

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1966-67)

HUNDRED AND EIGHTH REPORT (THIRD LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION**

**Action taken by Government on the recommendations
contained in the Eightieth Report of the
Estimates Committee (Third Lok Sabha) on
Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute,
Jhansi and Soil Conservation Research, Demon-
stration and Training Centres.**



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CORRIGENDA

To

108th Report of the Estimates Committee
(Third Lok Sabha) on Indian Grassland
and Fodder Research Institute & Soil
Conservation Research, Demonstration
and Training Centres.

p.3, line 10, from bottom, for
'3.11.66' read '3.11.65'.

p.4, line 1, for 'Tara No. 50'
read 'Tara No. 20'.

p.4, line 4 from bottom, delete 'to'.

p.4, line 5 from bottom, delete 'greatly'.

p.7, line 4, for '3.11.1966'
read '3.11.1965'.

p.7, line 15, for '3.11.66'
read '31.1.66'.

p.10, line 11, for 'concidinq'
read 'coinciding'.

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ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1966-67)

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Shri G. D. Sharma—*Under Secretary.*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Hundred and Eighth Report of the Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eightieth Report of the Estimates Committee (Third Lok Sabha) on the erstwhile Ministry of Food & Agriculture (Department of Agriculture)—Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute and Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centres.

2. The Eightieth Report of the Estimates Committee was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 20th April, 1965. Government furnished replies indicating action taken on all the recommendations between 3rd November, 1965 and the 31st January, 1966. Government replies to all the recommendations were considered by the Study Group 'F' of the Estimates Committee (1965-66) on the 1st March, 1966 who desired that further information in respect of one recommendation may be called for from Government. Further information in respect of this recommendation was received on the 27th May, 1966 and replies to all the recommendations were considered by the Study Group 'E' of the Estimates Committee (1966-67) on the 5th September, 1966. Further information furnished by Government at the time of factual verification of the Draft Report has been suitably incorporated in the Report. The draft Report was adopted by the Committee on the 30th November, 1966.

3. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters:

I. Report.

II. Recommendations that have been accepted by Government.

III. Recommendations which the Committee do not want to pursue in view of Government's reply.

(vi)

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eightieth Report (Third Lok Sabha) of the Estimates Committee is given in the Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of 23 recommendations made in the Report, 22 recommendation i.e. 95.7% have been accepted by the Government and the Committee do not desire to pursue one recommendation i.e. 4.3% in view of Government's reply.

ARUN CHANDRA GUHA,

*Chairman,
Estimates Committee.*

NEW DELHI-1;

30th November, 1966.

Agrahayana 9, 1888 (Saka).

CHAPTER I

REPORT

The Estimates Committee are glad to observe that the recommendations contained in their Eightieth Report (Third Lok Sabha) on the erstwhile Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture)—Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, and Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centres, have been generally accepted by Government.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

The Committee are surprised to note that Government have thought of setting up the Institute in such an important matter as **grasses and fodders** only in Third Plan particularly when fodder scarcity is almost a regular feature. They think that considering the importance of the subject Government should have taken steps to fill the gap during the preceding ten years. The Committee are distressed to find that despite adequate financial provision being made in the Third Plan there has been dilatoriness in setting up the Institute. The Committee hope that Government would lose no time in developing the full potentialities of the Institute and achieving the objects underlying its establishment.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Subject to the limitations imposed by the present emergency, the Government is taking all possible steps to develop the Institute as early as possible.

(*Ministry of Food & Agri. O. M. No. 26-22/64—Instt. II dated 3-11-1965*)

Recommendation (S. No. 3; Para No. 17)

(i) The Committee note that the main idea underlying the project is to develop fodder resources for the growing dairy industry. The Committee hope that with the assistance of the United Nations experts, it would be possible for the Institute to develop a crash programme for providing nutritious cattle feed at economic rates.

(ii) The other important object in getting foreign experts is to impart training to the Indian scientists in the field. The Committee need hardly stress that every effort should be made to train Indian scientists in the field so that they can carry on research work without interruption and in fact break new ground even after the services of foreign experts cease to become available.

