NINETEENTH REPORT

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2015-2016)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE)

'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2015-2016)'

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2014-2015)]

Presented to Lok Sabha on 16.12.2015

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 16.12.2015

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Nineteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2014-15) on 'Demands For Grants (2015-16)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).

2. The Ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2014-15) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 24 April, 2015. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 15 July, 2015.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 10.12.2015.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix.**

New Delhi;
14 *December,* 2015
23 *Agrahayana,* 1937 *(Saka)*

HUKM DEO NARAYAN YADAV,
Chairperson,
Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2014-15) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 24 April, 2015.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 29 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These replies have been categorized as under:—

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Recommendation Para Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 and 29

(Chapter II - Total 18)

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

Recommendation Para No. 17

(Chapter III - Total 01)

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Recommendation Para Nos. 3, 6, 8, 9 and 11

(Chapter IV - Total 05)

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Recommendation Para Nos. 10, 20, 23, 24 and 25

(Chapter V - Total 05)

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations/Recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases, where it is not possible for the

Department to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Note on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Final Action Taken Replies to the Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them within at an early date.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

A. Share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in Central Plan

Recommendation (Para No. 3)

1.5 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"While perusing the documents furnished by the Department in context of examination of Demands for Grants (2015-16), the Committee came across a instance wherein a variation in numerical terms was witnessed. In their Background Material, the Department submitted that the outlay for agriculture sector in 2015-16 has been increased to 2.01% of the total Central Plan Outlay of Rs. 5,78,302 crore; during the course of evidence the representative of the Department deposed before the Committee that the allocation to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for the fiscal 2015-16 was Rs. 16,466.35 crore which in percentage terms in 2.8% of the Central Plan Outlay of Rs. 5,78,382 crore, while in their Post-Evidence written replies, the Department again submitted that outlay for the entire agriculture and allied sectors for the year was Rs. 11,675.00 crore, which is 2.01% of the total Central Plan Outlay of Rs. 5,78,382.00 crore.

The Committee strongly deprecate this variance in figures regarding allocation to Agriculture and allied sectors out of the Central Plan Outlay for the fiscal 2015-16, as it is reflective of their callous attitude while furnishing any information to Parliament. They, therefore, cautioned the Department that in the future, extreme care should be taken before furnishing any document to Parliament to ensure uniformity in data on a particular topic across all documents to avoid repeat of this incident."

1.6 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"As per the facts and figures available, the total Central Plan Outlay for the year 2015-16 is Rs. 578381.67 crore. The allocation to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during this year is Rs. 16646.35 crore (this includes both the Central Sector and State/UT Sector — CSS component) which is 2.87% of the Central Plan Outlay.

It is further submitted that the total Central Plan Outlay for Agriculture and Allied sectors *i.e.* for Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD&F) is Rs. 10669.99 crore (Rs. 5845.85 crore for DAC, Rs. 3691.00 crore for DARE and Rs. 1133.14 crore for DAHD&F). The total Central Plan Outlay for the entire Agriculture & Allied Sectors during 2015-16 *i.e.* Rs. 10669.99 crore which does not include the State/UT sector components which is Rs. 10800.50 crore for DAC, Rs. Nil for DARE and Rs. 358 crore for DAHD&F."

1.7 During the course of examination of Demands for Grants 2015-16 of the Department, the Committee had come across an instance of variation in figures in regard to allocation to Agriculture and Allied Sectors out of the Central Plan Outlay for the fiscal 2015-16. During the course of oral evidence, the Committee were informed that allocation to DAC for the fiscal 2015-16 was Rs. 16,466.35 crore. However, in their post evidence replies, the Department had indicated the outlay for entire Agriculture and Allied Sectors for the year is Rs. 11,675.00 crore. Deprecating this variance, the Committee cautioned the Department to exercise extreme care before furnishing any document to Parliament. In its Action Taken response, the Department has submitted that their allocation is Rs. 16646.35 crore, which is 2.87% of the Central Plan Outlay. The Committee note that the figures now given *i.e.* Rs. 16646.35 crore is at variance with the earlier figures *i.e.* Rs. 16466.35 crore given during the course of oral evidence. Similarly, the figure of Rs. 10699.99 crore as the total Central Plan Outlay for Agriculture and Allied Sectors does not tally with the figure Rs. 11675 crore given by the Department in their post-evidence written replies. This clearly reflects the casual and lackadaisical approach of the Department in spite of the fact that they were cautioned by the Committee to be careful in such matters. Careless submission by the Department before the Parliamentary Committee puts the Department's functioning in poor light. While, advising the Department again to be extremely careful in its submission before a Parliamentary Committee, the Committee would like the Department to furnish the reasons for variation in plan outlay figures as explained above and place the correct facts before the Committee.

B. **Allocation and Utilisation of Funds**

Recommendation (Para No. 6)

1.8 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"During the course of examination of Demands for Grants first three fiscals of the Twelfth Plan, the Committee have observed that out of approved Plan Outlay of Rs. 134746.00 crore, the actual allocation for the first four fiscals amounts to only Rs. 80772.35 crore, which is only 60% of the approved Plan Outlay, thus leading to a gap of Rs. 53973.65 crore between the funds earmarked and actually allocated. This has led to a situation wherein the Department is left with 40% of the approved Plan Outlay for the last Fiscal of the Twelfth Plan *i.e.* 2016-17. The rather candid assurance of the Department that in case of such an eventuality actually arising, they would be able to utilize the remaining 40% of the Twelfth Plan Outlay in the Fiscal 2016-17 was not dittoed by the Committee. However, empathizing with the Department on this issue, they urge the Ministry of Finance to adopt a rational approach while making future allocations to ensure that the mismatch between approved Outlay and actual allocation is narrowed down to a great extent."

1.9 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"No specific comments to offer."

