

THIRTEENTH REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE (2001)

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND COOPERATION)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2000-2001)

*[Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/
Observations contained in the Sixth Report of the
Standing Committee on Agriculture (1999-2000)]*

Presented to Lok Sabha on..... 19 MAR 2001
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 23 MAR 2001



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2001/Phalguna, 1922 (Saka)

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE FOR THE YEAR-2001

Shri S. S. Palanimanickam — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

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3. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
4. Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullo
5. Shri Ramdas Rupala Gavit
6. Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot
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28. Shri Zora Singh Mann
29. Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav
30. Shri Mahboob Zahedi

(iv)

Rajya Sabha

31. Shrimati Jamana Devi Barupal
32. Shri Khagen Das
33. Shri Devi Lal
34. Shri Oscar Fernandes
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40. Shri R. Margabandu
41. Shri M. Rajashekara Murthy
42. Shri Yadlapati Venkata Rao
43. Shri Sharief-Ud-Din Shariq
44. Shri Devi Prasad Singh
45. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
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| 2. Shri Raj Shekhar Sharma | — <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| 3. Smt. Anita Jain | — <i>Under Secretary</i> |
| 4. Ms. Amita Walia | — <i>Reporting Officer</i> |

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2001) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1999-2000) (Thirteenth Lok Sabha), on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation).

2. The Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1999-2000) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.4.2000. The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to recommendations contained in the Sixth Report. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received.

3. The Committee considered these action taken replies furnished by the Government in its sitting held on 22nd February, 2001 approved the draft comments and adopted the Thirteenth Report. Minutes of the sitting are placed in Appendix I.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixth Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
28 February, 2001
9 Phalguna, 1922 (Saka)

S.S. PALANIMANICKAM,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1999-2000) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) which was presented to the Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 19th April, 2000.

1.2 Action taken replies have been received from the Government in respect of all the 22 recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorised as follows:—

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

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21 & 22.

(Total 16)

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

Recommendation Sl. No. NIL

(Nil)

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

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 3, 11, 17 & 18

(Total 4)

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

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 15 & 19

(Total 2)

1.3 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some other recommendations.

Unspent Balance with States

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3)

1.4 The Committee were concerned to note that in many important on-going schemes particularly in crops and horticulture sector, plan funds had not been utilised in full as some States had unspent balances from the previous years, thereby resulting in less release of funds to them. The Committee had also been informed that some State Agriculture Departments were not receiving funds from their respective State Finance Departments in time. The Committee were of the view that this is a perennial problem and some concrete measures were required to be taken in this regard. The Committee recommended that the Department should strengthen their monitoring mechanism and ensure that funds released to States, reach the State Agriculture Department within 15 days of their release. The names of States who lag behind in implementation of schemes should be invariably given in performance budgets and the States who had performed well be rewarded by higher allocation.

1.5 The Government in their reply have stated that the Committee's concern over unspent balances of previous years resulting in reduced allocation of funds during the current year has been brought to the notice of all concerned. The attention of Agriculture Secretaries of the State Governments has been drawn to specific programmes carrying unspent balances against funds released in the past, and they have been requested to furnish utilization certificates without further delay. The position is being closely monitored at the Division level and is periodically reviewed by Secretary (A&C). The Area Officers have also been directed to monitor the situation relating to their respective States at periodical intervals. The position will be further reviewed at the Rabi Conference and other sectoral meetings.

Comments of the Committee

1.6 The Committee find that the reply of the Department is silent about their recommendation that the performance of States on various central/centrally sponsored schemes should be invariably mentioned in the performance budget. They are of the view that steps taken by Government to improve the utilization of funds by the State

Governments are not adequate and as such are unlikely to result in large scale improvement in the position. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that to bring about transparency and accountability, the performance of State Governments on various central/centrally sponsored schemes should find a place in the performance budget of the Department along with the amount allocated, date when funds were released, amount actually utilized and reasons for non-utilisation, if any.

Drip Irrigation

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11)

1.7 The Committee had note that the most important component, under the scheme of 'Use of Plastics in Agriculture' is the promotion of water saving technology of drip irrigation system. But the Committee had observed that sub-standard drip irrigation systems were supplied to farmers resulting in their non-functioning after six months or one year. The Committee felt that the Department should concentrate on this issue because this was the programme which was fully utilised by the farmers as well as the Department.

Although this programme was being implemented fully but the Committee found that the performance was not satisfactory due to supply of sub-standard drip irrigation equipments. They had, therefore, desired the Government to issue necessary instructions to State Governments to take concrete steps to make available good quality equipments to the farmers. The Committee would also like to had a report of the funds already released, the utilisation Status and a State-wise list of the functioning and non-functioning units in field. The Committee had also recommended that the defaulter companies supplying sub-standard equipments should be black-listed, in order to encourage proper utilisation and implementation of this very important and useful scheme.

1.8 The Government in their reply have stated that under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Use of Plastics in Agriculture", drip irrigation is a major component. Specific guidelines have been issued to the State Governments which stipulate that only good quality components having Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications only are installed. The State Government also have a procedure for registering the manufacturers/suppliers of drip irrigation systems. This aspect has been stressed further during the IX Plan.

This Department has collected the information from various States regarding non-functional units of drip irrigation and also firms blacklisted by the State Government. Out of total 77,750 units established in the farmers' fields in different States, only 28 units are reported to be non-functional, which works out to be 0.04% of the total units. Only one manufacture/supplier firm of drip irrigation has been reported to be blacklisted in Tamil Nadu. Among the States, maximum number of non-functional units are reported in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In the Ninth Plan proposal, cultivation of farmers has increased which is expected due to the quality of drip system.

Comments of the Committee

1.9 The Committee are not at all convinced with the reply of the Department that out of total 77,750 units of drip irrigation systems, only 28 units are reported to be non-functional. The Committee find this information being at complete variance with the position which actually exists, as members have themselves experienced the frequent non-functioning of the systems. The Committee, therefore, desire that correct information should be made available to them and specific steps taken to tackle this situation for improvement in the quality of drip irrigation systems in the country.

Soil and Water Conservation

Recommendation (Sl. No. 17)

1.10 The Committee had been perturbed to note that a huge area of 35.81 lakh hectares in 10 States was affected by alkaline soil and out of this an area of only 72,438 ha. in six States had been reclaimed so far. The Committee had been informed that the scheme was being implemented with financing pattern of 60:40 on sharing basis for which the State Governments were not in a position to contribute. Therefore, there was a proposal to revise the pattern of assistance to 75:25. The Committee had felt that this was very important project as it increased the net cultivated area of the States. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that Government should consider for making it 100% centrally funded Scheme.

1.11 The Government in their reply have stated that during the VII Five Year Plan the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils was being implemented in three States, namely Haryana, Punjab and U.P. During the VIII Five Year Plan the scheme was further extended to the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The reason for implementing the scheme in these six States is because of the fact that about 90% (89.64% *i.e.* 32.1 lakh ha.) of total alkali soils of 35.81 lakh ha. falls in these six States. The proposal to extend the scheme to the entire country where alkali soils extend within the scientific parameters has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 18th July, 2000.

Since inception of the scheme, an area of 5.56 lakh ha. has been reclaimed, out of which an area of 72438 ha. has been reclaimed during the last three years of the IX Five Year Plan. The State-wise distribution of Alkali Lands as well as area reclaimed under the Scheme is given at Annexure II & III.

The existing overall pattern of Central assistance of the scheme is 50:50 sharing basis between the State and the Central Government. The subsidy element in respect of major component *i.e.* soil amendment is 50%. The proposal to revise the subsidy on soil amendment, raising it to 75% is under consideration. The proposal to raise the overall financing pattern of the scheme, as per the suggestion of the Planning Commission, from existing 50% to 100% Central assistance (50% grant and 50% loan) was mooted. However, the proposal did not find a favour with the Finance Ministry. The case will be taken up for action while formulating the X Plan proposal.

Comments of the Committee

1.12 The Committee are highly perturbed over the disapproval by Ministry of Finance to the proposal of raising the financing pattern of the scheme for 'Reclamation of Alkaline Land' from existing 50:50 sharing basis between State and Central Government to 100% Central Assistance. They feel that reclamation of lands, which requires huge funding, is being neglected, as the State Governments are not able to provide the matching share. The Committee also note that in view of the importance of the scheme, the Planning Commission had itself suggested for raising the existing Central assistance from 50% to 100%.

