

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1968-69)

SIXTY-FIRST REPORT

(FOURTH LOK SABHA)

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

(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)

**Action taken by Government on the recommendations
contained in the Seventy-Eighth Report of the
Estimates Committee (Third Lok Sabha) on the
erstwhile Ministry of Food and Agriculture
(Department of Agriculture)—Forest
Research Institute and Colleges,
Dehra Dun**



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C O R R I G E N D A

to

Sixty-First Report of the Estimates
Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the
Ministry of Food, Agriculture,
Community Development and Cooperation.

Cover page, line 4 from below, for
'SECRETARAT' read 'SECRETARIAT'.

Page (iii), line 7, for 'Arumungam' read
'Arumugam'.

page 5, line 12, for 'Scheme' read 'Schemes'

Page 10, line 13, for 'or' read 'for'

Page 19, line 2, for 'IV' read 'Fourth'.

line 25, for 'IV' read 'Fourth'

Page 30, line 7, delete ',' after 'since'

Page 33, line 8, for 'including' read
'included'.

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ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1968-69)

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STUDY GROUP 'E' OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1967-68)

CONVENER

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MEMBERS

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12. Shrimati Sangam Laxmi Bai
13. Shri Inder J. Malhotra
14. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi
15. Shri Rajdeo Singh

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Estimates Committee having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixty-first Report of the Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their 78th Report (Third Lok Sabha) on the erstwhile Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture)—Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun.

2. The Seventy-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 22nd April, 1965. Government furnished replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in the Report on the 14th December, 1965. Further information called for from the Ministry was furnished by them on the 18th November, 1966 and the 6th October, 1967. At their sitting held on the 11th March, 1968 the Study Group 'E' of the Estimates Committee (1967-68) considered the replies received from the Ministry and approved the draft Report which was subsequently adopted by the Committee on the 23rd July, 1968.

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 desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.

IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 78th Report of the Estimates Committee (Third Lok Sabha) is given in the Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of 39 recommendations made in the said Report, 32 recommendations, i.e. 82 per cent, have been accepted by Government and the Committee do not desire to pursue 5 recommendations, i.e. 12.9 per cent, in view of Government's replies. The Committee have not accepted the replies of Government in respect of the remaining 2 recommendations, i.e. 5.1 per cent.

P. VENKATASUBBAIAH,

Chairman.

Estimates Committee.

NEW DELHI;

July 27, 1968.

Sravana 5, 1890 (Saka)

CHAPTER I

REPORT

The Estimates Committee are glad to observe that the recommendations contained in their Seventy-Eighth Report (Third Lok Sabha) on the erstwhile Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture)—Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun, have been replied to by Government generally to their satisfaction.

2. The Committee would, however, like to make a special mention of recommendation No. 36 which has been included in Chapter IV of the Report. In para 68 of their Seventy-Eighth Report (Third Lok Sabha) the Estimates Committee had observed as follows:

“A review of the staff strength undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in 1963 showed that the following staff was surplus to the requirements on the basis of the then work load:—

Class III (Technical)—101

Class IV staff — 54

“The Committee note that the terms of the Second Expert Committee which has been set up to go into the working of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges include ‘study of the staffing position of the Institute viz., whether the Institute is over-staffed or provided with staff of the right calibre.”

“The Committee are distressed to find that no effective action has been taken since 1963 to reduce the staff found surplus to the requirements of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges. They would stress that the Expert Committee should be requested to look into this problem urgently so that staff surplus to requirements are not indefinitely carried on the strength of the Institute.”

In reply Government stated that the staff position was under examination by the Expert Committee. The terms of the Expert Committee included “study of the staffing position of the Institute viz., whether the Institute is overstaffed or provided with staff of the right calibre.”

Asked to state the result of examination of the staff strength of the Institute by the Expert Committee, the Government have replied: “the Expert Committee has not made any recommendations about the staff strength in various grades at the Institute.”

The reasons why the Expert Committee has not made any recommendations about the staff strength, although it was included in their terms of reference, are not known.

The Committee are unhappy to note that no effective action has been taken since 1963 to reduce the staff found surplus as a result of review made by the Department of Agriculture and the recommendation of the Committee on this important matter has not been given the attention it deserves. They are, therefore, constrained to reiterate the recommendation made in their earlier report. The Committee consider it necessary that a report be submitted to them within three months stating justification for retention of the staff found surplus in 1963.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 3), Para No. 21

The Committee think that if the research problems of forest of all regions particularly of Assam and Madhya Pradesh, which have rich resources of teak and other valuable wood, are to receive close attention, it is essential to establish Regional Research Centres which may serve as feeder and extension points for the Forest Research Institute. It may also be considered whether a Regional Centre can be set up in the Andamans where there are really "virgin forests". They hope that an early decision will be taken in the matter.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Necessary steps to set up Regional Centres at Gauhati (Assam) and Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) are being taken.

The Government have already conceded to the principle of opening Research Stations in various regions and have already opened a Research Centre in the South at Bangalore. For opening of Research Centres in Eastern and Central Regions, a scheme was prepared by the Government for opening Research Centres at Gauhati and Jabalpur. The State Governments of Assam and Madhya Pradesh also agreed to provide requisite land for these two Centres, but in view of the National Emergency in 1962, the proposal was deferred. The proposal is being again included in the IV Plan and is likely to be implemented as soon as possible.