(iii) It may not be out of place to mention that training facilities in most of the Union Agricultural Research Institutes are not being put to full use for want of nominations by the State Governments. The Committee would, therefore, suggest that the programme should from the very beginning be drawn up on a realistic basis in conjunction with the State Governments.

(iv) The Committee also hope that the amount earmarked for equipment would be put to good use at an early date.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

(i) In order to develop the fodder resources for the growing dairy industry and formulate crash programme providing nutritious cattle feed at economic rates, regional stations are being established on all-India basis.

(ii) The recommendation is accepted.

(iii) The training programme of the Institute will be drawn up in full consultation with the State Govts.

(iv) The recommendation is noted.

(*Ministry of Food & Agri. O.M. No. 26-22/64—Instt. II dated 3-11-65*)

Recommendation (S. No. 4; Para No. 18)

The Committee hope that the arrangements would be made early for supply of nucleus seeds of successful grasses and fodders to the State Governments and other agencies.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Accepted.

(*Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 26-22/64—Instt. II dated 3-11-65*)

Recommendation (S. No. 5; Para No. 19)

The committee would stress the need for maintaining proforma accounts from the very beginning so that the future development does not lack sound financial basis.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The proforma for maintenance of accounts of seeds of grasses and fodder crops has been devised and prescribed for use by the Institute.

(*Ministry of Food & Agriculture D.O. No. 23-10/66-Genl. I dated 23-11-1966*).

Recommendation (S. No. 6; Para No. 80)

(i) The Committee would suggest that there should be close and intimate co-ordination between the new Institute at Jhansi and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, National Dairy Research Institute and Indian Veterinary Research Institute so that the more promising projects are picked up for further intensified research. They need hardly stress that as far as possible there should not be overlapping and duplication of work between the various agricultural research Institutes.

(ii) The Committee would also stress the need for close co-ordination between the Research Institute at Jhansi and the leading Dairies in the country because it is they who have first-hand knowledge of the problems faced by the dairy industry.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

(i) A complete co-ordination of research between the Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, National Dairy Research Institute, Indian Veterinary Research Institute and the Central Arid Zone Research Institute will be maintained to avoid any duplication of work.

(ii) The recommendation of the Committee has been noted and will be kept in view while formulating Research Projects at the Research Institute, Jhansi. In addition, the work proposed to be undertaken at the Regional Stations, which are proposed to be set up in different regions of the country, will also cater to the needs of Dairies by increasing fodder production particularly in areas covered by Intensive Cattle Development Projects.

(Ministry of Food & Agri. O.M. No. 26-22/64—Instt. II dated 3-11-65) and D.O. No. 23-10/66—Genl. I dated 23-11-1966).

✓ **Recommendation (S. No. 7; Para No. 21)**

As one of the objectives of the Institute is to apply existing knowledge and experience in pilot projects designed to promote and greatly to increase fodder production in dairy development areas, the committee would suggest that there should be close liaison between such milling plants and the Institute so that low cost but nutritionally rich fodders and grasses are developed on priority basis.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The programme of work proposed to be taken up at the Regional Stations would meet the immediate needs of the Intensive Cattle Development Programmes. The Regional Stations will act as demonstration centres for demonstrating to the cultivators improved practices with regard to fertilizer use, water and soil management, cultivation of high yielding species of grasses and fodder crops, introduction of fodder crops in the existing crop rotations etc. for increasing the production of fodder, in addition to demonstration of different methods of fodder conservation and utilization.

The Research Institute, Jhansi, is expected to take up research programme for the evolution of high yielding and nutritious fodders and also their methods of production at low cost. The Institute will maintain close liaison with the Feed mixing plants (milling plants) for the production of nutritious feeds at low cost.

(*Ministry of Food & Agriculture D.O. No. 23-10/66-Genl. I dated 23-11-1966*).

