the pay-scale of Rs. 3700-5000. Necessary action has been taken for obtaining approval of UPSC on draft R/Rs and also to fill up the post.

6. *Joint Commission (LH)*

The post is vacant since 29.6.1994. UPSC has recommended the name of Dr. K.R. Vishwanathan for appointment to the post. The proposal to appoint Dr. Vishwanathan is pending with ACC. ACC, however, has directed the Deptt. to obtain relaxation of R/Rs so far as maximum period of deputation is concerned. Now DOPT has also given its concurrence for relaxation of R/Rs. The Deptt. has conveyed the concurrence of DOPT to UPSC, with whom Departmental proposal for giving relaxation in the R/Rs was pending on 06.11.1996. The UPSC has turned down the proposal and requested to re-circulate the post. The recommendations of the UPSC are being considered by the Department.

7. *Deputy Commissioner (Sero-Monitoring)*

The post is lying vacant since 01.06.1993. The proposal to fill up the post on transfer on deputation basis was furnished to UPSC vide letter No. F. 11013/93 A.I dated 15.12.93. The matter remained under correspondence with the Commission for long time. The UPSC had intimated vide their letter dated 1st August, 1995 that personal talk will be held on 05.09.95 for making selection to the post of DC (SM). It is mentioned that the Deptt. has sent names of six officers to the UPSC along with the proposal dated 15.12.93. Since three Departmental officers i.e. Dr. V. Sethuraman, Dr. K.R. Viswanathan and Dr. D. Krishnan whose names were also sent to UPSC were subsequently selected on other higher posts, the Deptt. had been writing to UPSC to allow the Deptt. to recirculate the post as per the R/Rs earlier approved by the Commission so that the post could be filled up on transfer on deputation basis. Neither any reply from UPSC has been received on above mentioned requests nor UPSC has intimated the outcome of the personal talk held on 18.07.95 for selection to the post of DC(SM). The last communication was sent to UPSC on 21st Aug., 1996. In the meantime the post is presently filled up on *ad hoc* basis by appointing Dr. R.P.N. Nair to the post.

8. *Deputy Commissioner (Herd Book)*

The post is lying vacant since 01.01.96. The proposal to fill up the post on TOD basis was sent to UPSC. The Commission has sought certain clarifications and additional documents from the employers of two candidates. The employers of two candidates were requested to

furnish the information/documents and as received some documents/information were furnished to the Commission. The Commission have again called for some of the deficient information/documents. These are being furnished within a week's time.

9. *Deputy Commissioner (Poultry)*

The post is lying vacant since 19.12.95. A proposal to fill up the post on TOD basis, after inviting applications from all concerned, was sent to UPSC vide letter No. 12025/5/95-A.I. dated 22.10.1996. UPSC has sought some clarifications. Reply has been sent on 17.02.97. The Commission again called for some clarifications vide their letter dt. 17th April, 1997, which were replied to vide communication dt. 29th May and 12th June, 1997 respectively.

10. *Deputy Commissioner (Sheep)*

The post is lying vacant since 24.07.95 on retirement of Dr. Surinder Kumar who was appointed to the post on *ad hoc* basis. The post of DC (Sheep) is a newly created post by downgrading the post of JC (Sheep). Initially the post was filled up by promotion on *ad hoc* basis and Dr. Surinder Kumar was appointed to the post. He was appointed to the post in the absence of R/Rs. Action was long back initiated for approving R/Rs for the post of DC (Sheep). After obtaining approval of DOPT, the approved R/Rs were sent to UPSC vide letter No. 12018/1/95-A.I. dated 30.10.1996 for their approval. After UPSC approves the R/Rs and after their notification in the Gazette, action to fill up the post on regular basis will be initiated. Meanwhile, the case was discussed with the officers at UPSC and it is expected to get the approved draft R/Rs from the Commission shortly.

11. *Assistant Commissioner (LH)*

The post is lying vacant since 01.07.96. This is a temporary vacancy. However, the vacancy has been filled on *ad hoc* basis as a stop-gap arrangements.