This question is also being considered by the Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Thacker, and Government will examine in light of the Committee's recommendations to what extent and where such Regional Centres could be established.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state the latest position regarding opening of Research Centres at Gauhati, Jabalpur and in Andamans.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967.]

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

The Expert Committee have made the following recommendations:—

- (i) The Regional Centres proposed to be established at Gauhati and Jabalpur should be sub-stations of the Forest Research Institute and their work must be controlled on the technical side by the corresponding Branches of the Institute.
- (ii) The work of these new Centres should, it is suggested, follow the lines proposed for the Coimbatore Centre. Forest Products research seems inappropriate in them.
- (iii) The time is not yet ripe for setting up a Centre in the Andamans. There should, however, be a Silvicultural Research Officer in the Andamans and possibly a Utilisation Research Officer who could, under guidance from the Institute, tackle the specific problems of the Islands.

The major portions of the lands required for the Centres have since been acquired by the State Governments. The schemes previously drawn out by the Institute have been revised in the light of the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the Planning Commission have also concurred in. It is now being processed further with the Ministry of Finance. No Centre is proposed to be opened in Andamans for the present.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D. & C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967].

Recommendation (Serial No 4), Para No. 23

The Committee feel concerned at the anticipated short-fall of Rs. 3 crores in expenditure on forest development in the Third Plan even against the reduced provision of Rs. 52 crores and suggest that every effort should be made to implement important schemes for forest development according to the time schedule. The scheme on Farm Forestry may be reviewed and remedial action taken to speed up forest development.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Action to review the schemes on Farm Forestry is being taken.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee would like to be informed about the progress made in regard to review of the schemes on Farm Forestry.

Recommendation (Serial No. 5) Para No. 24

The Committee are distressed to find that only a small amount of Rs. 3.68 lakhs exclusive of the cost of construction of buildings during 1963-64, has been utilised in the first three years of the Plan on Schemes of Development pertaining to the Forest Research Institute and Colleges and that the anticipated expenditure for the entire Plan period is expected to be only Rs. 26 lakhs against the Plan allocation of Rs. 90 lakhs. This indicates that the Plan provision was not made on realistic basis and that scheme were not drawn up or implemented in time. The Committee are surprised that when the scarcity of forest resources is admitted on all hands and the need for research widely recognised, so little of the Plan provision should have been put to effective use to intensify research.

The Committee would suggest that the causes for the delay in the implementation of the Plan Schemes should be carefully gone into and remedial measures taken to avoid such recurrence in future. They would also stress that Government should now take urgent measures to speed up implementation of planned schemes which are considered useful, to the maximum extent possible, during the remaining period of the Plan. It should also be ensured that in the Fourth Five Year Plan, development of Forest Research Institute does not suffer on account of its poor performance in the current Plan period.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Out of Rs. 90 lakhs finally sanctioned for the Plan period, Rs. 17,94,000 was meant for buildings, out of which only Rs. 4,06,553 have been spent by the C.P.W.D. on buildings. The other bottleneck which was faced was non-recruitment of staff in time, due to non-availability of suitable hands and imposition of ban on recruitment of certain category of staff, due to emergency. Every effort, however, is being made to step up the progress by all possible means.

This question will be examined by the Advisory Board of Research of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, with a view to finding causes for delay in the implementation of the schemes and suggesting remedial measures in future.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state whether the question of delay in the implementation of the planned schemes has been examined by the Advisory Board of Research of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, and what remedial measures have been suggested to avoid such recurrence in future.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967.]

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

In the context of the steps to be taken for successful implementation of the Fourth Five Year Plan Schemes on Forest Development, this Department has reviewed the position regarding the shortfalls in the utilisation of the outlay in the Third Five Year Plan, without waiting for the examination of the question by the Advisory Board of Research of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges. The result of the review is given below in brief.

2. In the Third Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 155 lakhs was allotted as Plan Outlay for 52 schemes of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges as detailed below:—

(i) 32 Schemes	Rs. 1,24,30,900/-
(ii) 14 Expansion Schemes	Rs. 15,77,904/-
(iii) 6 Construction Schemes	Rs. 14,22,000/-
	<hr/>
TOTAL:	Rs. 1,54,30,804/-
or	Rs. 155 lakhs.
	<hr/>

Of these, 40 schemes were sanctioned prior to declaration of National emergency and the remaining were under consideration. When the emergency started, the question of suitably phasing the schemes or deferring some was considered by this Department. As a result of this review only 21 schemes involving total outlay of Rs. 26.14 lakhs with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 72,600/- were allowed to be continued. In late 1964, it was decided to include six more schemes involving an outlay of Rs. 62 lakhs with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 1.70 lakhs. The total allotment for the Third Plan was, therefore, revised to Rs. 90 lakhs in Decem-

ber, 1964. The break up of the amount on Research, Education and construction schemes is given below:—