Recommendation (S. No. 8; Para No. 22)

In view of the imperative need of conserving soil and enriching its production properties, the Committee would suggest that research in this promising field should be closely co-ordinated and intensified.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The suggestion of the Committee would be kept in view while designing the research programme of the Institute.

[*Ministry of Food & Agri. O.M. No. 26-22/64—Instt. II dated 3rd November, 1965*].

Recommendation (S. No. 9; Para No. 23)

The Committee would suggest that the Institute should pay special attention to the problem of regenerating the village pastures. This problem may fittingly be the subject of study by the sub-stations which are proposed to be set up under the Institute. Efforts should be made to find grasses which are not only hardy but also nutritionally rich and suited to the local conditions.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Regional Stations are expected to take up the work connected with the demonstration of improved management practices of village grazing lands and natural grasslands and their proper utilization in combination with the forage crops.

The work connected with finding out suitable grasses which are not only hardy but also nutritionally rich and suited to the local conditions will be taken at the Research Institute, Jhansi.

[*Ministry of Food & Agriculture D.O. No. 23.10/66 Genl I, dated 23-11-1966*].

Recommendation (S. No. 10; Para No. 24)

(i) The Committee consider that apart from the necessity of regulating grazing in the forest areas, there is both scope and need for developing nutritious grasses in these hill tracts for grazing of cattle, particularly sheep, which yield precious wool. The Committee hope that the Institute and its sub-stations will take up this problem for urgent attention and research.

(ii) The Committee need hardly stress that special efforts are also called for developing suitable grasses and fodders for supporting cattle in hilly strategic areas like Ladakh, Spiti, Lahaul, NEFA etc., where the need for economic development is urgent.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

A Feeds & Fodder Development Sub-Group of the Working Group of the Central Hill Development Advisory Committee to suggest suitable feeds and fodder development programme to be undertaken in the hilly areas was set up. The Sub-Group has already submitted its report. On the basis of the recommendations made by this Sub-Group, the Planning Commission has communicated guide-line to States concerned for inclusion *inter-alia* the schemes in the State 4th Five Year Plan.

[*Ministry of Food & Agriculture D.O. No. 23-10/66-Genl. I, dated 23-11-1966*].

Recommendation (S. No. 11; Para No. 25)

The Committee have no doubt that Government would put their experience, gained in the Third Plan, to good use and would initiate timely action to ensure that the physical and financial targets set out in the next Plan are achieved in the early years of the Plan period.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Noted.

[*Ministry of Food & Agri. O.M. No. 28-22/64—Instt. II dated 3-11-1966*].

Recommendation (S. No. 12; Para No. 34)

The Committee regret to note that the Central Soil Conservation Board, which is charged with the responsibility to initiate, organise and co-ordinate research in soil and water conservation, has not been meeting more frequently. The Committee recommend that if the Soil Conservation Board is to discharge its duty more effectively, it should meet regularly at least once a year, if not twice.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Accepted.

[*Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I), dated 3-11-1966*].

Recommendation (S. No. 13, Para No. 35)

The Committee recommended that the Soil Conservation Board should examine and formulate the pattern of Soil Conservation organisation in States and persuade them to enact legislation on soil conservation expeditiously. The Committee feel that this would accelerate the progress of soil conservation work in the States.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

A suitable pattern of Soil Conservation Organisation has been recommended to the States.

2. A draft model bill on soil conservation was circulated to the States for their guidance to enact legislation. Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madras, Mysore, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Manipur have already enacted such legislation. The State Government of Bihar, West-Bengal, Orissa and Tripura are taking necessary steps for early enactment of the legislation. The position regarding the others is as follows:—

Assam: The State Govt. have informed that so far as the Districts in the plains are concerned, they have already got the necessary

powers under the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act, 1955 to take effective soil conservation measures wherever necessary. The question of enacting such legislation for the Hill Districts is engaging their attention.

Delhi: It is not necessary to have a soil conservation legislation as there is not much agricultural land in this territory.