The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Department should again take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance at the appropriate level immediately without waiting for formulation of X Plan proposals.

NAFED

Recommendation (Sl. No. 18)

1.13 The Committee had noted that overall business performance of NAFED had been declining. During 1998-99 there was a business of Rs. 462.94 crore as against Rs. 546.44 crore during 1997-98. For 1999-2000 a target of Rs. 850.38 crores had been kept. The Committee were of the view that NAFED should take concrete measures to augment exports, which in turn would help in enhancing the business performance of the federation and farmers would also be encouraged to produce more. The Committee had also recommended that the cold storage facilities may be developed so that federation did not suffer losses on account of wastages for want of cold storages.

The Committee were of the view the NAFED should concentrate on the North Eastern region also. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that NAFED should also open its branch office in Tripura for taking up business of Pineapples, oranges, ginger and other agro products.

The Committee had noted that the main functions of NAFED is in the field of cooperative marketing. It, however, appeared that it was only selling agricultural produce in the market on commission basis. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that NAFED besides selling functions should also promote marketing by forming cooperatives on the lines of milk cooperatives.

1.14 The Government in their reply have stated that it is true that business turnover of NAFED has registered a declining trend in 1998-99 as compared to previous years. Factors responsible for decline were analysed and it was observed that consistently errant market behaviour of the prices of agri-products coupled with depressed market conditions in domestic and international markets were mainly responsible for such decline. Special mention may be made of Government ban on export of onion from October, 1998 onwards and very poor international demand for Indian cotton during 1998-99. However, this declining trend of annual turnover has now been arrested, and as against Rs. 546.44 crores and Rs. 462.94 crores in 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively, the turnover of NAFED in 1999-2000 is estimated to be over Rs. 581.05

crore. NAFED has made all possible efforts to increase their export by way of getting back the lost business *viz.* Associate Shipper for export of niger seed and canalization of onion export through NAFED. Apart from that, it is also taking steps to increase the exports of all other agricultural commodities. NAFED also planned to expand/set up cold storage of 2500 MTs capacity at Lawrence Road, Delhi, 5500 MTs at Vashi, Mumbai and 5000 MTs at Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow Sitapur Highway to avoid losses on account of wastages.

To promote sale of agricultural products grown/processed in North Eastern region, NAFED has opened a sales counter in its NAFED Bazar at Ashram Chowk, New Delhi which has an outlet for exclusive sale of items from the North-East. NAFED is also actively working in the North Eastern Region through their local branch located at Guwahati. However, the share of business of NAFED in this region, as compared to the total turnover of NAFED, is not sizeable due to various reasons such as lack of infrastructure, absence of cooperative network and conducive atmosphere for doing the business in the region. In the North Eastern region the Guwahati branch has been working for the last 15 years and NAFED has recently established one more branch at Siliguri. Both these branches are somehow not in a position to even reach the break-even level due to various working problems in the region which have been mentioned as above, and thus, there is no proposal at present to open branch of NAFED at Tripura. In the field of cooperative marketing, NAFED helps farmers by procuring their produce on ruling market prices on its own account or minimum support price on behalf of the Government of India. NAFED's presence in the market stabilizes the prices of agricultural produce. NAFED also offers services to the farmers especially apple and other fruits growers and arranges sale in the market on their behalf charging a nominal commission. In the process of procurement, NAFED involves primary cooperative societies and other cooperative marketing societies at district and taluk levels in addition to the concerned State Cooperative Marketing Federation. NAFED shares its service charges with these cooperative societies at lower levels, thus giving sustenance and support to the cooperation marketing structure of the entire country.

Comments of the Committee

1.15 The Committee are unhappy over the lack of enthusiasm shown by the Department for opening a branch office of NAFED in Tripura. According to the Committee, Tripura has a great potential for business of Pineapple, oranges, gingers etc. These fruits and other produces are produced in large quantities in the State and in the absence of proper marketing infrastructure, the farmers do not get remunerative prices. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Government should take concrete steps to create conducive atmosphere for cooperative marketing in North Eastern Region and open a Branch Office of NAFED in Tripura.

The Department have also not satisfactorily replied to the Committee's recommendation that NAFED should promote marketing by forming co-operative on the lines of milk co-operatives. Unlike milk co-operatives, NAFED has not been able to make an impact as a marketing facilitator and its role is limited to a commission agent. The Committee therefore reiterate that NAFED be encouraged to work on the lines of milk co-operatives and allowed to play a leading role in development of co-operative marketing of agriculture produce in the country.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Reduced Annual Plan Outlay *vis-a-vis* Ninth Plan Outlay

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1)

2.1 The Committee note that an outlay of Rs. 9153 crore was approved by Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for the Ninth Plan against Rs. 18,253 crore projected by the Department. The Committee are distressed to find that even this reduced outlay has not been proportionately made available to them in the first three years (1997-2000) of the Plan that have elapsed and also in the budgetary outlay for the 4th year (2000-2001). During the first three years of the Plan an expenditure of Rs. 4410.88 crore has been incurred leaving Rs. 4742.92 crore to be utilised during the remaining two years. However, against a requirement of Rs. 2964 crore projected by department for 2000-2001, a budget provision of only Rs. 1965 crore has been made for the Department which is very inadequate to meet the targets of 9th Plan and also to meet the objective of doubling foodgrain production in 10 years. The Committee wish to emphasise that the development of agriculture is essential not only to provide food to increasing population of country but also to ensure and improve livelihood of rural population. Therefore, this sector needs to be given high priority in all planned strategies of the Govt. The Secretary (DAC) during evidence has clearly stated that with the present level of allocation, the Department is unlikely to meet the food production targets envisaged in the Ninth Plan. The Committee are further perturbed to note that the draft Ninth Plan mid-term review and Allied sectors has observed that the production targets particularly in the context of cereals & pulses are unlikely to be achieved. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance should review the allocation of funds to this vital sector and enhance allocation of plan funds to at least Rs. 2964 crore at Revised Estimate Stage, so that the Department can progress towards reaching the foodgrain targets set for the Ninth Plan.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The issue of inadequate plan allocation to the agricultural sector, despite the urgent need to augment public investment in this sector considerably, has been taken up with both Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission. In the light of recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agricultural Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance have been requested to enhance allocation of the Department by Rs. 1000 crore at the Revised Estimates Stage. It has been specifically indicated that additional resources would be required for schemes such as the National Insurance Scheme (Rs. 444 crore), Technology Mission on Cotton (Rs. 67 crore), Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilisers (Rs. 40 crore), Use of Plastics in Agriculture (Rs. 40 crore) and Cereal Development Programme (Rs. 48 crore,) etc.

Non-Utilisation of full Budgetary Allocation by Department

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)

2.3 The Committee are distressed to find that Department has not been able to utilise full plan budgetary allocation of Rs. 1956 crore provided in BE (1999-2000). The allocation was brought down to Rs. 1492 crore at the revised estimate stage, which amounts to 23.7% reduction from the original estimate. The primary reason for this reduction in plan allocation as stated by the Department is non-approval by Planning Commission of several new initiatives proposed by the Department. The Committee are deeply anguished that we are in the 4th year of the Ninth Plan and many important schemes proposed to be launched at the start of Ninth Plan have still not taken off, though allocation for the same in the budget has been made year after year. As stated by Secretary (DAC) that till the beginning of 1999-2000, they were functioning in the Eighth Plan mode and it is only during the second half of the year, they have been able to get some of the new schemes for the Ninth Plan cleared. The Committee strongly disapprove the late start of the Ninth Plan and strongly recommend to the Planning Commission that since only 2 years of the Ninth Plan are left, all the schemes proposed for the plan be cleared urgently, so that the schemes are implemented on a war footing and increased allocation be made to make up for the lost time.

Reply of the Government

2.4 The Committee's displeasure at the late start of the Ninth Five Year Plan, and non-approval by Planning Commission of several new initiatives proposed by the Department, has been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission. As recommended by the Committee, the Planning Commission has been requested to clear all pending proposals expeditiously with enhanced allocation to make up for the lost time. Meanwhile, the Department has strengthened its monitoring mechanism in order to ensure time-bound implementation of programmes and to step-up the pace of expenditure.