Sl. No.	Classification	Outlay	Amount utilised	Percentage of utilisation
(Rupees in lakhs)				
1.	Research Schemes	9.52	5.47	57.5%
2.	Education Schemes	9.76	6.05	62%
3.	Construction Schemes	17.94	5.24	29.2%
4.	Opening of Regional Research Centres at Gauhati & Jabalpur	50.00	—	0%
		87.22	16.76	
or say Rs. 90.00 lakhs				

3. It will be noted from the above that the shortfall in utilisation is mainly because of the non-implementation of the Schemes on setting up of Research Centres at Gauhati and Jabalpur involving a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs and low utilisation of the provision on construction schemes to the extent of about 29.2% of the outlay therefor. Schemes on Regional Centres could not receive financial concurrence during the Third Plan period and the Schemes in modified form are still awaiting financial concurrence. Acquisition of lands by the State Governments for setting up of the Centres is yet to be completed. The progress in the construction schemes which are executed through the C.P.W.D. from the provision made by the Ministry of Works, Housing & Supply in their Budget for New Works was also adversely affected because of the temporary embargo on construction work due to the emergency. It is admitted that the achievement on the Research and Educational Schemes was not also satisfactory to the extent desired. The main bottlenecks in this regard were firstly the imposition of a ban on foreign exchange which prevented procurement of equipments for research work and secondly, want of suitable technical staff for implementing the Research Schemes. Late sanction of the schemes after completing necessary formalities with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance and also because of the review undertaken due to the emergency was also a contributory factor.

4. In order to overcome all such difficulties in implementation of the schemes under the IV Plan and with a view to avoiding shortfalls in the performance during the IV Plan period, a Committee has

been set up under the Chairmanship of Inspector General of Forests which reviews every month the progress in formulation, sanction and implementation of each scheme in detail. We have also since received the advice of the Expert Committee headed by Prof. Thacker which after going in detail into the working of the Organisation of the Forest Research Institute and the Regional Research Centres at Bangalore and Coimbatore have recommended steps for streamlining the research work. These measures, it is hoped, will help in the successful implementation of the Schemes during the IV Plan period.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D. & C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967].

Recommendation (Serial No. 6), Para No. 31

The Committee hope that the revised set up of the Forest Research Institute has made for better co-ordination and administrative efficiency. They would, however, like to stress two aspects which had also been mentioned by the Expert Committee on the Forest Research Institute and Colleges in 1956, namely, that efforts should be made to integrate the activities of the various Branches of the Institute and that there should be close link between forest research and education. The Committee would also stress that while liaison with the industry should be maintained, the Executive Council of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, which includes amongst others the Inspector General of Forests should at the same time take particular care to ensure the practical forest character of research work and the efficient conduct of the forestry courses.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The matter is under examination of the Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Thacker and Government would examine it in the light of the Committee's recommendations.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state whether the question of integrating the activities of the various Branches of the Institute and establishing close link between forest research and education has been examined by the Expert Committee and what action has been taken by the Government in the matter.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967].

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

The Expert Committee has also made similar recommendations. The President, Forest Research Institute has been instructed to implement the above directions of the Estimates Committee.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D. and C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 7), Para No. 32

1. The Committee are constrained to observe that the Second Achievement Audit Committee has been set up after lapse of eight years although the recommendation of the Estimates Committee (1953-54) was for the appointment of "a Board say after three years or five years". If the Achievement Audit Committee had been set up three years earlier, Government would have had at their disposal its advice before effecting re-organisation of the Institute into four Directorates in 1963.

2. The Committee hope that the Achievement Audit Committee would now go into the work of the revised set up and suggest what further measures, if any, are necessary to bring about closer co-ordination between the various Directorates engaged in forest research, and more efficient administration.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

1. Noted.

2. This question is being examined by the Expert Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Thacker. Thereafter, it will be examined by the Advisory Board of Research for the Forest Research Institute and also the Government of India. The position will be reported to the Estimates Committee after the report of the Advisory Board of Research is obtained.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state whether the question of bringing about closer co-ordination between the various Directorates engaged in forest research and more efficient administration has been examined by the Expert Committee and the Advisory Board of Research. If so, a copy of the report of Advisory Board of Research may be furnished and the action taken thereon by the Government may also be indicated.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967].

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

As mentioned against Serial No. 6, the Expert Committee has recommended a revised set-up for the Institute and the Government is examining the same in consultation with the concerned authorities.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D. and C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967.]

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee would like to be informed of the final orders of the Government regarding the revised set-up for the Institute as recommended by the Expert Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 8), Para No. 33

The Committee cannot over-emphasise the vital need or conducting research on the technology for making pulp from different raw materials and suggest that this should be accorded a high priority.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted.

Immediate and prompt action is taken on receipt of suggestions and problems from the paper industry and State Forest Departments.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/66-F, dated 14-12-1965].

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee would like to be informed about the progress made so far in conducting research on the technology for making pulp from different raw materials.

Recommendation (Serial No. 9), Para No. 33

The Committee feel that if the paper industry has to expand, it is imperative that researches on suitability of unconventional raw materials are carried out with missionary zeal. Indian forests contain large quantities of hard woods and concentrated research on the use of hard wood species for manufacturing pulp and paper will

greatly help to meet the requirements of the future expansion of the industry.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. Work is already in progress on these lines.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee would like to be informed about the progress made in carrying out researches on suitability of unconventional raw materials (like hard wood) for manufacture of pulp and paper.

