

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1969-70)

(FOURTH LOK SABHA)

EIGHTY-FIRST REPORT

**MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION**

(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)

Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture—Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Ernakulam.



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(1969-70)

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(1968-69)**

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INTRODUCTION

1. the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eighty-first Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Ernakulam.

2. The Thirty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on the 20th March, 1968. Government furnished replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in the Report on the 13th November 1968. The Study Group 'E' of the Estimates Committee (1968-69) considered the replies received from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at their sitting held on the 13th March, 1969. The draft Report was adopted by the Committee on the 24th April, 1969.

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 reply.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of 24 recommendations made in the Thirty-eighth Report, 21 recommendations, i.e. 87.5 per cent, have been accepted by Government. The Committee do not desire to pursue three recommendations, i.e. 12.5 per cent, in view of Government's reply.

NEW DELHI;

June 9, 1969.

Jyaishta 19, 1891 (S).

M. THIRUMALA RAO,

Chairman,

Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

The Estimates Committee are glad to observe that the recommendations contained in their Thirty-eighth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Ernakulam, have been replied to by Government in time and generally to their satisfaction.

2. The Committee desire that further information on the progress made in the implementation of some of the recommendations may be furnished to the Committee.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1) Para 1.10

The Committee realise the importance of an institute devoted to fisheries technology for the proper exploitation of the fishery resources not only for providing protein food to the people but also for augmenting the exports of fisheries products so as to earn valuable foreign exchange. Viewed in this context, the establishment of the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology can be considered to be a landmark in the development of fisheries in the country. The Committee note that no Project Report was prepared and published prior to the establishment of the Institute. They need hardly emphasise the desirability of preparing comprehensive project reports before any Institute of this magnitude is set up. Unless this is done, there is every likelihood of uncoordinated growth and development of various Wings of the Institute resulting in lopsided development of the entire Institute.

Reply of Government

The suggestion regarding the desirability of preparing comprehensive project reports before any Institute of this magnitude is set up is accepted.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHL(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 2) Para 1.18

The Committee note the achievements of the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology. They, however, feel that the impact of such an Institute should be judged by taking into consideration the increase in catches of fish by application of better and cheaper techniques craft and gear, reduction in wastage by better and developed methods of storage, transport and preservation of landed fish and by examining to what extent the research conducted by the Institute has resulted in the utilisation of cheaper and easily available

indigenous materials which could be used even by the poor fishermen or their associations. From this point of view, the Committee feel that there is a real need for undertaking a survey to assess the impact of the researches undertaken by the Institute for the exploitation of fishery resources and for raising the socio-economic status of fishermen. The Committee suggest that the Ministry may devise a suitable methodology for conducting such a survey at an early date.

Reply of Government

Noted. The Council has constituted a committee to devise a suitable methodology for conducting a survey to assess the impact of the researches undertaken by the Institute for the exploitation of fishery resources and for raising the socio-economic status of fishermen.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 2) Para 1.19

The Committee would also stress the need for export-oriented research in the various investigations, with regard to the production of quality items having consumer and market preferences. The Committee hope, the Institute would keep these objectives in view while drawing up research projects.

Reply of Government

Noted for guidance. In fact a number of projects, particularly in the development of speciality products and in improving the quality of the products normally exported, have been drawn up keeping in view the export potentialities.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 4) Para 2.13

The Committee regret to note that some of the research programmes could not be completed within the stipulated time and successful execution of projects was hampered by delay in supply of materials, equipment, etc.

Reply of Government

The delay in supply of materials, equipment, etc., was due mainly to lack of funds with the Central Institute of Fisheries Techno-

logy. Lack of proper incentive to junior workers was also one of the reasons. A proposal for the revision of scales of pay of the junior workers is now being processed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Steps have also been taken to see that the required funds are placed at the disposal of the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology for materials, equipment, etc.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 4) Para 2.14

The Committee are of the view that the completion of research programmes within the stipulated time is a proof that the research has been conducted smoothly and economically. They would, therefore, stress that as proposed by the Institute, the research should be organised project-wise with definite objectives and time-limits for completion laid down. For this purpose a comprehensive list of the pre-raquisites necessary for a particular research programme should be drawn up and arranged in time so as to avoid any difficulties later on. It is also desirable that the economics of the projects are worked out as far as possible, both on a short-term and long-term basis, before they are taken up.