Allocation for North-Eastern Region

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4)

2.5 The Committee are unhappy to find that the Department has been able to allocate only 4.07% of total budgetary outlay during 1998-99 and 5.16% of total outlay during 1999-2000 to the North-East against the stipulated allocation of 10% of total Central budget for North-East Region. However for 2000-2001 an allocation of Rs. 195 crore amounting to 10% of total budgetary allocation has been made for this region and a new scheme viz. 'Technology Mission for development of horticulture in North-East' is proposed for implementation, which is expected to give a boost to horticulture development in the region. The Committee are, however, constrained to note that the Planning Commission have still not approved the scheme. The Committee strongly recommend that the Department should vigorously pursue with the Planning Commission for early clearance of scheme, so that the scheme is implemented in the first trimester of the financial year. The Committee further recommend the Department to effectively monitor and ensure that the funds allocated for other sectors also are judiciously and fruitfully utilised by the States. The Committee also desire that proper training should be imparted to State Agriculture Department officials in North-East so that various new initiatives taken by the North-East are smoothly implemented.

Reply of the Government

2.6 The Committee's recommendation that the Department should vigorously pursue with Planning Commission for early clearance of "Technology Mission for Development of Horticulture in North-East" has been noted for compliance. The meeting of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) was held and the proposal has been approved. The scheme will be implemented immediately after the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

The pace of expenditure under various programmes is being regularly monitored by Divisions and Area Officers. It is also periodically reviewed by the Secretary (A&C). A letter has also been addressed by the Secretary (A&C) to Chief Secretaries of North-Eastern States drawing their attention to the large unspent balances against funds released in the past, and the need to step up the progress of programme implementation. For ensuring judicious and fruitful utilization of funds in the agricultural sector, without its diversion to non-agricultural activities, a meeting of the North-Eastern States was held at Guwahati (Assam) on 10th July, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) wherein issues relating to agricultural development in the North-Eastern States were discussed.

The recommendation to make all schemes in North-Eastern States hundred percent Centrally funded with no stipulation for any contribution from State Governments. 18th Report of the Twelfth Lok Sabha has been taken up with Planning Commission and Department of Expenditure for implementation.

Adequate attention is being given to cover all North-Eastern States under various training programmes organized from time to time.

Macro-management

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5)

2.7 The Committee find that Government has adopted a new approach to management of Agriculture named Macro-management, wherein 27 on-going Centrally sponsored schemes have been subsumed under macro management mode. The Committee have been informed that the new approach will accord greater flexibility to State Governments to develop and pursue activities on the basis of regional priorities.

The Committee appreciate the new approach and feel it to be a step in the right direction for effective and full utilisation of the limited allocation available for the sector. The Committee are, however, constrained to note that the scheme has not yet been finally cleared by normal process of EFC.

The Committee desire that since it is a totally new approach, the administrative process for its clearance be expedited and the scheme put into operation without any delay.

Reply of the Government

2.8 The Committee's concern for early clearance of macro management approach has been noted for compliance. The scheme has since been approved by the EFC in the meeting held on 17th May, 2000 and will be implemented after approval of CCEA.

Technology Mission of Cotton

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6)

2.9 The Committee are happy to note that the 'Technology Mission on Cotton' to improve production, productivity and quality of cotton has finally been launched and will be fully operational next year. The Committee desire that with launching of 'Technology Mission' a permanent policy on export of cotton be also chalked out, as it would motivate the farmers to improve the productivity and quality of cotton with an eye on International Cotton Market.

Reply of the Government

2.10 As per the existing export policy, the Government of India releases yearly quota for export of cotton taking into account crops' size, domestic consumption and price in the domestic/international market. The quantum of export depends on the price and quality factors.

Seeds

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7)

2.11 The Committee note that quality seeds are imperative for good and quality production. They however, find that the farmers though keen on use of quality and certified seeds are not getting them adequately and in time. The Committee were informed during evidence that a Ninth Plan Working Group on seeds had gone into the question

of availability of quality seeds to the farmers. The Committee would like to know the main recommendation of the working group and the action taken by Government thereon. They further desire that the Department should work out an annual need based requirement of quality seeds in the country and prepare a scheme to provide the same to farmers adequately and in time within a short period.

Reply of the Government

2.12 Some important recommendations of the Sub-Group on Seeds for Formulation of IX Five Year Plan are as follows:—

- (i) Seed production and distribution must be based on a perspective plan for each State. Seed Replacement Rates (SRRs) for each crop must be worked out for each State. A seed map of the country should be prepared to identify locations with potential for seed production.
- (ii) A National Seed Grid must be established to provide market information for production agencies.
- (iii) Seed crop insurance must be introduced on a pilot basis in a few important seed producing States.
- (iv) Infrastructure development during the IX Plan should focus on the development of conditioned storage for breeder and foundation seed and aerated storage for certified seed. Mobile facilities or common facilities for processing, drying etc. should be provided for seed producing clusters.
- (v) Comprehensive amendments to the Seeds Act need to be undertaken expeditiously.
- (vi) Seed Policy needs to be reoriented in order to give a fillip to exports and to provide a transparent system for import of seeds/planting material. It must also encourage the private sector to bring its production under the purview of certification or other accepted systems of quality control.

In this context, it is stated that this Department has taken up implementation of the following schemes in line with the recommendation of the IX Plan Working Group w.e.f. 1999-2000:

(a) Establishment and Maintenance of Seed Bank

This scheme envisages maintenance of seed bank of foundation and certified seeds of important crops in various agro-climate regions to ensure their timely availability to farmers. The scheme

is implemented through the National Seeds Corporation, State Farm Corporation of India Ltd. and State Seed Corporations in all States growing mandate crops and will be available to all States especially in case of emergent need during times of calamities. The genetic purity of seed will be tested and seed stocks will be stored in hygienic storage conditions. There is a component on establishment of National Seed Grid to provide market information for production agencies. The Scheme also provides for creation of storage facilities.

(b) Pilot Scheme for Seed Group Insurance

The Scheme is expected to cover the risk and losses to farmers engaged in the production of seeds in the event of natural calamities like fire, lightning, storms, cyclone etc. and incidence of pests and diseases. The Scheme is being implemented through the General Insurance Corporation of India and covers production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds of paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, soyabean, groundnut, gram, red gram and cotton. Ten States have been identified for implementation of this programme.

Besides implementation of the above mentioned Schemes, this Department has also undertaken Seed Sector Reforms, based on the recommendations of the Seed Policy Review Group. Under Seed Sector Reforms, the existing seed legislations are being suitably amended to ensure availability of adequate quantities of quality seeds to the farmers in time. The proposed reforms will ensure a degree of quality assurance to the farmer, while providing a boost to the seed industry. Seed sector Reforms, which comprise of enactment of legislation for protection of plant varieties and farmers rights, and amendment of the Seeds Act, 1966, will provide a facilitative environment for varietal development, plant breeding and seed production. While the bill on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act has been introduced in Parliament, the modification of this Seeds Act is expected to be completed during the current year.

With regard to formulation of a perspective plan for seed production and distribution, the Action Plan for Doubling Food Production projects the requirement of different types of seed over a 10 year time-frame, based on targeted Seed Replacement Rates. With this as a basis, a perspective plan is under preparation in consultation with the States.

Technology Mission on Oilseeds

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8)

2.13 The Committee are distressed to find that against the Ninth Plan target to bring 80,000 ha. under oil seed cultivation, an area of only 19,976 ha. has been brought under oil seed production in the first 3 years of the plan. The Committee were informed that the farmers could not be motivated to take up oil palm cultivation with a long gestation period, as there has been a crash in market price of indigenous crude palm oil due to reduction in import duty of edible oils and import of large quantity of edible oils including palm oil under OGL. The Committee are unhappy to that on the one hand production of oilseeds has been taken on a mission mode and farmers are being motivated to take up oil palm cultivation and on the other by reducing the import duty on edible oil and importing large quantity of cheaper edible oil farmers are being discouraged to take up this crop. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should review the whole oilseeds scenario and rationalise the import duty on edible oil so that the indigenous oil production is given the right impetus and the farmers get the right price for their produce.