12. *Assistant Commissioner (RP)*

Filled up.

13. Assistant Commissioner (AQ)

Dr. Govind Narain Purohit was recommended for appointment to the post of AC (AQ) vide UPSC's letter dated 10.09.96. The Employer was requested vide letter dated 30.10.96 to send his character, antecedents and medical report in order to enable the Deptt. to issue offer of appointment to him. The candidate was also informed to get the matter expedited. Despite best efforts made by this Department, none responded well. For want of documents, offer of appointment was not possible to offer hence the candidature was cancelled and the Commission were requested for recommending another suitable candidate from the panel. Reply still awaited.

14. Assistant Commissioner (DD)

Filled up.

15. Assistant Commissioner (Poultry)

The post is lying vacant since 01.01.96. A proposal to fill up the post on Transfer on Deputation basis has since been sent to UPSC vide their letter No. A. 12025/3/95-A.I. dated 6-11-96. UPSC had sought some clarifications. Since eligible candidates withdrew their candidature leaving none eligible for further consideration hence the Commission were requested to allow the vacancy to be filled up on direct recruitment basis, vide letter dt. 13th May, 1997. Reply still awaited.

16. Assistant Commissioner (Sheep)

The post is lying vacant since 1.11.1995. A proposal to fill up the post on regular basis was sent to UPSC vide letter No. A.12025/2/95-A.I. dated 22.12.1995. The case was re-examined from reservation point of view and a fresh proposal was sent to the Commission for filling up the vacant post on direct recruitment basis on 08.07.97.

17. Assistant Commissioner (CD)

One post of AC(CD) is lying vacant since 04.03.94 and other post w.e.f 01.08.94. A proposal to fill up the post on regular basis was sent to UPSC vide letter No. A.12025/2/95-A.I. dated 22.12.95. The Commission conducted interview for the post on 17.02.97 and recommended one candidate. Pre-appointment formalities viz. medical examination, character and antecedents verification reports are to be completed. The

concerned quarters have been requested and subsequently reminded also. It is expected to get these documents shortly and then offer of appointment will be issued.

2. Promotion : The case was re-examined from reservation point of view and a fresh proposal for filling up the vacant post on promotion basis sent to the Commission on 08.07.97.

18. Dairy Engineer (Mechanical)

A proposal to fill up one post of Dairy Engineer (Mechanical) by direct recruitment was sent to UPSC on 16.7.1993. The UPSC has recommended the name of Shri S.B. Ambedkar for this post *vide* their letter dated 7.4.1995. Shri Ambedkar as well as his employer (National Airports Authority) were requested *vide* letter dated 2.7.1995 to furnish attested copies of medical fitness reports and character antecedents verifications, which were pre-requisite, for offering him appointment for the said post. Since Shri Ambedkar has not responded till July, 1996, with the approval of MOS (AH&D), his candidature was cancelled and the UPSC was requested *vide* letter dated 23.7.1996 to recommend another suitable candidate available in the panel for appointment to the post of Dairy Engineer (Mechanical). UPSC agreed and sent second name in the Panel. The offer of appointment was issued. Since, the candidate was pursuing MBA course and wilfully asked for 2 years extension. Hence, the candidature cancelled and a fresh proposal is being sent to the Commission.

19. Assistant Livestock Officer (2 vacant)

The vacancy has recently occurred as result of death of Dr. Triloki Nath *w.e.f.* 1.11.1996. Recruitment action is initiated. Second vacancy is due to a newly created post. Recruitment action is in progress.

20. Senior Technical Assistants

	Sanctioned strength	Filled up	Vacant
(1) Livestock	7 posts	2	5
(2) Poultry	2 posts	—	2

Five posts of STA (Livestock) and two posts of STA (Poultry) are presently vacant. The incumbents of two posts of STA (Livestock) i.e. Shri R.K. Gupta and Shri R.P. Mishra are holding posts of RO in Planning Commission and ALO at the head-quarters on *ad hoc* basis respectively. The vacant posts could not be filled up as the Departmental proposal to amend the R/Rs and grant of scale of pay of Rs. 2000-3500 is still pending and could not be finalised as the Ministry of Finance did not agree to the departmental proposal. Now action is in progress to fill up the posts on *ad hoc* basis. Nominations called for, from the Employment Exchange nominations received and are under examination.