The Committee trust that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, to which the Institute has been transferred, would take suitable measures to remove the difficulties in the way of successful execution of projects.

Reply of Government

The research work at this Institute is conducted on project-oriented basis with definite objectives and time limits. The difficulties encountered in timely completion of the projects will be promptly analysed and suitable measures taken to remove the difficulties.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 5) Para 2.22

The Committee note that at the meeting of the Fisheries Research Committee held at Madras in October-November, 1966, members referred to the increasing costs of mechanised fishing boats and

impressed on the imperative need for effecting reduction on construction costs. The use of cheaper boat building timber, marine plywood, galvanised iron fastening, etc. were suggested. It was recommended that information available with the States might be passed on to the Director of the Institute, who would undertake basic studies in the matter.

Reply of Government

The data about the cost structure in the construction of fishing boats whenever received from the Directors of Fisheries of the various States, are analysed and wherever possible suggestions to reduce construction costs without losing the efficiency of the boat are offered.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Recommendation (Serial No. 7) Para 2.34

The Committee are not sure whether the Institute which has already eight vessels of sizes varying from 30 ft. to 50 ft. should require a bigger vessel. They feel that it should be possible for the Institute to make use of the vessels available with the Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay. They hope that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research will examine the Institute's request in the context of their seeds and the resources position of the Government at present.

Reply of Government

The proposal of the Institute to acquire larger trawlers has been considered and it is felt that the Institute could use the fishing vessels belonging to the Deep Sea Fishing under the Department of Agriculture. To ensure proper coordination between the gear research and fishing organisations it has been decided to set up a suitable Committee of officers.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Recommendation (Serial No. 8) Para 2.38

The Committee would like to emphasise that more and more persons from the fishery industry, which is mostly concentrated at Ernakulam, Cochin, should be encouraged to come to the Institute to participate in the special training courses. They need hardly point out

that this will have two-fold advantages. First, a close liaison will be maintained with the fishery industry inasmuch as candidates sponsored by them will be receiving training in the Institute and secondly, the Institute will be able to gear up its research programmes according to the needs of the fishery industry.

Reply of Government

The Institute already provides suitable facilities to the industry to get their scientific and technical personnel trained in specific fields. The scientific and technical officers of the Institute also regularly visit the local fish processing plants etc. which provides them opportunity to know the needs of the industry. At the request of the Marine Products Export Promotion Council a scheme for the training of technical personnel on fish processing industry has been drawn up.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 9) Para 2.41

The Committee feel that the progress made by various States in implementing the recommendation of the Central Board of Fisheries (made in October, 1966) for setting up pilot plants for dehydration of fish on the specifications supplied by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology is not satisfactory. The Committee would like the Institute to pursue the matter vigorously.

Reply of Government

The Department of Agriculture had forwarded the recommendations of the Central Board of Fisheries to the State Governments concerned. So far the interested State Governments have not been able to set up the Pilot Plants for dehydration of fish according to the suggested specifications. The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology would provide the required technical help and advice in installing the Pilot Plants wherever required.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

Progress made by various States in installing pilot plants for dehydration of fish may be intimated for information of Estimates Committee after a year.

Recommendation (Serial No. 10) Para 2.46

The Committee are glad to note that some by-products have been evolved by the Institute. They have no doubt that further research in the matter will yield encouraging results and cover more items. The Committee consider that fish protein concentrate has immense possibilities for supplementing the dietary needs of the underfed and the undernourished sections of population in the country. There is, therefore, a need for intensification of researches on fish protein concentrate so that a product of the right quality acceptable to nutrition experts could be evolved. The Committee hope that the Institute will take advantage of the researches already undertaken in the United States in the preparation of an edible fish protein concentrate. They suggest that the progress made on this project may be included in the Annual Reports of the Institute.

The Committee would also like to stress that unless the by-products evolved by the Institute are commercially exploited, research alone in the matter will not serve any useful purpose. They hope that concerted steps would be taken to attract the industry to commercially exploit the by-products evolved by the Institute. They also suggest that the feasibility of taking out patents on the by-products evolved by the Institute before releasing the same to the industry and charging royalty thereon from the industry may be considered.