Reply of the Government

2.14 Till March, 2000, the custom tariff could be changed through a notification to be issued by the Central Government in the Official Gazette for which a bill was required to be introduced in the Parliament, as soon as may be, but in any case during the next session of the Parliament following the date of issue notification to give effect to the proposals in regard to the changes in the duty structure. However, in the current year Budget (2000-2001) an amendment to the Custom Tariff Act, 1975 has been carried out wherein the Central Government has been given the emergency power to increase the import duties. This provides that any article included in the first schedule, the Central Government is satisfied that the import duty leviable thereon under Section 12 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) should be increased and that circumstances exists which render it necessary to take immediate action, it may be, by notification in the official Gazette, direct an amendment of that schedule to be made so as to provide for an increase in the import duty leviable on such article to such extent as it thinks necessary.

In the light of the above provision, Government has reviewed the import duty structure and w.e.f. 12.06.2000 the import duty on refined vegetable oil (other than coconut oil, RBD palm oil, RBD palm kernel oil & RBD palm stearin) has been increased from 25% to 35% and on other vegetable oils including coconut oil from 35% to 45%. However, there has not been any increase in the import duty of crude palm oil which remained at 15% (effective duty 16.5%).

In view of recent hike in the import duty on vegetable oil, the Government is keeping a constant watch and will consider the review of import duty structure if deemed necessary. The Government has to adjust the duty in such a manner which can safeguard the interest of oilseeds & oil palm growers on the one hand and of the consumers of edible oils on the other hand.

Fertilisers

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9)

2.15 The Committee note with concern the substantial increase in prices of fertilisers due to reduction in subsidy announced in the budget. They also note that fertiliser is the basic input for crops and the consumption of fertiliser is directly related to its market price. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should not resort to the reduction in subsidy on Fertilisers and should take concrete measures to reduce the prices of fertilisers.

The Committee have been informed during evidence that there is enough availability of urea and other decontrolled fertilisers in the country. The Committee, however, find that the fertilisers are not made available to the farmers in time due to which they are compelled to purchase it in black market or purchase spurious fertilisers. The Committee, therefore, recommend that distribution mechanism for fertilisers in States be reviewed and it should be ensured that fertilisers reach the farmers in time. The Committee further desire that a need based requirement of fertilisers in States be worked out and States, where fertiliser consumption is low, be encouraged to use more.

Reply of the Government

2.16 The prices of fertilisers like urea, DI-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complexes were increased in the Budget 2000-2001. The decision to increase the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of fertilisers was necessitated by considerations of fiscal sustainability. Even at the present price levels, substantial quantities of subsidy would continue to be paid in the case of urea and decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers.

The 'Report of Working Group on Critical Agricultural Inputs-Fertilizers for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan' had suggested that the price of urea could be increased by 30% during 1996-97 and thereafter 10% each year from 1998-99. As against this, the price increases effected have been much lower. The prices fixed in Budget 2000-2001 are significantly lower than what it would have been if the recommendation of the Working Group had been followed.

The percentage increase of prices of urea and MOP has been of the order of 15% and that of DAP about 7%. A 15% increase in the prices of urea would only result in about 1% increase in the cost of cultivation. Even if the price increase in the P&K fertilisers is taken into account, the total impact on the cost of cultivation is likely to be less than 1.5%.

Urea is the only controlled fertiliser and other fertilisers like DAP, MOP, SSP, and complexes were decontrolled in August, 1992. Government assesses the State-wise requirement of urea for the Kharif & Rabi seasons in Input Conferences held before the seasons. On the basis of the assessments made in consultation with the States, Government allocates the requirements of States to various manufacturers. The manufacturers supply urea to various States as per the Supply Plans notified by the Central Government and the month-wise requirement indicated by States. Keeping in view the unexpected spurt in sales, Government also make mid-season corrections in the allocation to various States. Thus, while the availability of urea to each State on aggregate basis is ensured, it is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure distribution within the State as per requirement in different areas.

While on the one hand, the requirement of urea of the States is assessed and allocation made accordingly, in the other hand Government is implementing watershed development programmes in rain fed areas which are normally characterised by low levels of consumption. Extension efforts are also being made to educate farmers about the benefits of fertiliser use. In the case of decontrolled fertilisers like DAP, MOP, SSP and Complexes no allocations are made and their availability is determined by the market forces of demand and supply. In order to encourage availability of fertilizers in remote and far flung and difficult areas, a transport, subsidy is also available in Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States.

Soil Testing

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10)

2.17 The Committee are constrained to note the inadequate number of soiltesting labs in the country. There are only 514 soil testing labs that include 175 mobile soiltesting labs. They are dismayed to note that annual capacity of even these testing labs is not being utilised fully. As against the capacity of testing 58,79,500 samples only 44,80,700 samples are being tested *i.e.* only 76% of the capacity is being utilised. The Committee were informed that Department gives funds to State for setting up the laboratories but for running the labs the expenditure is to be borne by the State Governments, which they are sometimes not able to meet. The Committee recommend the Department to examine the working of all soil testing labs which have been set up with Central assistance and the States where testing labs are not working to their full capacity be asked to take urgent remedial measures to make them fully functional. The States can also consider charging a small fee for soil testing to meet the running expenses. The Committee further recommend that one soil testing lab and mobile soil testing lab should be set up at each block level so that even small and marginal farmers can take advantage of soil testing facilities in their vicinity. The Committee also recommend the Government to consider bringing soiltesting scheme under MPLAD Scheme.

Reply of the Government

2.18 Soil testing laboratories in the States generally suffer from inadequacy of funds required for equipment and contingencies mainly which affects utilization of their full capacity. Soil testing is a State sector activity and the Government of India continuously advises the States to improve upon the capacity utilization of these laboratories. Also financial assistance is being provided under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for replacement of obsolete equipments in soil testing laboratories with a view to improve upon their functioning. The DAC has supported the strengthening of 287 soil test testing labs during 1991 to 1999-2000. In addition, establishment of 16 new soil testing labs has been approved under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in different States.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has taken up with the States to examine the working of soil testing laboratories set up with Central assistance. The Department has already been advising the States to charge a fee of Rs. 10 per soil sample analyzed in soil testing laboratories established with Central assistance. However, the matter is being taken up with the States for charging of fee by other laboratories also with a view to meet the running expenses.

To take the programme to such a level so as to have block-wise labs throughout the country will be the future goal and could be achieved only in subsequent plan periods. Simultaneously, based upon the soil analysis data generated by the States, Agricultural Universities, the ICAR & the State Governments are preparing soil fertility maps which help in deciding about the fertilizer use recommendations for blocks/districts and the State as a whole.

For inclusion of setting up of soil testing laboratories under MPLAD scheme the matter is being taken up with the Ministry of Planning & Programme implementation.

Cold Storages

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12)

2.19 The Committee have observed that due to lack of cold storages facilities and their proper functioning 8 to 37 per cent of fruits and vegetables get spoilt. The main reason for their non-functioning is failure of power supply, which in turn leads to more loss and wastage. The Committee, recommend that the Government should instruct the State Governments to ensure uninterrupted quality power supply to cold storages to enable them to function smoothly.

There are a total number of 3,443 units with a capacity of 103.53 lakh tonnes, out of which cold storages with a capacity of about 8 lakh tonnes are not functioning. The Committee, therefore, feel that there is an urgent need for expansion/modernisation/rehabilitation programme including use of solar energy for existing cold storage facilities. The Government should expedite the clearance for this programme and separate budgetary allocation should be made for this purpose,

In order to utilise the full capacity of cold storages the Committee recommend that since many of the cold storages are geared or designed for a particular product and the products are kept for a limited period only, Government should have a scheme to have cold storages with many chambers so that they may be utilised for different products, thereby, utilising its full capacity for the whole year.