Nagaland and Nefia: Due to disturbed conditions, soil conservation legislation has not yet been enacted for these areas.

Pondicherry: The question extending the Madras Act to Pondicherry has been postponed in deference to the wishes of the Council of Government and the Representative Assembly.

[*Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I), dated 31-1-1966.*]

Recommendation (S. No. 14; Para No. 36)

The Committee believed that though the actual execution of soil conservation work is carried out by the State Governments, the Soil Conservation Board can render considerable help by assisting States and River Valley Projects in drawing up their soil conservation schemes, reviewing them periodically and co-ordinating Inter-State Soil Conservation Projects. The Committee feel that constantly changing conditions and increasing complexity of soil and water problems demand closest coordination between the Soil Conservation Board and the State Governments which are respectively responsible for formulating and carrying out the soil conservation programmes.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

This is generally covered by the functions of the Soil Conservation Board which are *inter alia* as under:—

- (i) to organize, coordinate and initiate research in soil conservation on various types of lands put to different kinds of land use such as agriculture, forestry, grazing etc.;
- (ii) to assist States and River Valley Projects:
 - (a) in drawing up their schemes of Soil Conservation;
 - (b) in the enactment of legislation required for the purpose; and

- (c) by tendering such technical advice as may be required from time to time.
- (iii) to coordinate Inter-State Soil Conservation Projects.

The progress of soil conservation programmes is periodically reviewed by Soil Conservation Committee of the Central Soil Conservation Board. Further, a special committee called Standing Committee for Soil Conservation in Catchments of R.V.P. comprising of Central and State representatives has also been set up to review the progress of soil conservation work in the catchments of River Valley Projects.

(2) Inter-State meetings are held to discuss different soil conservation problems in the various regions. At these meetings, bottlenecks experienced by the States are also discussed and suggestions made to resolve them.

(3) Technical officers of the Soil Conservation Division of the Ministry visit the States and advise them on different problems and programmes after inspecting the sites and the schemes in progress.

[*Ministry of Food & Agriculture O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I) dated 31-1-1966*].

(Recommendation (S. No. 15 Para No. 38)

The Committee would suggest that while selecting sites to set up new Soil Conservation Research Demonstration and Training Centres or regional stations of the existing Centres, preference should be given to those States which have at present none, of their own or of the Central Government. The Committee would further urge that as State Governments are the proper authorities to execute the soil and water conservation programmes, Central Government should persuade such of the States as have no soil conservation research centre to set up their own centres to carry out research on regional problems and demonstrate the results to the farmers.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Accepted.

The State Governments are being addressed accordingly.

[*Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I), dated 31-1-1966*].

Recommendation (S. No. 16; Para No. 40)

The Committee welcome the appointment of Achievement Audit Committee which was set up in 1961 to review the work of the Soil Conservation Research Demonstration and Training Centres. The Committee suggest that the next achievement Audit Committee may also review the activities of the Centres at Agra and Chandigarh which have been in existence for more than seven years and which were not examined by the previous Achievement Audit Committee. The Committee would further recommend that performance reviews of all the Soil Conservation Research Demonstration and Training Centres should be made on a regular basis coinciding as far as possible with the Five Year Plan periods.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Accepted.

[*Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I), dated 31-1-1966*].

Recommendation (S. No. 17; Para No. 41)

The Committee are distressed to find that only Rs. 2.82 lakhs have been utilised during the first three years and another Rs. 17.11 lakhs are expected to be utilised during the last two years of the Third Plan Period out of the total allocation of Rs. 50 lakhs made in respect of all the Soil Conservation Research Demonstration and Training Centres. The Committee need hardly emphasise that the growth and prosperity of the country depends mainly on its ability to maintain and increase the productivity of its soil for which intensive research is a necessity. The Committee cannot too strongly stress the need for proper phasing and expeditious finalisation of schemes to ensure that the objectives underlying the Plan provision are achieved.