Recommendation (Serial No. 12), Para No. 35

The Committee whole-heartedly agree that if the Cellulose and Paper Branch is to serve any useful purpose it should be sensitive to the needs of the industry and inspire confidence in its technical ability. The staff should be fully conversant with the operational features of Production Mill so that they can approach the problems of the industry in a realistic manner and can render useful assistance to them.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted.

The Officers of the Cellulose and Paper Branch of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun, are deputed to different paper mills to study the operational features of the mills.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

Recommendation (Serial No. 13), Para No. 36

The Committee consider that the practical application of research processes evolved in the Institute is of crucial importance. The Committee would suggest that the Institute should follow up the matter with the firm which had shown interest in the process evolved by the Institute for the treatment of bamboo to further its utilisation in the manufacture of pulp, paper, board or the like to ascertain the potentialities of the process.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted.

The Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun, has been following up the matter with the Mill concerned, namely, Orient Paper Mills.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee would like to be apprised of the latest position in regard to the following up of the matter with the Mill concerned in order to ascertain the potentialities of the research processes evolved in the Institute.

Recommendation (Serial No. 14), Para No. 37

The Committee suggest that Government should take energetic steps to see that the results of research on seasoning and preservation of bamboo reach the people who are in need of them. In this connection it may be advantageous to utilise the publicity media of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the field organisation of the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

It has been noted and steps are being taken by the Forest Research Institute on the basis indicated by the Estimates Committee.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

Recommendation (Serial No. 15), Para No. 38

The Committee consider it of paramount importance that vigorous efforts may be made by the Forest Research Institute in the direction of finding out quick growing species of bamboos, Eucalyptus, etc., so that large scale plantations of such species could be raised by the States as early as possible to meet rising demand for raw materials for paper industry and other wood based industries. The Forest Research Institute should keep in close touch with the Forest Departments of the States and give them all the necessary guidance, technical as well as scientific, so that the latter can implement the programme in the field successfully.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Works on introduction, cultivation and multiplication of fast growing species (*Eucalyptus*, conifers and others) has already been started systematically since past two years and about 30 stations in the States for field trials have been selected and seeds are being sent to these Centres for trials through State Silviculturist from time to time. The trials have so far indicated that *Eucalyptus* hybrid of Mysore origin has done well in most of the areas, both low rainfall and high rainfall, and is being planted on a fairly large scale by some of the States. Similarly, *E. grandis*, *E. Globulus* and *E. Saligna* have shown promise in Kerala, Madras and Bengal respectively. Amongst pines, *Pinus Patula* has given promise in medium rainfall areas.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee would like the Government to prepare a plan for introduction, cultivation and multiplication of quick growing species of bamboos, *Eucalyptus*, etc. in all State and furnish a copy of the same to the Committee for their information.

Recommendation (Serial No. 16), Para No. 41

The Committee suggest that besides making a concerted effort all over the country to increase the forest resources, particularly by planting fast growing species like *Eucalyptus*, *Casurina*, etc. there is need for ensuring better economic utilisation of available resources. They would emphasise that research on increased use of secondary species of timber after seasoning and preservation treatment should be intensified and the use of small dimensioned timber in timber structures encouraged by suitable publicity measures and by holding practical demonstrations. The Committee expect that the User Departments of Government would give a lead in putting to use the results of research which would make for better economic utilisation of forest resources. In view of the volume of the estimated deficit in the next ten years, the Committee would suggest that the whole problem of ways and means to cover this deficit may be gone into in detail by an Expert Committee to be constituted for the purpose so that a perspective plan can be formulated for developing forest resources in the country commensurate with the present needs and future requirements.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

All possible efforts are being made by the Timber Engineering Branch of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dhera Dun to ensure better and economic utilisation of secondary species using short-dimensioned timbers for structural purposes. Publicity and propaganda measures by means of extension lectures, literature and demonstration structures are continuously being adopted to intensify the rational use of timbers structures.

The Forest Research Institute is drawing up a scheme for research, training and demonstration in the use of secondary species for constructional purposes and as soon as the scheme is ready, an Expert Committee for the purpose will be appointed as suggested by the Estimates Committee.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

It may please be stated whether the Scheme for Research training and demonstration has been drawn up and an Expert Committee constituted for the purpose.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9) ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967.]

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

The Scheme for Research, Training and Demonstration proposed for inclusion in the IV Plan was examined by the Experts of the Government of India in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and it was considered that the Research and Extension works in the Scheme should be separated. The Expert Committee appointed under professor M. S. Thacker, also had the occasion to examine this question and recommended that research on the increased use of secondary species of timber after seasoning and preservation treatment should be intensified and use of small dimensioned timbers in structures should be encouraged. The Committee also suggested that the Government Departments responsible for buildings and construction should be persuaded to adopt the techniques and designs for the use of secondary timbers to the maximum extent possible.

Accordingly, following two schemes have been prepared for inclusion in the IV Plan:

- (i) Fast and extended adoption of small dimensioned stock of timber in residential, industrial and defence construction to achieve economy in the case of timber.
- (ii) Forest Publicity.