Reply of the Government

2.20 The Government has already approved a scheme namely Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages/Storages for horticulture produce. The said scheme is being implemented through the National Horticulture Board (NHB) at a cost of Rs. 175.00 crores during the years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. The scheme envisages creation of additional cold storage capacity of 12 lakh tonnes, as well as modernisation/rehabilitation of existing 8 lakh tonnes of cold storages and addition of 4.5 lakh tonnes of onion storage capacity during the IX Plan. The main features of the scheme are as under:—

- (i) Capital Subsidy amounting to 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs will be provided by the National Horticulture Board for cold storage and storage. In the case of North Eastern States the subsidy is 33.1/3% subject to a maximum of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project. 50% of the project cost would be raised as term loan from institutional agencies and the balance would be promoter's contribution.
- (ii) For modernisation/rehabilitation shifting from energy inefficient Diffuser system to energy efficient Gravity/Fincoil cooling system would be encouraged.
- (iii) A backup arrangement of supply of power through diesel generating sets would be necessary for cold stores and it would form part of the capital cost of the project.
- (iv) Reducing PHM losses with multi-chamber and multi-product facilities.

Regarding use of solar energy for existing cold storage facilities the Deptt. of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have been requested to take up necessary steps.

Besides, this, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is implementing a scheme to create cooperative cold storage facility in the country. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for under-developed and least developed States and Corporation Sponsored Scheme for cooperatively developed States, for creation cold storage facility, also have provisions for expansion/modernisation/rehabilitation of existing cold storage facilities. As regards having cold storage with multi-chambers storages, it may be mentioned that NCDC scheme has provision for multi-chambers storages for storing different products to utilise their full capacity for the whole year.

The Government have already instructed the State Governments to ensure uninterrupted quality power supply to cold storages to enable them to function smoothly. Further, the State Governments have also been requested for providing power to cold storage units on priority basis preferably on concessional rates. Providing requisite uninterrupted power supply to the cooperative cold storages from the nearest electric power sub-station is a prerequisite, for sanctioning financial assistance for State Governments to set up cold storage in the States.

Implementation of Insecticides Act

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13)

2.21 The Committee find that sale of spurious insecticides in many States has led to destruction of crops and losses to farmers. The Committee were informed that under the Act for sale of spurious insecticides the maximum punishment ranges from six months to two years. An amendment of Insecticides Act has been proposed to be introduced in Parliament to make it more stringent. The Committee recommend that in the proposed amendment of the act, the maximum punishment should be 5 years and the fine be increased upto Rs. 1 lakh so that it could become a deterrent for persons selling spurious insecticides.

Reply of the Government

2.22 The Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 8.5.2000 and is expected to be taken up for consideration and passing by the Rajya Sabha during the ensuing Monsoon session of Parliament. Section 29(1)(f)(i) presently prescribes for imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to Rs. 2000/- or with both, for first offence in the matter of sale of misbranded insecticides. In the Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha, the fine is proposed to be enhanced to a minimum of Rs. 10,000/- which may extend upto Rs. 50,000/- with no change in the period of imprisonment. As regards the second and subsequent offence(s) the Section 29(1)(f)(ii) lays down the penalty of imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both. This is proposed to be enhanced to a minimum of Rs. 15,000/- which may extend up to Rs. 75,000/- with no change in period of imprisonment. The matter is now before the Parliament for consideration and passing.

Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute in Tamil Nadu

Recommendation (Sl. No. 14)

2.23 The Committee are happy to note that a site for setting up of Farm Training and Testing Institute in Tamil Nadu has been selected and land taken over. The completion of infrastructural facilities for the institute would take 5-7 years, once, the necessary staff is posted there. The Committee have been further informed that training in agricultural equipment would be started within a period of two years after the sanction of staff.

The Committee are, however, constrained to find that necessary posts for the Institute have not been sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance so far. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance vigorously so that the institute is made operational at the earliest and the farmers start getting the benefits of training on agricultural equipment.

Reply of the Government

2.24 The proposal for creation of posts for Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute in Tamil Nadu have been referred to Ministry of Finance on 24th May, 2000 for concurrence. The direction of the Committee for taking up the matter with the Ministry of Finance vigorously, has been followed.

Training of Women in Agriculture

Recommendation (Sl. No. 16)

2.25 The Committee find that scheme of 'Training of Women in Agriculture' launched on pilot basis during VIII Plan in 7 States of the country is going on extremely well and is giving good results. The Committee have been informed that despite the good performance, Planning Commission has advised against the extension of the scheme to cover more States and the scheme is now operating in seven old districts and five new districts in the five North Eastern States. The Committee fail to understand the logic behind non-extension of a scheme which is gradually showing good performance. The Committee strongly recommend the DAC to approach Planning Commission once again to reconsider the continuation of this scheme and give immediate approval for its extension to all the States/UTs.

Reply of the Government

2.26 The Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture which was launched on pilot basis in one district each of 7 selected States of the country was proposed to be extended to 28 districts in 19 States/UTs during the First Phase (during IXth Plan) as per the Recommendation of the Standing Committee on Agriculture. However, the Planning Commission agreed for the extension of the Scheme only to 5 NEH States namely, Manipur, Meghalaya Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland. Accordingly, the Scheme is being implemented in one district each of 12 States of the country *i.e.* 7 Old States and 5 New North Eastern States.

As recommended by this Committee in its 6th Report on Demand for Grants—(2000-2001), the Planning Commission has been moved once again to reconsider the proposal for extension of the Scheme to 28 Districts of 19 States where there is no specific programme for Training/Extension of Women Farmers.

Crop Insurance

Recommendation (Sl. No. 20)

2.27 A new scheme namely National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojna, RKBY) has been started with effect from present Rabi Crop of 1999-2000. The Committee have noted that 9 States have implemented this scheme and 3 more States would join with effect from next crop. The Committee desire that the Government should take steps to encourage all the States/UTs to implement this scheme.

The Committee have been informed that for availing benefits under the scheme the beneficiary should make available data of yield for crop of 10 years and eight crop-cutting experiments. The Committee are of the view that there is no need for this condition of 10 years of data because for want of data the scheme may not be implemented in full. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Government should reduce the number of years of availability of data to 5 and take in account lesser number of crop cutting experiments in place of 8. The Committee also recommend that Crop Insurance Scheme should be made easy to the farmers, and the conditions for the implementation of the Insurance Scheme should be relaxed so that more and more farmers may come under the purview of the scheme and benefited therefrom. While assessing the damage under the system, village should be taken as a unit in place of Block as a unit. Space Technology and Satellite surveys may also be used as an alternative method to make an assessment of the yield.

The Committee note that in the first year, only three crops are being covered under the scheme, namely sugarcane, potato and cotton. They desire that the Department should make concerned efforts to include all the crops under the scheme so that more and more farmers may come under the umbrella of Crop Insurance.

Reply of the Government

2.28 The number of States/UTs which have decided to implement the new scheme in their areas has now gone up to 16. These are-Assam, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Meghalaya, Karnataka and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Efforts have been made from time to time by the Government to encourage all States/UTs to join the new scheme. The points/doubts raised by the States/UTs on the related issues have been clarified.

As per the provisions of the scheme, yield data for the past 10 years has been prescribed for the purpose of working out (i) actuarial premium rates; (ii) sum insured; and (iii) indemnity limit. The requirement of minimum number of years was stipulated by the Indian Agriculture Statistical Research Institute (IASRI) at the time of inception of the earlier Crop Insurance scheme. As regards number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) required under NAIS, it is stated that minimum 8 CCEs have been prescribed at Gram Panchayat level. Reduction in the number of years for yield data as well as the number of CCEs requires indepth examination by the technical experts as these have direct bearing on the quality of yield data based on which indemnity claims are worked out. Keeping in view the diversification in agro-climatic regions, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprising experts from National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), IASRI etc. has already been constituted to decide the sample size of CCEs and all other technical matters. The suggestions of the Committee would be placed before the TAC for proper examination/consideration.

As regards reducing the unit of insurance to a village for assessing the damage etc., it may be stated that smaller unit of insurance is, no doubt, essential for assessing realistic crop loss but at the same time it involves a large number of CCEs to be undertaken for arriving at qualitative yield data which is some times beyond the capacity of implementing State/UT. Moreover, the implementing States are required to build up past yield data at smaller units of insurance. Therefore, under the new scheme, it has been provided to reduce the unit of insurance to Gram Panchayat level within a period of three years.

Considering the fact that yield data of the notified crop (s) at particular level has direct bearing on the indemnity claims and as such, accurate and realistic yield assessment is required, Adoption of space technology and satellite surveys for the purpose may not serve the required purpose. The recommendation of the Committee will however, be examined in consultation with concerned Department/agencies.