The Committee note that training facilities in most of the Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centres are not being put to full use for want of adequate number of nominations by the State Governments. The Committee would, therefore, suggest that the programme should from the very beginning be drawn up on a realistic basis in consultation with the State Governments.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Under the Third Plan a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs was provided for the Soil Conservation Research Demonstration and Training Centres for the following:—

(Rs. in lakhs).

(i) Building for the Soil Conservation Research Demonstration and Training Centre, Chandigarh and a new Centre for Red Soils to be opened.	7.00
(ii) Other expenditure on new Red Soil Centre.	10.00
(iii) Subsidy for trainees	17.00
(iv) Subsidy for additional trainees and expenditure on additional staff for training schemes.	12.00
(v) Land for Chandigarh Centre.	2.50
(vi) Godown, for Vasad Centre.	1.50
TOTAL	50.00

The savings are mainly due to the post-Plan decision to defer the following as a measure of economy consequent on the declaration of emergency in 1962:—

- (a) Non-Starting of additional Centre for Red Soil.
- (b) Postponement of construction of buildings.
- (c) Deferment of purchase of land for Chandigarh since the construction of buildings was dropped.

Some savings are also due to the late starting of the Red Soil Centre at Ibrahimpatan and less amount of payment of subsidy payable to the State Governments.

The above savings did not in any way affect the research programme of the existing Centres.

Para 2.—In the beginning States could not take full advantage of the training facilities mainly because their organisational set up was in the formative stage, with the increased tempo of work and with

the setting up of these organisations, the demand for training of the personnel from the States has increased considerably. At present these facilities are being provided at the following Centre:

(i) Dehra Dun	(Officers).
(ii) Ootacamund	(Officers and Assistants).
(iii) Kota	(Assistants).
(iv) Hazari Bagh	(Assistants).
(v) Bellary	(Assistants).

The Training Courses are running in full capacity. In fact, these Centres are not able to meet the full demands of the States. The Government of India have, therefore, allowed 100 per cent subsidy for the remaining period of Third Plan for the States to set up their own training Centres for assistants and also to strengthen their existing organisation for training of sub-Assistants.

[Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65 Soil Cons. (I) dated 31-1-66.]

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

"Please indicate whether proper phasing and finalisation of schemes especially those providing training facilities which are to be implemented during the Fourth Plan in respect of Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centres, has been done."

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 4/9(12) EC 1/64 dated 10-3-66].

FURTHER REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The training scheme for Soil Conservation training for the 4th Five Year Plan have already been finalised according to a phased programme as follows:—

After obtaining the requirements of trained personnel for the 4th Five Year Plan from the various State Governments it was decided as early as October, 1964, that it would be desirable for the States themselves to provide facilities for the training of all the Assistants needed for the expanded programmes in respect of Soil Conservation. The States were accordingly requested to set up their own training Centres for Assistants. For such Centres the Central Government undertook to provide 100 per cent subsidy on staff and equipment, and 50 per cent on pay and allowances of trainees. The Central Government will, however, continue to provide training facilities for Soil Conservation Officers.

The State Governments of Punjab, Madras, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh have already provided facilities for training of Assistants. Madhya Pradesh and Mysore propose to start Assistant' training Centres in the near future. About 500 Officers and 2,800 Assistants are to be trained during the 4th Plan period.

Beginning from 1966-67, some 100 Officers are to be trained every year by the two training Centres under this Ministry, conducting two courses in a year and having a capacity of 25 Officers trainees each per course. About 200 Assistants will also be trained by the four training Centres of this Ministry during 1966-67, and every year thereafter till 1970-71, as each Centre conducts two courses a year and has a capacity to train 25 Assistants per course. The six Assistants' training Centres set up by the State Governments and two more proposed will be able to train about 300 Assistants during 1966-67 and about 1800 Assistants during the 4th Five Year Plan. Each of these Centres will also run two courses a year and train 25 Assistants per course. Until all the States have set up their own training Centres for Soil Conservation assistants, the training facilities offered by one State would be extended to a neighbouring State on a pooled basis in order to achieve a uniform out-turn of trained personnel for all the States. This would be over and above the training facilities for assistants available at the four Central Training Centres.

[Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65-SC (I) dated 27-5-66].

Recommendation (S. No. 18; Para No. 49)

In view of the considerable deficiency in the number of trained assistants in the soil conservation work, the Committee cannot appreciate the decision of Government not to start training course for assistants at the Dehra Dun Centre. The Committee would urge that serious consideration should be given for training of assistants in soil conservation work on a priority basis at various Centres to meet the growing demands of the trained personnel.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

A proposal for starting Assistants' Course in Soil Conservation at the Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centre, Dehra Dun, was considered in 1964. This could not materialise because there was difficulty in obtaining necessary accommodation for the trainees. The entire question of training of personnel in Soil Conservation was discussed with the representatives of all States on

the 29th and 30th September, 1964. It was agreed *inter-alia* that for training of Assistants States should progressively develop their own facilities individually or cooperatively with the neighbouring States. To meet the requirements of training of Assistants for such of the States that cannot start their own training centres individually or cooperatively with neighbouring States, Centres would continue to provide necessary facilities till such time as the States are able to build their own facilities for such training. At present Assistants' Training in Soil Conservation is being imparted at the Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centres at Kota, Bellary, Ootacamund and the D.V.C. Centre at Hazari Bagh. The State Governments have also been asked to assess their requirements of trained personnel for the Fourth Plan and formulate appropriate schemes for training of Assistants. They would be allowed subsidy to the extent of 50 per cent of Pay and Allowances and Study Tours of trainees during 1966-67. The States of Maharashtra, Madras and Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have already started training of Assistants in Soil Conservation. The matter is being pursued with the other State Governments. The question of starting Assistants' training at the remaining Central Soil Conservation Centres will be considered in case any of the State Governments are unable to start their own Courses.

[Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I) dated 31-1-66].

Recommendation (S. No. 19; Para No. 50)

The Committee are surprised that when admittedly there is greater demand for trained personnel in soil conservation work, some of the State nominees, after completion of training, have been put on jobs not connected with the Soil Conservation work. The Committee need hardly stress that States should be impressed upon to depute only those persons whose services could be utilised in their Soil Conservation programmes, after completion of training.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Government of India are allowing a subsidy to the extent of 50 per cent of the Pay and Allowances and Study Tours of the State Government officials deputed for training in soil conservation at the Soil Conservation Research Demonstration and training Centres. The

subsidy is paid to the State Governments only on receipt of a certificate that the trained persons have been put on soil conservation work. The recommendation of the Committee has been brought to the notice of all the State Governments with a request to depute only those officers whose services could be utilised by them in their soil conservation programmes, after completion of training.

[Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I) dated 31-1-66].

Recommendation (S. No. 20; Para No. 51)

The Committee suggest that the States should be advised to depute trainees having requisite qualifications and actually connected with the soil conservation work. As the State nominees are sent from different categories and with different levels of experience in soil conservation, the Committee recommend that every effort should be made to make the training sound and rational both from theoretical as well as practical point of view. The Committee suggest that the present syllabus may be reviewed so as to give more emphasis on practical field training.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Definite qualifications have been prescribed for the Officers and Assistants to be deputed by the State Governments for training in soil conservation at the Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centres. The State Governments have been told that the candidates who do not possess the requisite qualifications would not be admitted for training. The Officers-in-Charge of the Training Centres have been instructed to verify the qualifications of the Officers/Assistants before they are admitted to the Training Course. As recommended by the Committee, the syllabii for the Officer's/Assistants Courses have been revised laying more emphasis on practical work.

[Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I) dated 31-1-66].