The Scheme (i) above which aims for the practical progress in the adoption of small dimensioned stock of timber in residential and defence construction, has since been approved by the Government and it has already commenced from 1966-67. The Scheme at (ii) above which aims at giving publicity to the technique adopted at the Forest Research Institute with a view to popularise them, is being examined by the Experts of the Ministry and the Planning Commission. No separate Expert Committee is considered necessary for examining the Schemes, particularly in view of the fact that the Expert Committee under Prof. M. S. Thacker has already examined the question in detail and has supported the suggestion of the Estimates Committee.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D. and C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 17), Para No. 43

The Committee consider that there is need for intensifying research on logging tools and other mechanised means or improving timber yield. In this connection, it may be useful to undertake a comprehensive study of the progress made by such States as Punjab and Himachal Pradesh in adopting modern logging tools and other mechanised means for harvesting of forests so that in the light of field experience, research can be intensified to evolve such logging tools as are best suited to Indian conditions. The Committee also need hardly stress the desirability of encouraging manufacture of logging tools and other modern equipment for harvesting of forests within the country.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The matter is receiving attention and a full-fledged scheme has been proposed for the IV Five Year Plan for research and study of those aspects.

In this connection Time and Cost Studies to find out the economics of mechanised equipment when used under Indian conditions have already been conducted in the following cases—

1. Portable Saw-mill which is being used by the U.P. Forest Department at Uttarkashi.

2. Wyssen Long Distance Skyline Crane which is being used by the Kashmir Forest Department at Ferkian Top.

Efficiency of tools like axes and bow saw etc. has also been found out under Indian conditions.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F. dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 19), Para No. 45

The Committee suggest that the Forest Research Institute should intensify the research on the problems of non-durable species of wooden sleepers which are being used in large quantities on the Railways.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. The Forest Research Institute will be undertaking the required Research.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F. dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 20), Para No. 46

The proposal for the import of machineries worth Rs. 75 lakhs (5 plants each costing Rs. 15 lakhs) for making building boards out of saw dust by the process developed by the Forest Research Institute seems to be somewhat beyond proportion of the present demand for building boards in the country.

The Committee however feel that any research developed in the country should be given full opportunity for commercial exploitation. As such, the Committee would suggest that in view of the present and prospective demands of building boards, the economics of the process patented may be properly assessed and then it may be examined if a pilot scheme with one plant can be set up. On the success of that pilot plant, the proposal for commercial manufacture of building boards may be taken up later on.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The Government of India agree that such a proposal is not worth pursuing in the context of current demand for building boards.

It is also agreed that pilot plant trials are first necessary to ascertain the commercial feasibility of the process and efforts will be made in consultation with the Advisory Board of Research of the

Forest Research Institute and National Research Development Corporation to set up such a plant on pilot scale, in the first instance.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 21), Para No. 47

The Committee suggest that the economics of the process of utilising wood waste such as off-cuts of timber based industry, twigs and branches from forests and species of wood not being used for anything in particular, on commercial scale may be worked out.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Two schemes for setting up of Forest Economics and Timber Development Wing are proposed to be included in the IV Plan for such purposes.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 22), Para No. 43

The Committee consider that forest-based industries can be effectively developed to provide employment to the people in the rural areas which are located close to the forests. The Committee would suggest that the question of utilising the services of the Forest Research Institute to find out suitable lines of forest-based small scale industries for providing gainful employment to people living in rural areas may be vigorously pursued.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. Suitable steps will be taken by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 23), Para No. 51

The Committee would stress the need for intensifying research to find suitable wood as substitute for imported timber used by the ship building industry and to develop resources for making available timber of desired species in large sections and appropriate lengths. The Committee would suggest that a scientific plan for meeting the timber requirements of the growing ship building industry from within

the indigenous resources may be drawn up in collaboration with the ship building industry.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. Work is being undertaken at the Forest Research Institute on these lines.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 24), Para No. 52

The Committee suggest that the practical utility of the survey of timber industries already made may be carefully assessed and in the light of findings, the question of extending the scheme of survey to other industries may be considered.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. The question of survey of more timber based industries is under consideration.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 25), Para No. 53

The Committee suggest that efforts to find a suitable substitute for cork for general use and to grow cork trees in India should be intensified, so that import of cork may be stopped at an early date.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The problem is already in hand.

The work was started long back at the Forest Research Institute, but it has been intensified recently. The seeds of cork tree, *Querus suber* are being obtained. Sufficient quantity of seeds need to be imported by air as viability is very short-lived.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 26), Para No. 55

The Committee suggest that research on the resin problems referred to in para 55 particularly regarding optimum frequency for tapping and the effect of chemicals on blazes to stimulate flow of resin should be intensified.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

This is already in hand and will be continued in the IV Five Year Plan.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

Recommendation (Serial No. 27), Para No. 56

As India has a long tradition of using indigenous medicinal plants in Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicines with their very rich pharmacopoeia, the Committee feel that there is considerable scope for research to improve the availability and quality of the medicinal plants particularly those which have or can have a foreign market. They would suggest that there should be maximum contact and collaboration between the Forest Research Institute and Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organisation and Central Drugs Research Institute and other research organisations engaged in this field as also with the profession and pharmaceutical and chemical industry.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