Reply of Government

Proposals are already under consideration for setting up a Pilot Plant to be fabricated according to the specifications laid out by the Institute which will use the method evolved by the Institute in the production of fish protein concentrate. The USAID has also made a proposal for supplying a Pilot Plant which will produce fish protein concentrate according to the method evolved by the U.S. Scientists. The working of these two Plants will provide opportunity to conduct comparative studies about the merits in the production of fish protein concentrate.

Further studies in the production of fish protein concentrate and other products are being continued by the Institute. The progress achieved in these fields has been included in the Annual Report of the Institute for 1967.

The suggestions for taking out patents have been noted. This will be done when the work has progressed to the stage of exploiting the by-products commercially.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 11) Para 2.49

The Committee note the exploratory and experimental work undertaken by the Mobile Unit of the Institute during each of the last three years. They, however, feel that the Institute should maintain close liaison with the State Departments of Fisheries with a view to find out to what extent follow-up action has been initiated on the suggestions made by the Unit. The details of experiments conducted by the Unit and the results achieved should be published and made available to State Departments of Fisheries, Fisheries Research Institutes and the industry.

Reply of Government

Close liaison is maintained by the Institute with the Department of Fisheries and suggestions in the light of the investigations conducted by the Mobile Unit have been made to the concerned State authorities. Follow up action is also taken. While detailed reports are forwarded to the concerned authorities, the salient features of the experiments conducted and the results obtained are covered in the Quarterly/Half-yearly and Annual Reports for general information.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 12) Para 2.51

While agreeing that unless the building is ready there cannot be a proper pilot plant laboratory, the Committee would like to stress that, if steps are not taken to equip the laboratory with essential and important equipment, to the extent possible, under the existing conditions, the work of the scientists will suffer thus retarding the progress of the pilot plant laboratory. They hope that early action with regard to this matter as also the building will be taken.

Reply of Government

Many of the items of essential equipment are already available at the Institute and action to procure more items is being taken.

The difficulty now is the lack of space and proper facilities for installation in the present hired building. As regards a permanent building to house the Institute, estimates for construction have been received from the C.P.W.D. and these estimates are being examined.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (P) dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Recommendation (Serial No. 13) Para 2.58

The Committee note that by and large close liaison and coordination is being maintained by the Institute with State Fisheries Departments, Technological Stations, etc. There is, however, imperative need to intensify the efforts in this direction so that any inadvertent duplication of research work may be avoided from the very outset of the operation of any scheme. The Committee have no doubt that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research will examine this problem in all its aspects and decide whether the coordination of fisheries by the Fishery Research Committee is adequate or whether some other suitable machinery should be devised through which closer coordination and liaison could be maintained. The Committee would like the Council also to examine the possibility of forging intimate links between Central Institute of Fisheries Technology on the one hand and the Central Food Technological Research Institute and the Defence Food Research Laboratory on the other. The Committee, in this connection, would also like to draw the attention of the Government to the recommendation contained in their Thirty-Sixth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute; Mandapam Camp.

Reply of Government

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already under consideration the question of setting up Advisory Committees for its research Institutes. On a Committee that would be set up for Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Ernakulam, the suggestion for including the representatives from the Central Food Technological Research Institute and Defence Food Research Laboratory will be kept in view. Already there is a close link between the Central Food Technological Research Institute and this Institute as the Director of the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology is a mem-

ber of the Scientific Committee of the Central Food Technological Research Institute.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (F) dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Recommendation (Serial No. 14) Para 2.61

The Committee would like the idea of constituting an informal consultative committee with representatives of the industry and the Institute to advise on the research activities of the Institute to be pursued vigorously by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. They have no doubt that the informal consultative committee, if set up, can help a great deal in making the research industry-oriented and thus bringing in quicker results.

Reply of Government

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already under consideration the setting up of Advisory Committees for its Research Institutes. This matter is under active examination.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (F) dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Recommendation (Serial No. 15) Para 2.67

The Committee need hardly point out that collection of useful information without disseminating it to the users quickly serves no purpose. They regret to note that there has been delay in getting the newsletters, booklets, leaflets, and other reports published. They suggest that the question of expeditious publication of the extension publications may be considered.