21. *Law Officer*

The post of Law Officer has been created recently *w.e.f.* 1.5.1996. This is an isolated post. Recruitment action has since been started by way of framing of R/Rs for the post of Law Officer. Meanwhile, Govt. of India have imposed temporary ban on framing amendment of R/Rs etc.

22. *Assistant Commissioner (Development) Milk and Milk Product Order.*

Filled up.

23. *Technical Officer Milk and Milk Product Order.*

Proposal sent to the UPSC on 31.03.1997.

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT REPLY

Recommendation Sl. No. 2

Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme

The Committee had noted that during the year 1996-97, 20 million vaccinations were carried out at an expenditure of Rs. 26.5 million. This works out to Rs. 1.3 vaccination. Whereas in the written reply department quoted price of vaccine per dose at Rs. 6.30 in 1995-96 itself. Even if funds are released on 50:50 basis to States, it is not possible to achieve more than half the number of vaccinations claimed by the Department. In the considered opinion of the Committee such an act of providing misleading information tantamounts to breach of privileges and the Committee views it very seriously. The Committee desire that the Department, in future, must present information after verifying facts. It is also desired that progress of the scheme in the field is properly monitored and a suitable mechanism developed to get factual feed back.

Reply of the Government

Foot and Mouth Disease affects cattle, buffaloes, sheeps, goats and pigs. A sizeable population of these is owned by small and marginal farmers. It has been the approach of the Department to focus the attention of its control programme on animals owned by this Group. The cost of vaccine which is usually required to be administered twice in a year is shared in the ratio of 25:25:50 respectively by the Centre, State and the beneficiary. As such a rupee contributed by Central Government makes available Rs. 4.00 for utilisation under this programme. In 1996-97 the fund provided for by the Centre for this purpose was Rs. 26.5 million which meant that Rs. 106 million were available for this programme.

Depending on the manufacturer and distance of the beneficiary from the manufacturer the cost is likely to undergo some change on account of transportation charges. It has been however, calculated that

on an average one dose of FMD will not cost more than Rs. 6.50. Thus, it was possible to carry out 16 million vaccinations in the amount that was provided for the purpose in 1996-97.

FMD vaccinations are also carried out by Military Farms and Dairy Cooperative Societies through their own funding. Similarly many individuals do not depend on government programme for carrying out vaccinations in their animals.

So far there has been no complaint about shortage of FMD vaccine. The present capacity of different plants for manufacturing this vaccine in the country is 41 million doses. This can be increased to 67 million doses per year.

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation Sl. No. 5

Target for Growth in Animal Population

The Committee note that the Union Government does not have any specific target to increase the growth of population of various kinds of animals all over the country and without any such target they have been drifting along aimlessly all these years. The Committee feel that a time has come to systematically proceed in the matter so that the growth of animal population could be in accordance with the future requirements of the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a suitable action plan should be drawn up immediately in the matter so that the planning process is put on the rail and has a specific direction.

Reply of the Government

The National Commission on Agriculture as well as other Expert Groups have held the view that the country is not short of adequate number of animals to meet its requirement of livestock products but because of low productivity per animal, the production falls short of the requirement. Therefore, Government's policy has been to initiate programmes to enhance productivity of various species of livestock. Such programmes include breed improvement, better nutritional inputs, health coverage and technology transfer.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation Sl. No. 15

Declining Trends in Budget Allocation

The Committee note that the proportion of budgetary allocation in favour of the department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying as a part of the total allocation made in favour of the entire agriculture and allied sector has been on the decline over the years. The Committee, therefore, are constrained to observe that no proper attention is being paid for decades together towards this economically important sector by the Government. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should immediately create an independent Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and also advise the State Governments to have an independent Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in each State with a separate budget there-on. The Committee recommend that the nomenclature to it refer to the Ministry may be changed 'as the Ministry of Animal Resource Development' both in the Centre and in the States in view of the various kinds of activities undertaken by the Ministry. The Committee also recommend that there should be a separate Veterinary University for Veterinary Animal Sciences in each State which is quite independent of the Agriculture Universities in order to develop the research and educational facilities in this sector with a sharp focus on employment and wealth generation. The Committee feel that the allocation in the Central budget in favour of this Department should be substantially increased to the extent recommended by the Working Group set up for financing the sectoral plan for the Ninth Plan.