It is already in view and, whenever necessary, help is taken by the Forest Research Institute and Colleges from the Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organisation and Central Drugs Research Institute. The officer-in-charge, Minor Forest Products Branch of the Forest Research Institute is a member of the Medicinal Plants Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. A Scheme for the survey of plants yielding minor forest products including medicinal plants is proposed under the IV Plan.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 28), Para No. 57

The Committee suggest that as sandalwood constitutes precious natural wealth of the country and earns valuable foreign exchange, intensified research should be made regarding the causes of sandal spike disease with a view to take remedial measures. They also suggest that the help of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations may be taken, if necessary, for intensifying research in this field.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The problem is being actively pursued at the Forest Research Laboratory, Bangalore.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

Recommendation (Serial No. 29), Para No. 59

The Committee suggest that efforts to obtain suitable planting material of cane of Malayan quality for introduction in India should be pursued vigorously. They also suggest that studies relating to cultivation, exploitation and utilisation of the commercially important indigenous canes may be intensified.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

This is being done at the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

Recommendation (Serial No. 30), Para No. 60

The Committee suggest that efforts should be made to develop in the country essential oil perfume and flavour materials etc. which are at present imported from abroad.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted.

The work is already in hand at the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun and quite a number of plants like citronelia, *Mentha arvensis*, *M. Piperita*, are being investigated.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

Recommendation (Serial No. 31), Para No. 60

The Committee have been informed that considerable research work has been done by the Forest Research Institute on certain essential oil bearing plants but it is difficult to assess the impact of research on the production of essential oils in the country as administrative machinery to evaluate this kind of work is not available.

The Committee feel that the Forest Research Institute should have followed up the matter with the State Governments to ascertain the practical value of the research done on oil bearing plants.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

Recommendation (Serial No. 33), Para No. 64

The Committee consider it unfortunate that there should be occasion for a Chief Conservator of Forests of a leading State in forestry to voice his apprehensions about the growing gulf between the Forest Research Institute and State Forest Departments. The Committee would like to recall in this context the origin and objectives of the Forest Research Institute and cannot too strongly stress the need for close and purposeful relation between the Forest Research Institute and the State Forest Department. In fact, the responsibility for maintaining this purposeful relation rests as much with the Forest Research Institute as with the State Forest Departments. While the State Departments should feed the Institute with the problems and keep it informed of the application of research in the field, the Institute also should contact the Forest and Agricultural Department of the States so that there is intimate link between research and its application.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The principle is accepted and ways and means are being examined by the Expert Committee.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

Recommendation (Serial No. 34), Para No. 65

The Committee suggest that the possibility of having closer and formal collaboration between the Forest Research Institute and the Botanical Survey of India may be examined.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Collaboration between Botany Branch of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun, and Botanical Survey of India

does exist and constant effort is being made by the President, Forest Research Institute and Colleges to have closer liaison.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

Recommendation (Serial No. 35), Para No. 66

The Committee recommend that the requirements of the technical personnel for the paper industry and other forest based industries may be assessed and the question of utilising more intensively the training facilities at the Forest Research Institute examined, with a view to see how soon and how best the shortage can be overcome.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The limited capacity of staff and equipment of the Cellulose and Paper Branch as well as of other utilisation branches has been taken full advantage of and short term *ad hoc* and regular courses are run at the Institute and the number of candidates trained during the last 2 years by the various Branches is given below:—

Name of Course	Training imparted (1963-65)	
	No. of qualified candidates applied	No. of candidates trained
Short Timber Course for Defence Personnel.	27	27
Training to Railway Officers in Timber Technology.	10	10
Diploma Course in Paper Technology.	Nil	Nil
Certificate Course in Cellulose and Paper.	24	24
Seasoning and Preservation Course —Diploma.	3	3
Seasoning and Preservation Course —Certificate.	8	8
Wood identification	53	53
Short Timber Engineering Course to National Building Organisation personnel.	11	11

So far qualified candidates have not experienced rejection.

The assessment of the requirements of the wood based industries in the country can be made after a survey and a scheme for this purpose has already been proposed.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 37), Para No. 69

The Committee consider that in the interest of ensuring un-interrupted continuation of research schemes the practice of shifting a research worker from this field of specialisation to another field merely to satisfy the administrative requirements is undesirable and deserves re-examination by Government with a view to find out ways and means whereby reasonable opportunities of promotion to the scientists could be ensured without dislodging them from the special field for which they are best fitted.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendation has been brought to the notice of Expert Committee for suggesting remedial measures.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 38), Para No. 70

The Committee are constrained to observe that although action to frame recruitment rules for non-tenure scientific gazetted posts in the Forest Research Institute was initiated as early as 1950, the rules could not be finalised until the beginning of December, 1964. The Committee consider the explanation offered for the inordinate delay in the finalisation of the recruitment rules as inadequate, and cannot help feeling that the Ministry has been dilatory in this matter. They trust that the recruitment rules would be promulgated without further delay.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Recruitment rules have since been finalised and are likely to be notified very shortly.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Latest position in respect of promulgation of recruitment rules for non-tenure scientific gazetted posts in the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, may be intimated.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O. M. No. 5 (9) ECII/66, dated 2-9-1966.]