1.10 While noting with concern that out of the approved Plan Outlay of Rs. 1,34,746.00 crore, the actual allocation was only Rs. 80,772.35 crore, which is a mere 60% of the approved Plan Outlay, the Committee had urged the Ministry of Finance to adopt a rational approach while making future allocations to ensure that mismatch between approved outlay and actual allocation is narrowed down to a great extent. However, the Committee are anguished to note from the Action Taken Reply of the Department that they have no specific comments to offer which only goes to show their lackadaisical approach on the issue as pointed out by the Committee. While deprecating this, the Committee exhort upon the Department to actively pursue their case with the Ministry of Finance and impress upon them to allocate funds as per approved plan outlay so that the various schemes/plans of the Department do not suffer for want of adequate funds. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard.

C. Revised Contribution in Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Recommendation (Para No. 8)

1.11 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"The Committee note with concern that consequent to the award of the 14th Finance Commission the grant made to States from Central Divisible Pool has been hiked from 32% to 42%, which has resulted in drastic reduction of BE for 2015-16 of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, which is to the tune of Rs. 16646.36 crore as compared to Rs. 20,208.00 crore, Rs. 21,609.00 crore and Rs. 22,309.00 crore for the Fiscals 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively. This reduction was on account of reduction of funds in the State sector *i.e.* Centrally Sponsored Scheme component from Rs. 16,462.50 crore in 2014-15 to Rs. 10,800.00 crore in 2015-16.

While agreeing with the sentiments of this increased share of States in terms of fund allocation so as to increase their share in the funds pie, they are concerned to note that the revised contribution of States in Centrally Sponsored Schemes has not been arrived at. Rather, it is under discussion of a high level Committee in the NITI Ayog. Deprecating this haste in reduction of funds even before the quantum of State's contribution is finalised, the Committee desire that the high level Committee work out all modalities and arrive at the percentage share of States expeditiously. In their view the Government should have completed this task well before revising the funding pattern of CSS Schemes."

1.12 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated as under:—

"No specific comments to offer."

1.13 While deprecating drastic reduction of funds for 2015-16 at BE stage, the Committee had desired High Level Committee in NITI Ayog to work out modalities and arrive at percentage share of the States expeditiously. The Committee were of the view that the task should have been completed well before revising the funding pattern of CSS. The Committee are not happy with the Action Taken reply of the Department on drastic reduction of funds allocated to them for 2015-16. Instead of giving their views on the recommendation of the Committee and spelling out the action taken by the Government in this regard, the Department has chosen not to offer any comments. Such a casual reply from the Department is

not acceptable to the Committee. While deploring the casual approach of the Ministry as reflected in its response, the Committee advise them to be careful and rational in their response to the observations/recommendations of the Committee. Further, the Committee desire that the Department should take up the matter with NITI Ayog for expediting the modalities being worked out by High Level Committee of the NITI Ayog and to fix the revised contribution of States in Centrally Sponsored Schemes without any further delay. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Department in this regard.

D. Outstanding Utilization Certificates

Recommendation (Para No. 9)

1.14 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"In spite of repeatedly pursuing the case of liquidation of pending UCs, the Committee are anguished to be apprised that no positive outcome has been forth coming. The Committee have been apprised that inspite of the efforts of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, as on 31 December, 2014, 2459 Utilization Certificates are still pending, amounting to Rs. 10745.66 crore. The Committee express their displeasure at this pervading morass, at it is abundantly clear that the follow-up mechanism currently in place is unable to provide a lasting solution to this vexed issue. Strongly feeling that there is an urgent need to relook the extant mechanism and put in place necessary correctives at the earliest so that States/UTs are persuaded to adopt financial discipline and take cogent measures to liquidate these outstandings in a time bound manner and thereby ensure that the flow of Central funds continues unhindered. They, therefore, recommend that Department of Agriculture and Cooperation initiate corrective measures in this respect in good time and apprise them of the action initiated in this regard."

1.15 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"As on 29.05.2015 there are 2459 UCs for the amount of Rs. 10745.66 crore still outstanding. Out of these UCs 186 UCs for Rs. 251.89 crore are outstanding prior to FY-2010-11 and remaining 2273 UCs are for the year 2011-12 and 2012-13. Year-wise details of outstanding UCs are enclosed (Annexure 'A').

The Department does not release any grant if UCs are outstanding against the agency/State. The payments are released on the basis of certification by the sanctioning authority and DDO. Financial Adviser, DAC has also written to the Chief Secretaries of all the States to liquidate the outstanding UCs without delay latest by 30th June, 2015. Principal Accounts Office, Ministry of Agriculture is regularly conducting the special audit of the States and tries to settle the outstanding UCs against them.

Year-wise details of outstanding UCs are enclosed (Annexure 'A')

Division-wise outstanding Utilization Certificate in r/o Grant-1 as on 29.05.2015 for the grant released upto 31.03.2013

Division	No. of Ucs	Amount in Rupees
CET DIVISION	45	415485000
COOPERATION DIVISION	13	1315000000
CROP DIVISION	264	12959086615
EA DIVISION	198	1063590000
EXTENSION DIVISION	223	9856059050
HORTICULTURE DIVISION	1321	75462787040
INM DIVISION	45	673214300
IT DIVISION	18	179676005
M & T DIVISION	1	6416000
MANURES & FERTILIZER DIVISION	16	167006200
MARKETING DIVISION	23	1007500000
PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION	11	176849000
RKVY DIVISION	13	823449000
SEED DIVISION	247	3291973536
TMOP DIVISION	5	50976000
TRADE DIVISION	16	7499385
Grand Total	2459	107456567131.00

Year-wise outstanding Utilization Certificate in r/o Grant-1 as on 29.05.2015 for the grant released upto 31.03.2013

Year	No. of Ucs	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1992-93	1	0.04
1993-94	3	0.02
1994-95	1	0.03
1995-96	2	0.12
2000-01	2	0.03
2001-02	7	0.09
2002-03	4	0.02
2003-04	6	0.04
2004-05	6	1.53
2005-06	6	5.00
2006-07	15	2.74
2007-08	22	3.17
2008-09	23	129.66
2009-10	33	60.01
2010-11	55	49.39
Total Outstanding Ucs Upto March-2011	186	251.89
2011-12	1045	4703.05
2012-13	1228	5790.72
Grand Total	2459	10745.66