Reply of Government

Now that the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology is under the control of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, which is an autonomous body, printing of extension publications like newsletters, booklets, leaflets, etc. will be got done through private presses. There will thus be no delay.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (I) dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Recommendation (Serial No. 15) Para 2.68

The Committee apprehend that deputing the research staff of the Sub-stations and Units of the Institute for doing demonstration work may interfere with the research work being done by them. They suggest that suitable ways may be devised in order to enable the Extension, Information and Statistical Wing to perform its functions smoothly and efficiently, especially in view of the fact that this is the only extension wing attached to a Central Fisheries Institute.

Reply of Government

The question of strengthening the Extension Section of the Institute for conducting demonstration work is already under consideration of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It may also be necessary ultimately to strengthen the Information and Statistical Wings of the Institute. This matter is also being looked into.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I) dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Recommendation (Serial No. 16) Para 2.71

The Committee feel that the demonstrations can go a long way in bringing home in a visual form the results achieved by the Institute to industry as well as fishermen. They regret to note that there has been a decrease in the number of demonstrations being arranged by the Institute from year to year due to lack of adequate staff. The Committee desire that the requirements for adequate demonstration work may be kept in view.

Reply of Government

There has been a decrease in the number of demonstrations and this was mainly due to the delay in filling up of the post of Extension Officer. The post has since been filled and with the additional posts now under consideration the number of demonstrations would be increased.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I) dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Recommendation (Serial No. 17) Para 2.74

The Committee stress the need for periodical evaluation of the work of the Institute by an Achievement Audit Committee con-

sisting of specialists. In this connection, the Committee would like to invite the attention of the Ministry to the recommendation made by them in para. 9 of their 76th Report (Third Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture)—Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

Reply of Government

All the Institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are evaluated by an Achievement Audit Committee once in five years. The Fisheries Institutes will also now come under this system.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I) dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 18) Para 3.9

The Committee note that the Pre-shipment Inspection Scheme is being operated by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology in view of the highly complicated nature of fish inspection and in view of the fact that this has been endorsed by the Industry as well as by the Marine Products Export Promotion Council. The Committee feel that this is the legitimate function of the Ministry of Commerce. Now that the Institute has gone under the control of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Committee suggest that the question whether the operation of this scheme should remain with the Institute or go to the Ministry of Commerce or any other Agency of the Ministry of Commerce may be examined in all its ramifications and early decision taken in the matter.

Reply of Government

It has since been decided that Pre-shipment Inspection work of Marine Products will be handled by the Ministry of Commerce.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I) dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 18) Paras 3.10 and 3.11 and (Serial No. 19) Para 3.19

Para 3.10.—The Committee need hardly point out that the Pre-shipment Inspection Schemes can serve a very useful purpose in bringing about quality consciousness among the exporters of sea food products. They, however, note that there have been quite

a few cases since the introduction of the Scheme wherein the goods were detained by the importing countries even after they had been inspected and certificates issued. In one case the products decomposed owing to delay in loading after having been passed for export. In the circumstances, the Committee cannot but conclude that there is much scope for improvement in the working of the Scheme especially in regard to these aspects which have come to notice in the past.

Para 3.11.—The Committee would also urge that demonstrations on improved methods of cleaning of fishing beat decks, fish hold, etc., and of processing, chlorination of water and cleaning of the premises should be regularly arranged in factories in increasing number to stress upon the industry the importance of hygienic conditions for bringing about improvement in the quality of products handled at various stages of production.

Para 3.19.—In the opinion of the Committee in order to ensure a steady and expanding foreign market for fish and fishery products from India, it is essential to maintain high standard of the product especially from the hygienic point of view. The endeavour of the Government should therefore be to encourage the various units of exporters to opt for voluntary continuous inspection of their products.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted.