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

Recruitment Rules approved by the Union Public Service Commission, the Ministries of Home Affairs and Law for the General Central Service Class I and Class II (non-tenure) posts at the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun including the Forest Research Laboratory, Bangalore and the Southern Forest Rangers College and Forest Research Centre, Coimbatore, have been sent to the General Manager Government of India Press, New Delhi for notifying in the Gazette of India *vide* this Ministry's (notification) No. 8-11/62-F, dated 20-10-1966.

[Min. of F. A. C. D. & C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 8-40/66-F, dated 18-11-1966.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 39), Para No. 71

The Committee would suggest that research on improvement of teak, sal, pine, etc. should be intensified.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

These are the species in which considerable research has already been done at the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun, and the same intensified.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 1), Para No. 18

The Committee feel that the designation of the head of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, viz., President, is not quite appropriate and suggest that it may be changed to 'Director' to conform to the designation of the Heads of most of the Research Institutes in the country. Consequential changes in other designations in the Institute may also be made.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

This question is being considered by the Expert Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Thacker, Member, Planning Commission and the Government will examine it further in the light of the Expert Committee's recommendations.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state whether the designation of the head of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, has been changed from 'President' to 'Director'.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated, 30-3-1967.]

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

The Expert Committee report has since been received and they have also recommended the change of the designation of the Head of the Institute from 'President' to 'Director'. The Committee has also recommended consequential changes in the other designations. The matter is now being considered by the Government along with other recommendations of the Expert Committee.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D.&C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 2), Para No. 20

Keeping in view the professional requirements of the Forest Services and for the reasons stated above, the Committee have no doubt that the question of according the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, status of the University would be considered in the background of the general policy of the University Grants Commission and Government in the matter of giving such status to educational institutions.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

This question is being examined by the Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Thacker and the Government will examine it further in the light of the comments of the Expert Committee.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state the latest position in regard to the according of University status to the Institute and Colleges.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967].

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

The Expert Committee has examined the question in detail and has concluded that Forest Research Institute should be declared an Institute of National Importance on the lines of the Indian Institute of Technology. This question is now being examined by Government in the light of the observations of the Estimates Committee and the recommendations of the Expert Committee.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D.&C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 10), Para No. 34

The Committee hope that the question of raising the Cellulose and Paper Branch to the status of an independent National Research Institute would be carefully considered by Government in consultation with the Paper Industry and other concerned before any final decision is taken.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

This recommendation is under examination by the Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Thacker and the Gov-

ernment would then consider it, in the light of the Committee's observations.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state the latest position in regard to the question of raising the Cellulose and Paper Branch to the status of an independent National Research Institute.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967].

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

The question of raising the status of the Cellulose and Paper Branch was examined by a Sub-Committee headed by Shri M. Thirumala Rao. This Committee, *inter-alia*, recommended that the status of the Branch should be raised to that of a separate National Research Institute. The Expert Committee has considered this recommendation and has supported it. It has, however, been suggested that such an Institute may be established more profitably at a place other than Dehra Dun, for the reasons that firstly all the paper mills are located at places other than Dehra Dun and secondly the raw material required for manufacture of paper is not available at Dehra Dun. Thirdly there is no arrangement of disposal of effluents at Dehra Dun. In view of above findings of Expert Committee the Government find it difficult to raise the status of the Cellulose and Paper Branch of Forest Research Institute and Colleges to that of an independent National Research Institute.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D.&C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 11), Para No. 34

The Committee would stress that early action may be taken by Government to make the Paper Pulp Plant an economically viable unit and to see that any surplus capacity, after training and research is properly utilised in productive purpose, particularly for production of paper required by the Forest Research Institute and other Government Institutions and Departments.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. This recommendation is also under examination by the Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Thacker. [Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state whether the Expert Committee has examined the question of making the paper pulp plant an economically viable unit and the proper utilisation of any surplus capacity particularly for production of paper.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967.]

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

The Second Expert Committee on the Forest Research Institute and Colleges has examined the question of utilization of the spare capacity of the Pilot paper plant and have recommended as below:—

The Cellulose and Paper Branch, along with its small paper mill, may continue its work for determining the suitability of different materials for the production of pulp and paper. In order to ensure that this plant is available for research and training at all, the plant may be run regularly to produce some papers required by Government. If the machine is operated for the production of high priced special paper, with pulp obtained by imports and/or as the market pulp from other mills in India, then its operation is unlikely to result in a loss.

On the basis of these recommendations, it has now been decided that this plant would continue to run primarily for requirement of research and training and in spare time when it is not required for this purpose, it will be used for producing some high priced speciality paper.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D.&C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 18), Para No. 44

In view of the difference of opinion between the Forest Research Institute and the Ministry of Railways on use of Sleepers of reduced size 8"×5" in place of the usual size 10"×5" and in view of the importance of the issue, the Committee suggest that the matter may be thoroughly gone into by a high-powered Committee consisting of representatives of the Forest Research Institute, Ministry of Railways and some outstanding scientists with specialised knowledge in the field so that a scientific solution regarding the most economic reliable size for railway wooden sleepers is found.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

This question will be examined in detail by the Advisory Board of Research of the Forest Research Institute and will then be processed in the light of their recommendations.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state whether the question regarding size of sleepers has been examined by the Advisory Board of Research. If so, what action has been taken thereon by the Government.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967.]