State-wise outstanding Utilization Certificate in r/o Grant-1 as on 29-05-2015 for the grant released upto 31-03-2013

State	No. of Ucs	Amount in Rupees
1	2	3
Delhi	447	16762446430
Andaman & Nicobar	4	34259000
Andhra Pradesh	153	10584569308
Arunachal Pradesh	16	306337000
Assam	61	1123932025

1	2	3
Bihar	81	3670274733
Chhattisgarh	63	3369942040
Daman and Diu	2	1200000
Goa	7	22713500
Gujarat	137	7879301053
Haryana	113	5837575033
Himachal Pradesh	44	547629000
Jammu and Kashmir	33	443176478
Jharkhand	61	2089963695
Karnataka	152	7491676874
Kerala	152	3832136270
Lakshadweep	1	200000
Madhya Pradesh	108	6876759245
Maharashtra	147	10965660473
Manipur	27	570451500
Meghalaya	11	154513000
Mizoram	21	460667000
Nagaland	20	546671000
Odisha	92	3696207054
Puducherry	4	13718000
Punjab	58	1928019906
Rajasthan	98	5365328108
Sikkim	30	311134000
Tamil Nadu	78	4054572050
Tripura	19	390466000
Uttar Pradesh	117	5481240961
Uttarakhand	38	339661290
West Bengal	64	2304165105
Grand Total	2459	107456567131.00

1.16 The issue of non-submission of Utilization Certificate by Implementing Agencies has been a cause of continuous and serious concern to the Committee as a result of which timely and optimum utilization of funds to achieve the targets set under various schemes are badly affected. As on 31.12.2014, 2459 utilization certificates amounting Rs. 10745.66 crore were pending. However, the Committee are anguished to note that since then no progress has been made in the settlement of utilization certificates as is clear from the Action Taken reply of the Department that the number of pending utilization certificates *i.e.* 2459 remains unchanged as on 29 May, 2015. This lack of financial discipline on the part of the Implementing Agencies adversely affect the rapid growth and development of the Agriculture Sector, as a result of which the benefits of the various schemes, implemented by the Department do not percolate down to the intended beneficiaries. The Committee feel that a large number of outstanding Utilization Certificates clearly indicate absence of any institutional mechanism at the apex level to rigorously monitor timely and optimum utilization of funds. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Department needs to look into the issue afresh and take corrective measures at the earliest so that 2459 Outstanding Utilization Certificates amounting Rs.10745.66 crore are liquidated without further delay. The Committee would like to be apprised of the concrete action taken by the Department in this regard.

E. Results Framework Document (RFD)

Recommendation (Para No. 10)

1.17 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"The Committee are well aware that Agriculture being a State subject, the role of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation generally gets restricted to a broad policy formulation and the implementation of Schemes lies with the implementing agencies *i.e.* the States and Union Territories, who are independent constitutional entities. However, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation cannot just resort to passing the buck when asked to furnish reasons for drop in composite score from a high of 99.1% in 2010-11 to 91.8% in 2012-13, as the conditions that were prevailing 2010-11 remained unchanged during 2012-13. In view of the above, as also to see the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation perform, the Committee desire that the Department undertake a proper introspection of its performance so that their composite for the Fiscal 2013-14 and 2014-15 can match the score of 2010-11 of 99.1%.

They further impress upon the Cabinet Secretariat to forward the composite score for the Fiscals 2013-14 and 2014-15, so that requisite remedial action can be initiated by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to further fine tune the implementation of its schemes and thereby increase their viability."

1.18 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"The Result Framework Document (RFD) for the Fiscal 2013-14 and 2014-15 of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has already been submitted to Performance Management Division (PMD), Cabinet Secretariat. However, the Composite Score for above fiscal has not been received from the PMD yet. As soon as it is received, the Department will undertake a proper introspection of its performance and requisite remedial action to further fine tune the implementation of its scheme. It is to be mentioned here that the Department has consistently taken effort for timely and optimum implementation of various scheme in order to achieve targeted results."

1.19 The concept of Results Framework Document (RFD) is to measure the performance of Ministries/Departments against the targets set in a given financial year and based on the RFD score awarded by the Cabinet Secretariat, Ministries/Departments can take a stock of the situation and work upon improvement in its performance. However, the Committee had noted that RFD score for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 has not been received by the Department from the Cabinet Secretariat as a result of which the Department could not undertake introspection of its performance and requisite remedial action to fine tune implementation of its scheme. The Committee are of the considered view that the very purpose of the concept of RFD is defeated if the same are not awarded timely by the Cabinet Secretariat. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should pursue the matter with the Cabinet Secretariat and impress upon them to furnish the RFD score for the periods 2013-14 and 2014-15 without further delay. The Committee also desire that the Department should review its performance and undertake remedial measures to improve its RFD score in the years to come. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard.

F. Allocation To North Eastern States

Recommendation (Para No. 11)

1.20 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"The continuous vicious cycle of under-utilization of funds earmarked for the North Eastern Region has been a regular cause of concern for the Committee. This being so, as this under utilization of funds has had a negative impact on the overall utilization of the Department. This fact was candidly admitted to by the representative of the Department during the course of evidence that a deficit of 1.5 to 2% in overall utilisation is always there as 10% is left to North East at Annual Plan stage and some grant for SC & Tribal sub-Plan which generally is not utilized fully. Not wanting to be critical of any party(ies) involved in the process, but espousing the cause of Indian agriculture and its practitioners, the Committee desired that all concerned should undertake a comprehensive review of the present process, the reasons for non-utilisation of funds in North East and address these issues. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation should seek the view points of the North Eastern Region through the representatives of the people, discuss it threadbare with them and then come up with a mutually agreeable mechanism which would ensure active participation of the North Eastern Region in schemes being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Committee further desired to be informed of the progress achieved herein."