A scheme for continuous in-plant inspection was drawn up in 1966. In 1967 the Ministry of Commerce had taken up with the processing factories the question of introducing bacteriological tests as well as inspection on a voluntary basis. The response was not encouraging. Subsequently, in view of the need to ensure acceptability of our products abroad, bacteriological tests were made compulsory. The question of undertaking in-plant inspection on a voluntary basis will now be reviewed.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I) dated the 13th November, 1969.*]

Comments of the Committee

Final decision on the question of undertaking in-plant inspection for sea food products may be communicated for information of Estimates Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 20) Paras 4.7 and 4.8

Para 4.7. The Committee are unhappy to note the large number of posts lying vacant in the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology. They are also unhappy to note that as many as 196 posts out of 346 posts are temporary. They need hardly emphasise that the continuance of a larger number of vacant and temporary posts and unattractive pay scales for scientific posts is likely to have a deleterious effect on the smooth functioning of a research Institute. The Committee would like the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to examine the position and take necessary steps in the matter.

Para 4.8. As regards pay-scales of the researchers and scientists, the Committee would like to draw the attention of the Government to the recommendation contained in para 2.15 of their *Thirtysixth* Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp.

Reply of Government

Many of the vacant posts have been filled up. The main difficulty, as pointed out by the Committee, is the unattractive pay scales of scientific posts. There is now a ban on the upward revision of pay scales. However, this question is already under active consideration. Action is also being taken for the conversion of some of the temporary posts into permanent ones.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (I) dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 21) Para 4.12

The Committee are not sure whether the scheme for merit promotions and advance increments is being taken advantage of by the Institute. They need hardly stress that scientific and technical personnel should be given suitable incentives for doing meritorious work. The Committee hope that Indian Council of Agricultural Research will take appropriate steps in this behalf.

Reply of Government

The scheme of merit promotions and advance increments has been extended to the Fisheries Research Institutes also and this has already been approved by the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in March, 1968.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (F) dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 22) Para 4.15

The Committee feel that proper supervision over the work being done at the Institute is difficult unless all the Sections of the Institute are housed in a single and suitable building. They note that difficulties are being faced for installation and operation of heavy machines and equipments in the present buildings and that laboratory working space in all the buildings occupied by the Institute is insufficient. The Committee, however, appreciate that in view of the present financial stringency, there may be difficulties in re-starting the construction work suspended in October, 1965. They suggest that Indian Council of Agricultural Research may go into this question in all its aspects and find how best an improvement can be brought in the present situation.

Reply of Government

Proposals for the construction of a permanent building for the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology are already under the consideration of the Council. The C.P.W.D. has forwarded estimates of cost which are now under scrutiny.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (I), dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Recommendation (Serial No. 23) Para 4.19

The Committee are distressed to note that there has been heavy shortfall in the expenditure in as much as only Rs. 1,46,660 could be utilized out of Rs. 4,29,900 provided in the Revised Estimates for 1966-67 for the acquisition of land for the construction of staff quarters and purchase of engines. They need hardly stress that the programmes of work, for which budget provisions have been made, should be executed with a sense of urgency.

Reply of Government

The shortfall in expenditure referred to was due to factors beyond the Institutes' control, such as delay in completing the acquisition of the land by the District Collector (Kerala State) and delay in procuring the engines through the Director General, Supplies and Disposals. Steps have been taken to see that shortfalls in expenditure are avoided in future.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI (I), dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Recommendation (Serial No. 24) Para 4.23

The Committee would stress the desirability of reviewing the work of each Sub-Station and Unit at regular intervals to watch the progress of work entrusted to them and to ensure that continuance of each of them is justifiable. The Committee would also stress that there should be close liaison and co-ordination between the Institute and various Sub-Stations and Units on the one hand and between various Sub-Stations and Units *inter se* on the other so as to avoid duplication and overlapping in the work being done by them.

Reply of Government

The progress of the work conducted in the various Sub-Stations and Units of the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology is watched closely by the Headquarters of the Institute by scrutinising the monthly progress reports and periodically visiting the Sub-Stations, Units, etc. The duplication and overlapping in the work between the Sub-Stations and the Units will also be avoided since each research project is approved by the Headquarters of the Institute, after careful scrutiny.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I) dated the 13th November, 1968.*]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 3) Paras 2.2 and 2.3

Para 2.2—

The Committee find from the composition of the Research Committee that there are no representatives from fishery industry on it. Modern fisheries is as much an industry as a social welfare activity. The Committee, therefore, need hardly stress the desirability of having one or two representatives of fishery industry on the Research Committee so that they may make useful contribution to the deliberations of the Committee for the development of fishery in the country.