Recommendation (S. No. 21; Para No. 52)

The Committee recommend that Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centres should be properly housed and facilities of hostel, laboratories and lecture rooms should be provided urgently at these centres, if not already done.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Adequate accommodation is available for the Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centres at Chandigarh, Agra, Vasad, Ibrahimpatan, Chhatra and Bellary. Some additional hostel accommodation has been provided to the Kotah Centre recently by hiring a private building. There is no accommodation problem at this Centre now. Although some additional accommodation has been provided to the Centres at Dehra Dun and Ootacamund, yet their requirements have not been fully met. This is mainly because of the difficulty in getting hired buildings on the rents assessed by the Central Public Works Department. Efforts are being made to obtain more accommodation for these Centres. A plot of land has been purchased for constructing a building for the Centre at Dehra Dun. The building programme has, however, been deferred owing to the ban imposed during the 'Emergency'.

[*Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I) dated 31-1-66.*]

Recommendation (S. No. 22; Para No. 54)

The Committee welcome the regular meetings of the different Regional Coordination Committees, as these serve the useful purpose of coordinating the work carried out at the Central Governments, Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centres and research on local problems of Soil conservation done by the States. The Committee would suggest that Government should actively consider the holding of Seminars on Soil Conservation on a regular basis and by rotation at different places.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

ACCEPTED.

[*Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I) dated 31-1-66.*]

Recommendation (S. No. 23; Para No. 55)

The Committee recommend that Annual Reports of all the Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Centres should be regularly published in time and supplied to the State Governments to keep them informed about the work that is being done by these Centres.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Accepted.

[Ministry of Food and Agri. O.M. No. 12-7/65—Soil Cons. (I) dated 31-1-66].

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATION WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

Recommendation (S. No. 2; Para No. 14)

The Committee regret to find that it would be possible to utilize only about Rs. 16 lakhs from a plan provision of Rs. 45 lakhs for the Institute. They cannot appreciate the leisurely manner in which the Union Government have gone about in developing the Institute which admittedly can play a very effective role in augmenting the scarce fodder and grass resources for animals. They consider that one of the chief reasons for this slow progress is the long time taken by Government in deciding about recruitment to the Director and Heads of Divisions for the Institute. The Committee are not able to appreciate as to why the post of the Director was not filled up as soon as preliminaries in connection with the Institute were over. It would have been invaluable to associate the Director in the selection of the site of the Institute and in planning and designing its layout and research projects. Similarly the Heads of the Divisions could have played a very useful role in working out in detail the equipment and other requirements which are the pre-requisites for effective implementation of the research schemes. The Committee hope that the posts of the Director and Heads of Divisions required for the main Institute will now be filled up without further delay. The expert advice of the Director and the Heads of Divisions should go a long way in chalking out purposeful lines of research and development at the Institute. The Committee need hardly stress that Government as well as the Institute should approach the whole problem of fodder and grass resources with a sense of urgency so that it can play an effective part in increasing the scarce resources for feeding animals, particularly the milch cattle.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The recommendation has been noted. Delay in the appointment of the Director of the Institute has been due to the fact that the first two candidates recommended by the Union Public Service Commission in order of merit, declined the offer of appointment made to

them. The post was then offered to the third candidate, who accepted the offer and has joined the Institute with effect from 11th Nov., 1965. Out of the five posts of the Heads of Divisions one has already been filled up and three have been advertised and selection is expected to be made shortly. Action in regard to recruitment of the remaining one post is also being pursued. Technical assistance on the selection of sites, equipment and other requirements, is being provided to the Director of the Institute by the experts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Ministry of Food and Agri. D.O. No. 23.10/66-Genl. I dated 23-11-66].

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee, however, hope that all the Heads of Divisions will be appointed at an early date and their expert advice taken in chalking out purposeful lines of research and development at the Institute.

NEW DELHI;

November 30, 1966.

Agrahayana 9, 1888 (Saka).

ARUN CHANDRA GUHA,

Chairman,

Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 80th Report of the Estimates Committee (Third Lok Sabha)

1. Total number of recommendations **23**

2. Recommendations that have been accepted by Government (vide recommendations No. 1, 3 to 23, referred to in Chapter II)

Number	22
Percentage to total	93.47%

3. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply (vide recommendation No. 2 referred to in Chapter III)

Number	1
Percentage to total	4.3%