1.21 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"So far as Tribal Sub-Plan is concerned, under-utilization of funds have been noticed in some schemes with varying reasons, such as, non-releasing of fund instalments to the agencies due to non-availability of Utilization Certificates, lack of suitable proposals, funds being released as per the demand of projects under demand driven schemes etc. However, funds provided under SC Sub-Plan often remain un-utilized as there is little SC population in that region.

Fund utilization however, remained very satisfactory under many of the schemes like Soil Health Management, a component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm, National Food Security Mission etc.

In order to ensure improved fund utilization position in North Eastern States, sensitization programmes amongst the stakeholders including the line departments of the State Governments for spreading awareness about the schemes like workshops/meetings with representatives of NE States, discussions at various forums, awareness camps etc. are being organized."

1.22 The issue concerning under-utilization of funds earmarked for the North-Eastern Region has been a cause of continuous concern to the Committee. According to the Department, in order to ensure improved fund utilisation position in North-Eastern States, sensitization programmes amongst the stakeholders for spreading awareness about the schemes like workshops/meetings with representatives of NE States, discussion at various forums, awareness camps etc. are being organised. However, inspite of the measures undertaken by the Department, the Committee note that funds meant for growth and development of agricultural sector in North-Eastern Region, are not being fully utilised. This only reflects that efforts made by the Department are not enough and therefore, much needs to be done by the Department in this regard. The Committee are of the firm belief that the matter needs to be looked into afresh and holistic view in the entire matter needs to be undertaken as to how the issue could be addressed so that the development of agricultural sector in North-Eastern Region does not suffer due to under-utilisation of funds. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Department should consult the representatives of the people of North-Eastern Region, to address the issue and set up an institutional mechanism ensuring effective implementation of various schemes under implementation in the North-Eastern Region and full utilisation of funds meant for the purpose. The Committee would like to be apprised of the remedial steps taken by the Department in this regard.

G. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

Recommendation (Para No. 15)

1.23 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"The Committee, however, apprehensive that involvement of multi-agencies in the implementation of a Scheme may not be a bottleneck in its smooth implementation as in many other cases. Having observed this phenomenon in a myriad of cases, the Committee are of the considered opinion that the Government should ensure that the three agencies involved in implementation of this Scheme, *i.e.* Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Water Resources and Department of Land Resources have a clear cut demarcation of their area of operations and jurisdiction so that there is no overlapping of efforts or resources at the same time. There is no passing of the buck. If this is done, the Committee are confident that involvement of multi-agencies in a Scheme would act as a boon and not a bane."

1.24 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"To address the issues of coordination and operational frame work of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) at partner Ministries/Departments, Inter-Ministerial consultations were held and contours with clear demarcation of area of operation of the three Ministries/Departments have been worked out. The scheme has been approved."

1.25 The Committee express their satisfaction over the initiative undertaken by the Department to address the issues of coordination and operational framework of PMKSY as desired by the Committee, involving the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Water Resources and Department of Land Resources, so as to ensure that there is no overlapping of resources. However, the Committee would like to know the contours with clear demarcation of area of operation of three Ministries/Departments. The Committee also hope that all the three Ministries/Departments would work in their demarcated area of operation and coordinate for effective implementation of the scheme.

H. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Recommendation (Para No. 16)

1.26 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the flagship Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, since its inception in 2007-08 has proved to be a real boon for Indian Agriculture both in terms of increased production and incentivizing investments in agriculture and allied sectors by linking State-wise allocation of RKVY funds to the increased share of State Plan Expenditure in agriculture and allied sectors. This is evident from that fact that allocation to agriculture and allied sectors as a percentage of total State Plan Expenditure has gone up from 4.88% (Rs. 8,770 crore) in 2006-07 to 7.05% (Rs. 38,083 crore) during 2012-13. While lauding the Central Government and all implementing agencies for the success of the Scheme, the Committee raise their concern over the fact that under-utilization of funds is being witnessed even in this flagship Scheme, which is slowing its progress. On their part, the Centre has palmed off all the responsibility to the implementing agencies by taking the plea that utilization of funds released under RKVY is the prerogative of State Governments.

Deprecating this lackadaisical attitude on the part of the Government, the Committee recommend that the Centre stop restricting its role to a mere provider of funds, but play a pro-active role and motivate the implementing agencies to optimally utilize the funds allocated, which would continue the march of Indian agriculture towards sustainability and viability in the long term."

1.27 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"Progress of the Implementation of the Scheme are being reviewed during Desk Review Meeting with State Government in the Department as well as during State Level Sanctioning Committee meeting of the Concerned States. States are being asked to speed up implementation of projects under RKVY during such meetings to avail more funds under the scheme. Appointing a suitable agency to conduct concurrent evaluation of the scheme is under progress."

1.28 While noting with concern that under-utilization of funds were being witnessed in the flagship scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the Committee had recommended that the Department play a pro-active role and motivate all implementing agencies to optimally utilize central funds under RKVY. In its Action Taken reply, the Department has stated that progress of the implementation of this scheme are being reviewed during Desk Review Meeting with State Government in the Department as well as during State Level Sanctioning Committee meeting of the Concerned States. States are being asked to speed up implementation of projects under RKVY during such meetings to avail more funds under the Scheme. However, the Committee would like to know the outcome of such review undertaken by the Department and the follow up action taken by the Implementing Agencies to optimise utilisation of funds allocated under the scheme. The Committee also desire that appointment of a suitable agency to conduct concurrent evaluation of the scheme may be expedited and the progress made in this regard may be apprised to them.

I. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Recommendation (Para Nos. 18 & 19)

1.29 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"The Committee find that one hand the Department is starved of funds to implement their various schemes/plans/activities while on the other hand the States while not utilizing these scarce resources fully are also not coming forward with their utilization certificate so as to claim for further funds accordingly. The Committee are aware that the implementation of the agriculture schemes are to be carried out by the State as Agriculture is a State Subject. However, the Committee expect that the Department have an effective monitoring system."

1.30 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"A web based monitoring system is already in place to monitor status of implementation of the projects under RKVY. RKVY, being a project based scheme, States need longer duration for completion of projects taken up under the scheme. A more detailed monitoring system is also being explored and NIC is preparing a backgrounder on the subject."

1.31 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"On the issue of a dynamic monitoring mechanism at the apex level, the Committee opine that this is very essential to ensure that funds allocated by the Centre for development of Agriculture are fully utilized for the same and are not kept unutilized, re-appropriated or misused in any way. Though Agriculture is a State Subject, yet the Centre needs to be an impartial watchdog to ensure a smooth and hassle free functioning of this pivotal scheme. Thus, they desire that the Ministry's monitoring mechanism be a dynamic one, so as to ensure real-time data updation and effective use of Management Information System (MIS)."

1.32 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"A web based monitoring system is already there in place for monitoring implementation of RKVY (www.rkvy.nic.in). States are required to upload status of utilization of funds and progress of implementation of the projects in the website of RKVY for real-time monitoring of implementation of the scheme. A more comprehensive monitoring mechanism is being examined."

1.33 While noting that scare resources are not being fully utilised by the States, the Committee had desired that an effective monitoring mechanism at the Apex level be put in a place so as to ensure full utilisation of funds allocated and real-time data updation. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated that a web based monitoring system is already in place to monitor status of implementation of the projects under RKVY. However, the Committee feel that the existing monitoring mechanism does not seem to be satisfactory to ensure effective implementation of the scheme. According to the Department, a more comprehensive monitoring mechanism is being explored/examined. The Committee hope that the proposed comprehensive monitoring system would be rigorous and effective in expediting the optimum utilisation of funds by the States and furnishing the utilisation certificates without inordinate delay. The Committee would like the Department to expedite the proposed monitoring system in conjunction with National Informatics Centre at the earliest. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

J. Rashtriya Krishi Viaks Yojana (RKVY)

Recommendation (Para No. 20)

1.34 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"As informed by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation that the Institute of Social and Economic Changes (ISEC) has submitted two reports of evaluation of the Scheme. The Committee desire to be apprised of the recommendations of this Scheme as well as the status of implementation of these recommendations within three months of the representation of this Report."

1.35 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"The report submitted by ISEC has been circulated within the Department for their comments/views. The same are awaited."

1.36 While observing that the ISEC has submitted two reports of evaluation of the scheme, the Committee had desired that they may be apprised of the recommendations of the ISEC on the scheme as well as the status of implementation of these recommendations. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated that the report submitted by ISEC has been circulated within the Department for their comments/views which are still awaited. However, the Committee are anguished to note that the Department has not

furnished the details of the recommendations of ISEC as desired by them. This only puts a question mark on the efficiency and effective functioning of the Department. Taking a very serious note of the casual approach of the Department, the Committee recommend that action on the recommendations contained in the two evaluation reports submitted by ISEC may be expedited without any further delay. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress achieved therein at the earliest.

K. National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP)

Recommendation (Para No. 23)

1.37 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"The Committee laud the Government for having come up with the concept of a comprehensive insurance scheme to protect the farmers against both yield loss and price fluctuations. They also note that at present, the Ministry is in the process of soliciting views of various stakeholders to evolve an acceptable insurance instrument to ensure farmers against yield loss and price volatility. Keeping in perspective the vulnerability of our farmers to the vagaries of nature, the Committee desire that the Government treat this issue with the alacrity it deserves and discuss threadbare the modalities of this scheme with all stakeholders, especially, the farmers and then arrive at a mutually agreeable scheme which would insulate our farmers against yield loss and price fluctuations in good time. They further desire to be apprised of the latest developments in this regard."

1.38 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"Improvement in crop insurance schemes to make them more scientific and to better serve the interests of the farmers is a continuous process. In view of this, Government is desirous to introduce a new comprehensive crop insurance instrument to protect the income of the farmers. Government is also reviewing the financial burden of premium on farmers under existing schemes along-with several improvements required for better administration of the schemes. The draft of the proposed income insurance scheme has been discussed with different stakeholders/forum including PMO, NITI Aayog etc. During discussions it has emerged that the proposed new scheme should be simple and understandable to the farmers and covers the good features of NAIS and MNAIS. A unified package insurance to cover activities like machinery, life, accident, health, livestock, house, student, crops etc. may be worked out in consultations with the stakeholders. The Consultation with various stakeholders including State Governments is going on for formulation of proposed new insurance scheme and a unified package insurance for farmers."

1.39 Keeping in perspective the vulnerability of farmers to the vagaries of nature, the Committee had desired that the modalities of the proposed comprehensive insurance scheme may be worked out after consultation with all stakeholders especially the farmers. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated that the Government is desirous to introduce a new comprehensive crop insurance instrument to protect the income of the farmers. Government is also reviewing the financial burden of premium on farmers under existing schemes along-with several improvements required for better administration of the schemes. The draft of the proposed income insurance scheme has been discussed with different stakeholders/forum including PMO, NITI Aayog etc. During discussions it has emerged that the proposed new scheme should be simple and understandable to the farmers and covers the good features of NAIS and MNAIS. The Department has also added that a unified package insurance to cover activities like machinery, life, accident, health, livestock, house, student, crops etc. may be worked out in consultations with the stakeholders. The consultation with various stakeholders including State Governments is going on for formulation of proposed new insurance scheme and a unified package insurance for farmers. In view of the foregoing, the Committee would like to impress upon the Government to expedite the process of consultation with all stakeholders so that the proposed new Insurance Scheme is introduced at the earliest in the interest of farmers. The Committee would like to be apprised of the latest developments in this regard.