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

The question of use of sleepers of reduced size has been examined by the Ministry of Railways who are of the opinion that the reduction in the size of sleepers is an unsound proposition not only from the technical point of view but also for economic reasons, because use of sleepers of smaller size would lead to the proportionate increase in the number of sleepers for maintenance of even distribution of pressure to the ballast. Use of smaller sleepers would also require new designing of bearing plates and a number of other sleeper fastenings, which would lead to a lot of confusion and difficulties in planning and execution of work by that Ministry. Because of these difficulties, that Ministry do not feel the necessity of a high-powered Committee going into the question. It is, therefore, felt that there is no use getting this question considered by the Advisory Board of Research.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D.&C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967.]

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 32), Para No. 61

The Committee are unhappy that with the exception of one, the patents taken out by the Forest Research Institute since, 1949 have not been commercially exploited so far. The Committee are not convinced that the remedy lies in developing a separate organisation within the Forest Research Institute for encouraging commercial exploitation of processes evolved by the Institute, for they consider that such a role should more appropriately be performed by the National Research Development Corporation. The Committee would, therefore, suggest closer liaison between National Research Development Corporation, the Forest Research Institute and other Research Institutes to achieve the desired objective. The Committee also recommend that the Second Expert Committee may thoroughly investigate the hurdles which have stood in the way of commercial exploitation of the products and processes evolved by the Forest Research Institute and suggest concrete measures to secure better commercial utilisation of the results of research.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Somehow the National Research Development Corporation has not been able to induce commercial exploitation of the patents taken out by the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun. It is felt that there is real necessity for developing a separate organisation within the Institute for encouraging commercial exploitation of processes evolved. A Development Wing is being proposed under the IV Five Year Plan for this purpose.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965].

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state whether the Second Expert Committee has investigated the hurdles which have stood in the way of commercial exploita-

tion of the products and processes evolved by the Forest Research Institute. If so, what action has been taken to secure better commercial utilisation of the results of research.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967.]

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

The Expert Committee has recommended that whereas research leads to results capable of commercial exploitation, proposals for Pilot trials should be drawn up by the Scientific Staff in collaboration with probable sponsors and there should be a guarantee that funds provided for the plans are adequate to ensure a thorough techno-economic assessment of the process under study. The Institute should embark upon major pilot plant research only when a substantial portion of the expenditure is borne by either the private or public sector or Industries or where specific grant is made by Central Ministry or State Government. Further steps in the matter will depend upon the initiative of the industries, etc.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D.&C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967.]

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee feel that the failure of commercial exploitation of the patents evolved by the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun may be due to the processes being of little utility. They suggest that a review of these processes may be made by an independent technological body.

Recommendation (Serial No. 36), Para No. 68

The Committee are distressed to find that no effective action has been taken since 1963 to reduce the staff found surplus to the requirements of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges. They would stress that the Expert Committee should be requested to look into this problem urgently so that staff surplus to requirements are not indefinitely carried on the strength of the Institute.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

It is not quite correct that the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, have surplus staff. In fact an acute shortage of various categories of the staff at the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun, has been reported. However, the position is under examination by the Expert Committee.

[Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 14-12-1965.]

FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state the result of examination of the staff strength of the Institute by the Expert Committee.

[Lok Sabha Sectt. O.M. No. 5(9)ECII/66, dated 30-3-1967.]

FURTHER REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

The Expert Committee has not made any recommendations about the staff strength in various grades at the Institute.

[Ministry of F.A.C.D.&C. (Deptt. of Agriculture) O.M. No. 12-5/65-F, dated 6-10-1967.]

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The reasons why the Expert Committee has not made any recommendations about the staff strength, although it was included in their terms of reference, are not known.

The Committee are unhappy to note that no effective action has been taken since 1963 to reduce the staff found surplus as a result of review made by the Department of Agriculture, and the recommendation of the Committee on this important matter has not been given the attention it deserves. They are, therefore, constrained to reiterate the recommendation made in their earlier report. The Committee consider it necessary that a report be submitted to them within three months stating justification for retention of the staff found surplus in 1963.

NEW DELHI;

P. VENKATASUBBAIAH,

July 27, 1968.

Chairman,

Sravana 5, 1890 (Saka).

Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

Analysis of action taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the 78th Report of the Estimates Committee

(Third Lok Sabha)

1.	Total number of recommendations	39
2.	Recommendations that have been accepted by Government (<i>vide</i> recommendations No. 3—9, 12—17, 19—31, 33—35 and 37—39 including in Chapter II).	
	Number	32
	Percentage to the total	82·0%
3.	Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (<i>vide</i> recommendations No. 1, 2, 10, 11 and 18 included in Chapter III).	
	Number	5
	Percentage to the total	12·9%
4.	Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee (<i>vide</i> recommendations No. 32 and 36 included in Chapter IV).	
	Number	2
	Percentage to the total	5·1%