Reply of the Government

The Fifth Pay Commission has recommended for the merger of the two departments Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Agriculture. A decision about creation of separate Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying at the Centre and in the States will be taken after final decision on the recommendations of Pay Commission.

The Department of Agricultural Research and Education, who is concerned with establishment of State Agriculture University has been requested to consider the recommendation.

The Planning Commission has been requested to provide higher allocation for Animal Husbandry and Dairying during the Ninth Plan. A decision on the 9th Plan proposals is yet to be taken by Planning Commission.

Recommendation Sl. No. 16

Formation of the Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education

The Committee find that various important research and educational projects in the veterinary and animal sciences sector are within the purview of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education and the Committee feel that these institutions should be brought under the purview of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying so that fruitful results could be achieved in the field of research, education and extension in a well coordinated manner. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should seriously look into setting up the Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education on the line of ICAR set up under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education.

Reply of the Government

A note for the meeting of Committee of Secretaries, on setting up the Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education has been circulated. The note for cabinet will be submitted after receiving the comments from all Ministries.

NEW DELHI;
July, 1998
Asadha, 1920 (Saka)

K. YERRANNAIDU
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH JUNE, 1998 AT 1100 HRS. IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'B', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Ramchandra Baidia
3. Shri D.C. Sreekantappa
4. Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria
5. Shri Baliram Kashyap
6. Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo
7. Shri M. Master Mathan
8. Shri Raj Narain Passi
9. Shri Virendra Verma
10. Shri Sudhakar Rao Rajusing Naik
11. Shri Ramkrishna Baba Patil
12. Shri Maganti Venkateswara Rao
13. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
14. Shri Mahaboob Zahedi
15. Shri Abdul Hasnat Khan
16. Shri Mitrasen Yadav
17. Shri K.P. Munusamy
18. Shri Anup Lal Yadav
19. Shri Bashist Narayan Singh
20. Shri Ram Shanker
21. Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora

Rajya Sabha

22. Maulana Habibur Rahman Nomani
23. Shri Ramji Lal
24. Shri Devi Prasad Singh
25. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
26. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami
27. Shri Sharief-Ud-Din Shariq
28. Shri Sukh Dev Singh Dhindsa

SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Shri G.C. Malhotra | — <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri S. Bal Shekar | — <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| 3. Smt. Anita Jain | — <i>Under Secretary</i> |
| 4. Shri K.L. Arora | — <i>Assistant Director</i> |

Chairman (AC) took the Chair and welcomed the Members. Thereafter the Committee took up for consideration the draft Reports on Action Taken by the Government in respect of the recommendations/observations contained in the following reports:

1. 1st Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation).
2. 9th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Co-operation).
3. 10th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education).
4. 11th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying).
5. 12th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Water Resources.
6. 13th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

The Committee considered the draft comments of the Committee and adopted the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Action Taken Reports (1998-99) one by one with minor additions.

The Committee, then, authorised the Chairman to present all the six Action Taken Reports (1998-99) of the Committee to the House on a date and time convenient to him.

The Committee then adjourned to meet again soon after the lunch at 1400 hrs. on the same day.

APPENDIX II

(Vide Introduction of the Report)

Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (11th Lok Sabha)

I.	Total number of recommendations	16
II.	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government (Recommendation Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14)	
	Total	12
	Percentage	75%
III.	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (Recommendation No. 2)	
	Total	1
	Percentage	6.25%
IV.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee (Recommendation No. 5)	
	Total	1
	Percentage	6.25%
V.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies are still awaited (Recommendation Nos. 15, 16)	
	Total	2
	Percentage	12.50%