L. Grameen Haat

Recommendation (Para No. 24)

1.40 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"As Agriculture is moving towards increased mechanisation leading to increased production there is an urgent need for creating policy environment for sustaining their growth by providing easy access to proper marketing, storage, banking, transport and insurance facilities. As there are more than 22000 Grameen Haats operating in the country, a mechanism must be evolved for creating infrastructure by earmarking proper place for these markets. It must be also be kept in mind most of the people flocking to these haats are women and at present there are no basic amenities for them in these markets. Keeping in view the foregoing, the Committee desire that a holistic view should be taken for developing these Grameen Haats by developing proper sanitation and hygienic conditions for encouraging more and more women to participate and create cohesive and comfortable environment for them. They further desire that there should be proper transport linkages developed for efficient operation of Grameen Haats and these must be linked to all weather routes by involving all the relevant agencies be it through Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana or PWD or the highways authority."

1.41 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:—

"The Ministry is making efforts to ascertain the present ownership of these 22,759 Rural Primary Markets (RPM) from the State Governments (State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Directorates/ Departments) and to obtain other relevant data pertaining to these RPM's."

1.42 While noting that more than 22000 Grameen Haats are operating in the country, the Committee were of the view that a mechanism must be evolved for creating infrastructure by earmarking proper place for them. The Committee had desired that basic sanitation facilities and hygienic conditions and cohesive and comfortable environment be developed to encourage more and more women to participate in these Haats. The Committee had also desired that proper transport linkages may also be developed for efficient operation of these Haats. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated that efforts are being made to ascertain the present ownership of these 22,759 Rural Primary Markets (RPM) from the State Governments (State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Directorates/ Departments) and to obtain other relevant data pertaining to these RPM's. The Committee are anguished to note that the Department has very conveniently side tracked the issues raised by them for appropriate action by the Department. The Committee, therefore, advise the Department to exercise caution before furnishing any information to the Parliamentary Committee. The Department is expected to act upon on the recommendations of the Committee with the alacrity it deserves and in letter and spirit. The Committee would like to be apprised of the Action Taken by the Department to address the issues raised by them in its original report.

M. Data on Regulated Markets

Recommendation (Para No. 25)

1.43 The Committee had observed/recommended as under:—

"The rather casual response of the Ministry that they do not possess any data on the turnover of the 7114 regulated markets in the country under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act is strongly deprecated by the Committee as in their opinion it reflects a very callous attitude of the Government and the total lack of a monitoring mechanism at the apex and field level. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government set its house in order and come up with a monitoring mechanism promptly to ensure that all data pertaining to 7114 regulated markets under the APMC Act are collected, analysed and made available in the public domain.

They further desire that the Ministry of Agriculture obtain all necessary data on the 22,759 rural markets from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development at the earliest and furnish the Report to the Committee within three months from the presentation of this Report to Parliament."

1.44 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated as under:—

"Efforts are being made to collect the data pertaining to 7114 wholesale regulated markets. As on date, data on the market profile of more than 2500 markets is available in the public domain on the web portal www.agmarkenet.nic.in.

The Ministry is making efforts to ascertain the present ownership of these 22,759 Rural Primary Markets (RPM) from the State Governments (State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Directorates/ Departments) and other relevant data pertaining to these RPM's Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj are also being requested in the matter."

1.45 The Committee are unhappy with the slow pace of the work relating to collection of data pertaining to RPMs. From the Action Taken Reply of the Department, the Committee note that the data on the market profile of around 2500 markets only is available in the public domain. There is no progress at all with regard to collection of data relating to 22759 RPMs from the State Governments, Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter may be pursued vigorously with all concerned and the requisite data relating to RPMs may be collected without further delay and made available in the public domain. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations

Recommendation (Para No. 1)

The Committee note that the Action Taken Replies regarding the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Committee have not been furnished by the Government within the stipulated three months. They further note that the Statement of the Minister under Direction 73-A of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha is not due till June, 2015. Deprecating this delay in furnishing of action taken replies by the Government, the Committee urge the Government to furnish the same to the Committee at the earliest and also ensure that in future deadlines are scrupulously adhere to.

Reply of the Government

The concern of the Committee is noted and shall be duly complied with.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No.6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Contribution of Agriculture and Allied Sector to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Recommendation (Para No. 2)

The Committee note with a sense of relief on being informed that GDP of agriculture has increased from Rs. 8,00548 crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 15,96,877 crore during the Fiscal 2014-15. However, they are concerned to note that in percentage terms, the contribution of Agriculture sector has reduced as the total GDP of the country has increased. The Committee also note that the share of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation with respect to the Central Budgeted Outlay has decreased from 3.09% in the Eleventh Plan to just 1.65% during the Twelfth Plan. The Committee are concerned about the funding of the Agriculture Sector which is the backbone of the country in terms of employment and food security. While the Committee note with satisfaction the initiatives taken by the Government to increase contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to the total GDP, such as increasing levels of agricultural credit to farmers, increasing outlay for creation of agricultural infrastructure and rationalizing various schemes to make them more focussed, the Committee are of the considered opinion that these initiatives though well meaning have not been able to achieve the desired result. Being of the firm opinion that agriculture is the bedrock of the Indian economy, they exhort upon the Government to strive harder in this regard, especially, on the implementation aspect so as to increase the viability of the agriculture sector, which ultimately would result in increased contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to our GDP.