The scheme envisages that its implementation would be reviewed annually. Therefore, the difficulties/bottlenecks experienced in its implementation would be examined at the time of review and appropriate action would be taken accordingly.

As regards coverage of all crops under the scheme, it is stated that presently in addition to foodgrains, cereals and pulses, three cash/commercial crops namely, cotton, sugarcane and potato are covered in the first year. The scheme provides for coverage of all other annual commercial/horticultural crops within a period of three years subject to availability of yield data and the capacity to conduct crop cutting experiments. Therefore, from the next year, onwards, more annual commercial/horticultural crops would be considered for coverage under the scheme, subject to these two conditions.

Natural Disaster Management Programme

Recommendation (Sl. No. 21)

2.29 The objective of the Central Sector Scheme on 'Natural Disaster Management Programme' is to focus on disaster preparedness with emphasis on mitigation measures. The State of Orissa was recently devastated by super cyclone, which caused heavy damage to life and property of the people in State. In this connection, the Committee have observed that a lot is needed to be done in this direction as

various agencies of Government and non-Government organisations are also showing interest now. The Committee, therefore, recommend that more emphasis should be given on implementation of the scheme and Department should take help of non-Governmental organisations to create awareness among common masses specially in disaster prone areas for preparing them to face crisis and react accordingly.

The Committee have noted that a proposal on NDM information services through Space Technology (NDM-ISS) envisaging early warning assessment and monitoring of drought and floods through remote sensing is to be implemented during 9th plan with an outlay of Rs. 2000 lakhs. But till now no funds have been utilised. The Committee feel that forewarning is the first and the foremost measure which should be taken for the preparedness of Natural Disasters. The Committee, therefore, recommend that this scheme should be implemented with sincerity and in true spirit as it is very useful for forewarning the people in order to save their lives and properties and the amount allocated for 2000-2001 be utilised in full. The Committee find that in States where natural calamities occur, farmers are not able to repay the loans taken from the cooperatives. The States who want to help the farmers by repaying their loans to cooperatives are not allowed to do so by NABARD. The Committee recommend the Government to look into the matter and provide necessary flexibility to State Government to repay the loans of farmers in case of natural calamities.

Reply of the Government

2.30 As desired by the Committee, this Department is associating NGOs in the activities relating to public education and community awareness for natural disaster preparedness and mitigation. A Committee has also been set up for Government and NGO interface. This provides platform for two way communication and development of synergy between the efforts of Government on the one hand and the NGOs on the other. Council for Advanced People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) which is a coordinating body under the Department of Rural development for NGOs has also been made a member by the Government—NGO Interface Committee. The High Powered Committee (HPC) set up by the Government for natural disaster management plans and strengthening the management structure, also had national level consultations with the NGOs.

The scheme of this Department for using space technology for disaster management is still under process. In view of this, for the present Rs. 2.00 crore have been provided under the scheme for the year 2000-2001 (BE). Efforts are being made to have the scheme approved at the earliest and the amount allocated will be utilised. It is, however, mentioned that as recommended by the Committee, National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) is continuing various activities relating to monitoring and warning of droughts and floods through remote sensing. This Department continues to get periodical reports from NRSA. Space Technology has also been used through the State Centre of the Remote Sensing Application.

The State Governments are at liberty to provide relief to farmers in case of natural calamities. However, under the existing Stabilisation arrangements, credit institutions are already providing relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities by way of conversion of their short terms agricultural loans into medium term loans. Further, under Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund Scheme, assistance is provided to the State Governments (in the ratio of 75% grant and 25% loan) to help building up the credit stabilisation funds at the level of State Cooperative Banks with a view to increase their capacity to support conversion of short-terms loans into medium-term loans in areas affected by natural calamities and where loss is more than 50%. Total funds provided to State Governments under this scheme for the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 500 lakhs and Rs. 700 lakhs respectively.

In order to protect the farmers from the risk of natural calamities, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is in vogue. This scheme is available to all the farmers—loanee and non-loanee both—and more crops such as commercial/horticultural crops (Potato, Sugarcane and Cotton have been included in the first year and remaining crops would be considered in the period of three years subject to availability of past yield data etc.)

Cultivation of Barley

Recommendation (Sl. No. 22)

2.31 The Committee find that Barley Crop requires less water as compared to other crops and therefore is very useful for areas with poor irrigation facilities. They, however, are distressed to find that farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce as the Government has imposed a 16% central excise duty on malt which is a primary product made from barely. From April, 1994 to July, 1996 there was no excise duty on malt so the prices were better. Keeping in view the interests of barley producing farmers, the Committee strongly recommend the Government to consider removal of central excise duty on malt and ensure that benefit reaches the farmers.

Reply of the Government

2.32 The Government of India announces each season the Minimum Support Price for major agricultural commodities including barely with a view to safeguard the interest of farmers, encourage higher investment and production. The Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government covers not only the cost of production but also provide a reasonable margin of profit as an incentive to the farmers to invest and improve the production and productivity.

As far as removal of central excise duty on barely malt is concerned, as the subject concerns the Ministry of Finance, the matter has been taken up with that Ministry.

CHAPTER III

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

— NIL —

CHAPTER IV

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

Unspent Balance with States

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3)

4.1 The Committee are concerned to note that in many important on-going schemes particularly in crops and horticulture sector, plan funds have not been utilised in full as some States have unspent balances from the previous years, thereby resulting in less release of funds to them. The Committee have also been informed that some State Agriculture Departments are not receiving funds from their respective State Finance Departments in time. The Committee are of the view that this is a perennial problem and some concrete measures are required to be taken in this regard. The Committee recommend that the Department should strengthen their monitoring mechanism and ensure that funds released to States, reach the State Agriculture Department within 15 days of their release. The names of States who lag behind in implementation of schemes should be invariably given in performance budgets and the States who have performed well be rewarded by higher allocation.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The Committee's concern over unspent balances of previous years resulting in reduced allocation of funds during the current year has been brought to the notice of all concerned. The attention of Agriculture Secretaries of the State Governments has been drawn to specific programmes carrying unspent balances against funds released in the past, and they have been requested to furnish utilization certificates without further delay. The position is being closely monitored at the Division level and is periodically reviewed by Secretary (A&C). The Area Officers have also been directed to monitor the situation relating to their respective states at periodical intervals. The position will be further reviewed at the Rabi Conference and other sectoral meetings.

Comments of the Committee

4.3 For Comments of the Committee please see Para No. 1.6 of Chapter-I of this report.

Drip Irrigation

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11)

4.4 The Committee note that the most important component, under the scheme of 'Use of Plastics in Agriculture' is the promotion of water saving technology of drip irrigation system. But the Committee have observed that sub-standard drip irrigation systems are supplied to farmers resulting in their non-functioning after six months or one year. The Committee feel that the Department should concentrate on this issue because this is the programme which is fully utilised by the farmers as well as the Department.

Although this programme is being implemented fully but the Committee find that the performance is not satisfactory due to supply of sub-standard drip irrigation equipments. They, therefore, desire the Government to issue necessary instructions to State Governments to take concrete steps to make available good quality equipments to the farmers. The Committee would also like to have a report of the funds already released, the utilisation status and a State-wise list of the functioning and non-functioning units in field. The Committee also recommend that the defaulter companies supplying sub-standard equipments should be black-listed, in order to encourage proper utilisation and implementation of this very important and useful scheme.

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Reply of the Government

4.5 Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Use of Plastics in Agriculture", drip irrigation is a major component. Specific guidelines have been issued to the State Governments which stipulate that only good quality components having Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications only are installed. The State Government also have a procedure for registering the manufacturers/suppliers of drip irrigation systems. This aspect has been stressed further during the IX Plan.

This Department has collected the information from various States regarding non-functional units of drip irrigation and also firms blacklisted by the State Government. Out of total 77,750 units established in the farmers' fields in different States, only 28 units are reported to be non-functional, which works out to be 0.04% of the total units. Only one manufacture/supplier firm of drip irrigation has been reported to be blacklisted in Tamil Nadu. Among the States, maximum number of non-functional units are reported in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In the Ninth Plan proposal, cultivation of farmers has increased which is expected due to the quality of drip system. The State-wise position regarding release of funds and utilisation during the IX Plan (1997-2000) is given at Annexure-I.