Para 2.3—

The Committee do not know whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to which the Institute has now been transferred would like to be guided by the advice of the Standing Research Committee of the Ministry in matters relating to Fisheries technology. In any case, the Committee would like to be assured that technological research would continue to receive the closest attention it deserves and that efforts would be made to avoid duplication and overlapping in the field of technological research being done by various Central and State Institutes as well as by the industry.

Reply of Government

Paras 2.2 and 2.3—

The Research Committee referred to in para 2.2 of the Estimates Committee's Report is the one set up by the Department of Agriculture. The I.C.A.R. will have its own Research Committees. Technological research will continue to receive the closest attention of the I.C.A.R.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I) dated the 13th November, 1968.]

Comments of the Committee

The composition of the Research Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research may be communicated to the Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 5) Para 2.23

The Committee need hardly point out that one of the aims of the researches being made in the Institute should be to reduce the cost of the mechanised fishing boats so that the poor fishermen could afford to purchase them and take advantage therefrom. The Committee do not think that there has been any appreciable decrease in the overall cost of production of a mechanised fishing boat because, whereas the cost of production of the hull has gone down, the cost of the engine has gone up. They expect that all out efforts will be made on the basis of further investigations, to reduce the overall cost of production of a mechanised fishing boat to the extent possible.

Reply of Government

Efforts will be continued to evolve methods and to locate cheaper substitutes to bring down the construction cost of fishing vessels. Till recently the engines required for installation in fishing boats were imported. A few engineering firms in India have started manufacturing and assembling marine engines and consequently a part of our requirement can now be met from indigenous sources. However, the cost of engines manufactured in India is comparatively higher. As the production progresses it is hoped, that sufficient number of marine engines will be available at lesser cost.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I) dated the 13th November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 5) Para 2.24

The Committee note that there have been complaints about the wooden boats whose hulls were being sheathed with magnesium aluminium alloy in place of copper, as suggested by the Institute. They would therefore like the Institute to examine carefully the performance of the boats in Madras and Kerala after the sheathing is done under the supervision of the Institute, before a final conclusion is drawn about the new sheathing.

Reply of Government

The performance of the boats built in Kerala and Madras using aluminium sheathing instead of copper sheathing is under study.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I) dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

Results of the study conducted by the Institute on the performance of boats built using aluminium sheathing may be communicated to the Estimates Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 6) Para 2.31

The Committee are glad to note the researches made for evolving suitable and cheap gear by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology. They suggest that concerted steps may be taken to acquaint the users and the industry with the processes developed by the Institute so that there may be a growing demand for indigenously manufactured gear materials and dependence on imports may be avoided. As regards nylon twines, the Committee suggest that the Ministry may consider whether it could not be made incumbent on the new units manufacturing synthetic fibres to produce a certain amount of fishing twine as well, as and when there is a demand for the same.

Reply of Government

The Extension and Information Section of the Institute makes efforts to popularise the processes and cheap substitutes developed by the Institute by conducting demonstrations, publishing and distributing News letters and pamphlets, etc. These efforts will be further intensified. As regards production of fishing twine by the synthetic fibre manufacturing units, the matter is being examined.

[*Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-13/68-AHI(I) dated the 13th November, 1968*].

Comments of the Committee

The Estimates Committee would like to be informed about the action taken in the matter of production of fishing twine by the synthetic fibre manufacturing units.

NEW DELHI;

June 9, 1969.

Jyaistha 19, 1891 (Saka).

M. THIRUMALA RAO,

Chairman,

Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX I

Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee [Fourth Lok Sabha]

1.	Total number of recommendations	24
2.	Recommendations which have been accepted by Government, <i>i. e.</i> recommendations Nos. 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24:	
	Number	21
	Percentage to total	87.5
3.	Recommendations which the committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply, <i>i.e.</i> recommendation Nos. 3, 5, and 6 :	
	Number	3
	Percentage to total	12.5

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