Reply of the Government

The concern of the Committee is noted.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in Central Plan

Recommendation (Para No. 4)

In spite of our economy being an agri-dominant and one which sustains more than half of our population, the Committee note with concern that when the issue of distribution of financial resources crops up, the agriculture sector is not given its due by the Government. In spite of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation's claim that in line with the recommendation of the Committee, the outlay for the entire agriculture and allied sector in the year 2015-16 has been increased to Rs. 11,657.00 crore, which is about 2.8% of the total Central Plan Outlay of Rs. 5,78,382.00 crore, the Committee are of the considered opinion that this is a meagre amount, which pales in comparison to the allocation to some of the other vital sectors such as energy sector of Rs. 167342.00 crore which is 29% and science & technology sector of Rs. 19023.00 crore *i.e.* 3.3% of the Central Plan Outlay. Being well aware of the precarious state of agriculture sector in the Country, the Committee fail to understand this rather sordid state of affairs. In their considered opinion, if indeed, the Government is serious about reinvigorating this sector, the first step in the right direction would be a quantum enhancement in allocation of funds for agriculture and allied sectors. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should break free from its unsynchronized approach and adopt a holistic approach to this vital sector of our economy. They are pretty sanguine that if the Government act promptly on this, the fortunes of Indian agriculture would witness a comprehensive turnaround in the near future. They, therefore, strongly recommend that the initiatives proposed for the year 2015-16 and the XIIth Plan by the Government in order to develop the most important area of our economy, in terms of employment and food security, should be extensively supported and backed up by requisite funding at RE stage to the Agriculture and Allied Sector.

Reply of the Government

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation had earlier restructured 51 Schemes into 5 Centrally Sponsored Missions, 5 Central Sector Schemes and 1 State Plan Scheme in order to achieve the targeted growth rate of 4% during 12th Plan and avoid duplication and overlaps. Further, as a policy initiative and in order to improve the output and outcomes in agriculture sector, the existing Schemes/Missions have been re-grouped into the following umbrella Schemes which also include some new initiatives taken by the Government *viz*. Soil Health Card, Price Stabilisation Fund, National Agri-tech Infrastructure, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana for implementation with effect from the year 2015-16:—

(i) Krishi Unnati Yojana

(ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

(iii) National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP)

(iv) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

The above Schemes/Missions are under continuous implementation throughout the country during the 12th Plan. Keeping in view the pace of performance of the above Schemes/Missions, additional requirement of funds would be taken care of at RE stage subject to availability of funds.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Mismatch between Proposed and Actual Allocation

Recommendation (Para No. 5)

The Committee find that Department had proposed an allocation of Rs. 29,211.99 crore for the year 2014-15 and received only Rs. 22,309 crore (BE) which was further reduced to Rs. 19,530 crore at RE level. Similarly, for the year 2012-13 and 2013-14 the BE allocation for the Department was 41% and 83% of that proposed/sought by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The worst is for year 2015-16 where the Department had sought Rs. 40,168.32 crore, however, a definite spike has been poked in the wheel by grant of only 41% *i.e.* Rs. 16,646.35 crore for the year 2015-16. The Committee are concerned to note the quantum variation in the funds sought by the Department and the actual allocation done by the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance which seems to make a mockery of the extant planning process. The Department candidly admitted that the reasons for reduction of budgetary allocation as compared to the proposed plan outlays during these years may be attributed to overall resource crunch and prioritization of this Department by the then Planning Commission and the Department of Expenditure. The Committee were further informed that during the year, 2015-16, there has been steep decrease in the budgetary allocation as compared to proposed Plan Outlay. This is mainly on account of reduction of almost 34.4% in the state sector (CSS components) from Rs. 16,462.50 crore in 2014-15 to Rs. 10,800 crore in 2015-16. Not buying this argument put forth by the Department and being of the firm opinion that the huge mismatch between proposal and allocation not only makes a mockery of the extant planning process but also sends wrong signals to the farming community. Having witnessed this process during the course of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, wherein Department of Agriculture and Cooperation's actual allocation did not match the approved outlay for the entire Plan, the Committee desire that allocation should be done as per planning and not planning as per allocation as is currently in vogue. They, therefore, exhort upon all agencies involved in the planning process to arrive at a model wherein the figures of approved outlay and actual allocation are brought on an even keel to make the planning process rational, realistic and meaningful. They also desire the Department to impress the need to implement the Schemes that are ongoing as well as initiated during the year 2015-16 with the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and Planning Commission and seek more funds at RE stage for the same.

Reply of the Government

The Committee has rightly observed that as against this Department's demand of Rs. 40168.32 Crore for the fiscal year 2015-16, Rs. 16646.35 Crore has been allocated. The reason being reduction of almost 34.4% in the State sector (CSS component), *i.e.* from Rs. 16463.00 Crore (Rs. 16462.50 + Rs. 0.50 Crore — for UT) in 2014-15 to Rs. 10800.00 Crore in 2015-16. The shortfall in the allocation is proposed to be met from enhanced share to the States in the CSS Schemes as a result of enhanced funds available to states due to the implementation of recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. Further, based on performance of each Scheme/Mission, the requirement of additional funds, if any, may be considered at RE stage subject to availability of funds.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Allocation and Utilisation of Funds

Recommendation (Para No. 7)

The Committee observed that the BE figures for the first three fiscals *i.e.* 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 of Rs. 20208.00 crore, Rs. 21609.00 crore and Rs. 22309.00 crore were revised at RE stage to Rs. 17867.32 crore, Rs. 19000.00 crore and Rs. 19530.00 crore respectively, a difference of Rs. 2340.63 crore, Rs. 2609.00 crore and Rs. 2779.00 crore respectively, will retard the progress of agriculture in our Country. The Committee also find that 2459 utilization certificates worth Rs. 10745.66 crore are still outstanding. On behalf of our ever toiling and resilient farmers, the Committee urge upon Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to impress upon all implementing agencies to increase their pace of utilizing allocation of Central funds, so as to ensure a uniform pace of utilization during a fiscal year as well as ensuring the availability of scarce resources. This would have a two pronged benefit *i.e.* ensure optimum utilization of sanctioned funds as well as ensure that at RE stage, there is no reduction in allocation by Ministry of Finance. Further, all the implementing agencies be impressed upon to ensure timely submission of fresh proposals and utilization certificates of past allocation to ensure smooth functioning of the planning process. Also they themselves will be the beneficiaries as this would not lead to any cuts at RE stage due to slow paced utilization of funds.