Comments of the Committee

4.6 For Comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.9 of Chapter-I of this report.

Soil and Water Conservation

Recommendation (Sl. No. 17)

4.7 The Committee are perturbed to note that a huge area of 35.81 lakh hectares in 10 States is affected by alkaline soil and out of this an area of only 72,438 hectares in six States has been reclaimed so far. The Committee have been informed that the scheme is being implemented with financing pattern of 60:40 on sharing basis for which the State Governments are not in a position to contribute. Therefore, there is a proposal to revise the pattern of assistance to 75:25. The Committee feel that this very important project as it increases the net cultivated area of the States. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Government should consider for making it 100% Centrally Funded Scheme.

Reply of the Government

4.8 During the VII Five Year Plan the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils was being implemented in three States, namely Haryana, Punjab and U.P. During the VIII Five Year Plan the scheme was further extended to the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The reason for implementing the scheme in these six States is because of the fact that about 90% (89.64% i.e. 32.1 lakh ha.) of total alkali soils of 35.81 lakh ha. falls in these six States. The proposal to extend the scheme to the entire country where alkali soils extend within the scientific parameters has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 18th July, 2000.

Since inception of the scheme, an area of 5.56 lakh ha. has been reclaimed, out of which an area of 72438 ha. has been reclaimed during the last three years of the IXth Five Year Plan. The State-wise distribution of Alkali Lands as well as area reclaimed under the scheme is given at Annexure II & III (Page Nos. 61-62).

The existing overall pattern of Central Assistance of the scheme is 50:50 sharing basis between the State and the Central Government. The subsidy element in respect of major component i.e. soil amendment is 50%. The proposal to revise the subsidy on soil amendment, raising it to 75% is under consideration. The proposal to raise the overall financing pattern of the scheme, as per the suggestion of the Planning Commission, from existing 50% to 100% Central Assistance (50% grant and 50% loan) was mooted. However, the proposal did not find a favour with the Finance Ministry. The case will be taken up for action while formulating the Xth Plan proposal.

Comments of the Committee

4.9 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para No. 1.12 of Chapter-I of this report.

NAFED

Recommendation (Sl. No. 18)

4.10 The Committee have noted that overall business performance of NAFED has been declining. During 1998-99 there was a business of Rs. 462.94 crore as against Rs. 546.44 crore during 1997-98. For 1999-2000 a target of Rs. 850.38 crore has been kept. The Committee are of the view that NAFED should take concrete measures to augment exports, which in turn would help in enhancing the business performance of the federation and farmers will also be encouraged to produce more. The Committee also recommend that the cold storage facilities may be developed so that federation does not suffer losses on account of wastages for want of cold storages.

The Committee are of the view that NAFED should concentrate on the North Eastern region also. The Committee, therefore, recommend that NAFED should also open its branch office in Tripura for taking up business of pineapple, oranges, ginger and other agro products.

The Committee note that the main functions of NAFED is in the field of cooperative marketing. It, however, appears that it is only selling agricultural produce in the market on commission basis. The Committee, therefore, recommend that NAFED besides selling functions should also promote marketing by forming cooperatives on the lines of milk cooperatives.

Reply of the Government

4.11 It is true that business turnover of NAFED has registered a declining trend in 1998-99 as compared to previous years. Factors responsible for decline were analysed and it was observed that consistently errant market behaviour of the prices of agri-products coupled with depressed market conditions in domestic and international markets were mainly responsible for such decline. Special mention may be made of Government ban on export of onion from October, 1998 onwards and very poor international demand for Indian Cotton during 1998-99. However, this declining trend of annual turnover has now been arrested, and as against Rs. 546.44 crores and Rs. 462.94 crores in 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively, the turnover of NAFED in 1999-2000 is estimated to be over Rs. 581.05 crore. NAFED has made all possible efforts to increase their export by way of getting back the lost business *viz.* Associate Shipper for export of niger seed and canalisation of onion export through NAFED. Apart from that, it is also taking steps to increase the exports of all other agricultural commodities. NAFED also planned to expand/set up cold storage of 2500 MTs capacity at Lawrence Road, Delhi, 5500 MTs at Vashi, Mumbai and 5000 MTs at Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow-Sitapur Highway to avoid losses on account of wastages.

To promote sale of agricultural products grown/processed in North Eastern region, NAFED has opened a sales counter in its NAFED Bazar at Ashram Chowk, New Delhi which has an outlet for exclusive sale of items from the North-East. NAFED is also actively working in the North Eastern Region through their local branch located at Guwahati. However, the share of business of NAFED in this region, as compared to the total turnover of NAFED, is not sizeable due to various reasons such as lack of infrastructure, absence of cooperative network and conducive atmosphere for doing the business in the region. In the North Eastern region the Guwahati branch has been working for the last 15 years and NAFED has recently established one more branch at Siliguri. Both these branches are somehow not in a

position to even reach the break-even level due to various working problems in the region which have been mentioned as above, and thus, there is no proposal at present to open branch of NAFED at Tripura. In the field of cooperative marketing, NAFED helps farmers by procuring their produce on ruling market prices on its own account or minimum support price on behalf of the Government of India. NAFED's presence in the market stabilises the prices of agricultural produce. NAFED also offers services to the farmers especially apple and other fruits growers and arranges sale in the market on their behalf charging a nominal commission. In the process of procurement, NAFED involves primary cooperative societies and other cooperative marketing societies at district and taluk levels in addition to the concerned State Cooperative Marketing Federation. NAFED shares its service charges with these cooperative societies at lower levels, thus giving sustenance and support to the cooperation marketing structure of the entire country.

Comments of the Committee

4.12 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para No. 1.15 of Chapter-I of this report.

CHAPTER V

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

Promotion of Agriculture Mechanisation among small Farmers

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15)

5.1 The Committee are unhappy to note that under the scheme of 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation' there has been a reduction in budget outlay for 2000-2001. Against Rs. 1663, Rs. 1637 & Rs. 1603 lakh provided and spent during 1997 to 2000 only Rs. 1560 lakh have been provided for 2000-2001. The Committee find that this scheme is very popular among small farmers, and has elicited an overwhelming response from the farmers.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that, in view of the positive response of the farmers and full utilisation of funds, the budgetary allocations under this scheme should be suitably enhanced at the Revised Estimated stage so that increased number of small farmers could be benefited by this scheme.

Reply of the Government

5.2 The enhancement of budgetary allocation under the Scheme at Revised Estimate stage would be considered after reviewing the position of utilisation of funds released/to be released to the States.

Delay in approving the schemes of Cooperative Sector

Recommendation (Sl. No. 19)

5.3 The Committee note that some of the important new schemes of Ninth Plan under the Cooperative sector, viz. Strengthening of Cooperative Sector, Janata Personal Accidental Insurance Scheme for Labour Cooperatives, Development of Reservoir Fisheries through cooperatives in selected States & Development of Wool Processing and Industrial Cooperatives have not been approved so far by Planning

Commission, as they have expressed some reservations about these schemes. The Committee feel that these are very important schemes and will have positive impact on the development of cooperatives in the country. Since the implementation of scheme has already been very much delayed, the Committee desire the Department to resolve all the reservations expressed by the Planning Commission urgently and pursue the matter vigorously for early clearance of these schemes.

Reply of the Government

5.4 The Department fully agrees with the Committee's views that the schemes will have the positive impact on the development of cooperatives. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is pursuing the matter with the concerned authorities vigorously so that the scheme may be cleared for implementation as early as possible. The scheme-wise position is as under:—

(i) Strengthening of Cooperative Sectors

This is a new scheme proposed to meet the expenditure of the Council meetings/other Conferences/Seminars during the 9th Plan. The proposal with an outlay of Rs. 15.00 lakhs during the 9th Plan was sent to the Planning Commission for their approval. Planning Commission has not supported such activities under this new plan scheme and advised that the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation may accommodate the expenditure for the proposed activities within the overall budget provision of the Department. The scheme has been dropped with the approval of Competent Authority. However, the matter is being processed for inclusion of the component of this scheme under the Scheme of the Development of Multi-State Cooperative Societies & Strengthening of Cooperation Division.

(ii) Janata Personal Accidental Insurance Scheme for Labour Cooperatives

This is a scheme proposed with an objective to provide insurance cover to 15.50 lakhs members of Labour Cooperatives, construction and forest workers. An amount of Rs. 25,000/- will be provided to the destitute family in case of accidental death and permanent disability and in case of partial disability Rs. 12,000/- will be paid.

Initially, the Insurance Company *i.e.* the Oriental Insurance Company had agreed to a premium rate of Rs. 5.25 per person per annum. Now the company has proposed the rate of Rs. 9.75 per person per annum. The matter is being pursued out in consultation with the Insurance Company and Ministry of Labour.

(iii) Development of Reservoir Fisheries through Cooperatives in Selected States

This new scheme was formulated during 1998-99. The proposal was sent to the Planning Commission on 23.2.1989. The Planning Commission suggested that this matter may be taken up with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying to avoid duplication/over-lapping. The discussion was held on 12.11.1999 with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying who opined that they are also implementing a similar scheme, and thus there is no need for the new scheme to be implemented by this department. In view of the above the scheme was dropped with the approval of Competent Authority.

(iv) Development of Wool Processing and Industrial Cooperatives

This is a new scheme proposed to be implemented through NCDC during the 9th Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to enhance wool production and wool processing in cooperative sector. The NCDC would be in a position to assist the proposed societies only after Amendment of the NCDC Act.

Other Organisations/Departments are being consulted to ascertain the feasibility of this scheme and also sort out the question of over-lapping/duplication with other on-going schemes.

NEW DELHI;
22 February, 2001
3 Phalguna, 1922 (Saka)

S.S. PALANIMANICKAM,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

ANNEXURE I

STATE-WISE POSITION REGARDING RELEASE AND UTILIZATION
UNDER PLASTICULTURE SCHEME DURING IX PLAN (1997-2000)

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Release		Total	
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1070.00	1410.75	1277.50	3758.25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	46.00	34.62	80.62
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Goa	3.0	19.00	7.00	29.00
6.	Gujarat	100.00	141.49	230.20	471.69
7.	Haryana	44.00	155.42	61.00	260.42
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	570.00	262.00	236.07	1068.07
10.	Karnataka	2234.00	2995.00	2372.45	7601.45
11.	Kerala	304.00	415.65	364.12	1083.77
12.	Madhya Pradesh	80.00	183.10	221.10	484.20
13.	Maharashtra	2447.00	3194.13	2704.75	8345.88
14.	Manipur	24.00	63.00	30.00	117.00
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	45.00	0.00	45.00
16.	Mizoram	38.00	88.00	38.00	164.00
17.	Nagaland	70.00	96.60	41.80	208.40
18.	Orissa	125.00	0.00	214.80	339.80
19.	Punjab	0.00	93.00	30.00	123.00
20.	Rajasthan	287.00	270.00	310.77	867.77
21.	Sikkim	38.00	45.32	43.00	126.32
22.	Tamil Nadu	515.00	1095.00	1052.25	2662.25

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	115.59	234.57	350.16
25.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
26.	D & N Haveli	8.50	0.00	3.00	11.50
27.	Daman Diu	8.50	5.00	0.00	13.50
28.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
29.	Lakshadweep	4.50	5.00	3.00	12.50
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
31.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
32.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Total		7970.5	10744.05	9510.00	28224.5

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl No.	State	Utilization		Total	
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-2000
1	2	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1467.23	1280.00	1251.00	3998.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19.54	34.99	19.00	73.53
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Goa	16.42	10.69	0.00	27.11
6.	Gujarat	117.00	215.68	227.50	560.18
7.	Haryana	97.01			
8.	Himachal Pradesh	49.78	44.70	0.00	94.48
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	791.17	210.02	195.83	1197.02
10.	Karnataka	2277.39	3021.57	1173.91	6472.87
11.	Kerala	304.00	226.56	243.60	774.16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	43.78	220.53	148.12	412.43
13.	Maharashtra	2940.48	3338.15	2703.10	8981.73
14.	Manipur	7.00	17.00	63.00	87.00

1	2	7	8	9	10
15.	Meghalaya	1.13	0.00	0.00	1.13
16.	Mizoram	51.08	49.00	39.00	139.08
17.	Nagaland	15.00	143.52	30.00	188.52
18.	Orissa	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00
19.	Punjab	100.82	67.20	0.00	168.02
20.	Rajasthan	268.50	232.78	202.95	704.23
21.	Sikkim	23.24	46.79	43.20	113.23
22.	Tamil Nadu	1152.13	1036.01	1034.97	3223.11
23.	Tripura	0.00	5.99	0.00	5.99
24.	Uttar Pradesh	298.89	200.09	188.01	686.99
25.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	D & N Haveli	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Daman Diu	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Delhi	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
29.	Lakshadweep	0.31	8.68	0.00	8.99
30.	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		10041.98	10492.13	7611.42	28145.53

ANNEXURE II

STATEWISE DISTRIBUTION OF ESTIMATED
AREA UNDER ALKALI SOILS

(Area in lakh ha.)

S.No.	Name of State	Alkali Soils Area
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.64
2.	Bihar	0.04
3.	Gujarat	*9.42
4.	Haryana	4.50
5.	Karnataka	0.76
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1.64
7.	Maharashtra	0.59
8.	Punjab	7.18
9.	Tamil Nadu	0.04
10.	Uttar Pradesh	11.00
	Total	35.81

*Includes the areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Source: National Commission on Agriculture, 1976

ANNEXURE III

FUND* RELEASED (GOI SHARE) UNDER CENTRALLY
SPONSORED SCHEME FOR RECLAMATION OF ALKALI
SOILS SINCE INCEPTION OF SCHEME (1985-86)

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of the State	Amount released	Area Reclaimed (in lakh ha.)
1.	Haryana	14.8841	1.5317
2.	Punjab	30.5992	2.3021
3.	U.P.	21.4558	1.2023
4.	M.P.	1.8352	0.0000
5.	Gujarat	2.0080	0.2330
6.	Rajasthan	0.2660	0.3060
	Total	71.0483	5.5751

APPENDIX-I

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON 22ND FEBRUARY, 2001
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'C', GROUND FLOOR,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1540 hrs.

Lok Sabha

Shri M. Master Mathan — *In the Chair*

2. Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhari
3. Shri Ramdas Rupala Gavit
4. Shri Raghunath Jha
5. Shri Abul Hasnat Khan
6. Shri Y.G. Mahajan
7. Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale
8. Shri Savshibhai Makwana
9. Shri Dalpat Singh Paraste
10. Shri Adi Shankar
11. Shri Tejveer Singh
12. Shri Mahaboob Zahedi

Rajya Sabha

13. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
14. Shri Khagen Das
15. Shri Kailash Joshi
16. Shri Devi Prasad Singh

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Dr. (Smt.) Paramjit Kaur Sandhu | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri Raj Shekhar Sharma | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| 3. Smt. Anita Jain | ; | <i>Under Secretary</i> |
| 4. Shri K.L. Arora | — | <i>Under Secretary</i> |

In the absence of Hon'ble Chairman (AC), the Committee chose Shri M. Master Mathan to act as Chairman for the sitting under Rule 258 (3) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The Committee then took up the following Memoranda for their consideration and adoption:—

Memoranda No.	Reports
1.	Draft Action Taken Report on 12th Report (12th Lok Sabha) on cultivation of cotton of the M/o Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture and Co-operation)
2.	Draft Action Taken Report on 6th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the M/o Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture and Co-operation)
3.	Draft Action Taken Report on 7th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the M/o Agriculture (Deptt. of Agricultural Research and Education)
4.	Draft Action Taken Report on 8th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the M/o Agriculture (Deptt. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
5.	Draft Action Taken Report on 9th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the M/o Agriculture (Deptt. of Food Processing Industries)
6.	Draft Action Taken Report on 10th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Water Resources

The Committee considered the Draft Reports one by one and adopted them without any change.

The members of the Committee, thereafter, authorised the Chairman to present all the above mentioned Reports to the House on a date and time convenient to him.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-II

(vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE SIXTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

(i) Total Number of Recommendations	22
(ii) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	
Serial Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21 & 22	
Total	16
Percentage	72.73%
(iii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
Nil	
Total	Nil
Percentage	0.00%
(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
Serial Nos. 3, 11, 17 & 18	
Total	4
Percentage	18.18%
(v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	
Serial Nos. 15 & 19	
Total	2
Percentage	9.09%