Reply of the Government

The comments of the Committee are noted.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Restructuring of Missions/Schemes during the Twelfth Plan Period

Recommendation (Para No. 12)

The Committee fail to contemplate the rationale of the Government in subsuming 5 National Missions *i.e.* National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm and 6 Schemes, namely, Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation, Investment in Debentures of State Land Development Banks, Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Marketing, National Agri-tech Infrastructure Fund and Price Stabilization Fund for Cereals and Vegetable under the Krishonnati Yojana. This being so, when it was only a little while ago *i.e.* at the beginning of the Twelfth Plan that the plethora of Schemes being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation were subsumed under various National Missions so as to be implemented in Mission mode. The Committee feel that the Government has put too many eggs in one basket and this would definitely retard the implementation of individual mission/scheme due to a scattered focus.

Inspite of the confidence of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation that Krishonnati Yojana would enable better focus on efficient service delivery and efficient allocation of resources, the Committee feel that a rational approach would have been to implement Krishonnati Yojana Scheme on a pilot basis with selective Missions/ Schemes. Based on the results obtained, its scope could have been widened in the future. However, the Committee would await the outcome of the implementation of Krishonnati Scheme before passing any further remarks.

Reply of the Government

No specific comments to offer.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Restructuring of Missions/Schemes during the Twelfth Plan Period

Recommendation (Para No. 13)

Expressing this displeasure over the fact that the matter relating to changed fund sharing pattern between the Centre and States of various components of the Krishonnati Yojana has not been finalized, but is presently under examination, the Committee urge the Government to arrive at a mutually acceptable decision to both parties at the earliest so that implementation of Krishonnati Scheme does not suffer for want of adequate funding.

Reply of the Government

The concern of the Committee has been noted.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

Recommendation (Para No. 14)

The Committee note with satisfaction the initiative of the Government in coming up with the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, which in their opinion if implemented correctly would bring about a paradigm shift in the irrigation sector. The major portion of the area under irrigation is rainfed, which leaves the farmers at the mercy of the vagaries of nature in terms of adequate/inadequate or poor rainfall. The Committee view this Scheme as a step in right direction to ensure access to water to every agriculture farm and are pretty sanguine that if implemented properly, the day is not far away, when each and every field would be provided adequate quantity of water for irrigation purpose. They, therefore, implore upon all the agencies involved to grant clearance to this Scheme at the fast pace so that it can see the light of the day in good time and is implemented throughout the Country promptly and ensure 'Har Khet Ko Pani'. The proper implementation would definitely enhance the productivity *i.e.* per drop more crop.

Reply of the Government

Government of India is committed to accord high priority to water security. The objective behind Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana is 'Har Khet Ko Paani'. The PMKSY will focus on:—

i. Creating sources of assured irrigation.

ii. Per drop-more crop.

iii. Harnessing rain water at micro — level through 'Jal-Sanchay' and 'Jal-Sinchan'.

PMKSY will lay stress on end-to-end solution in irrigation supply chain, *viz*. water sources, distribution network and farm level applications.

Budget line to achieve synergy of resources has been created in Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources and Department of Land Resources to implement PMKSY for the year 2015-16. A total of Rs. 5300 crores has been allocated for this year to roll-out the scheme, involving all the three Departments.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

Recommendation (Para No. 15)

The Committee, however, apprehensive that involvement of multi-agencies in the implementation of a Scheme may not be a bottleneck in its smooth implementation as in many other cases. Having observed this phenomenon in a myriad of cases, the Committee are of the considered opinion that the Government should ensure that the three agencies involved in implementation of this Scheme, *i.e.* Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Water Resources and Department of Land Resources have a clear cut demarcation of their area of operations and jurisdiction so that there is no overlapping of efforts or resources at the same time. There is no passing of the buck. If this is done, the Committee are confident that involvement of multi-agencies in a Scheme would act as a boon and not a bane.

Reply of the Government

To address the issues of coordination and operational frame-work of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) at partner Ministries/ Departments, Inter Ministerial consultations were held and contours with clear demarcation of area of operation of the three Ministries/ Departments have been worked out. The scheme has been approved.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.25 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Recommendation (Para No. 16)

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the flagship Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, since its inception in 2007-08 has proved to be a real boon for Indian Agriculture both in terms of increased production and incentivizing investments in agriculture and allied sectors by linking State-wise allocation of RKVY funds to the increased share of State Plan Expenditure in agriculture and allied sectors. This is evident from that fact that allocation to agriculture and allied sectors as a percentage of total State Plan Expenditure has gone up from 4.88% (Rs. 8,770 crore) in 2006-07 to 7.05% (Rs. 38,083 crore) during 2012-13. While lauding the Central Government and all implementing agencies for the success of the Scheme, the Committee raise their concern over the fact that under-utilization of funds is being witnessed even in this flagship Scheme, which is slowing its progress. On their part, the Centre has palmed off all the responsibility to the implementing agencies by taking the plea that utilization of funds released under RKVY is the prerogative of State Governments.

Deprecating this lackadaisical attitude on the part of the Government, the Committee recommend that the Centre stop restricting its role to a mere provider of funds, but play a pro-active role and motivate the implementing agencies to optimally utilize the funds allocated, which would continue the march of Indian agriculture towards sustainability and viability in the long term.

Reply of the Government

Progress of the Implementation of the Scheme are being reviewed during Desk Review Meeting with State Government in the Department as well as during State Level Sanctioning Committee meeting of the Concerned States. States are being asked to speed up implementation of projects under RKVY during such meetings to avail more funds under the scheme. Appointing a suitable agency to conduct concurrent evaluation of the scheme is under progress.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.28 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Recommendation (Para No. 18)

The Committee find that one hand the Department is starved of funds to implement their various schemes/plans/activities while on the other hand the States while not utilizing these scarce resources fully are also not coming forward with their utilization certificate so as to claim for further funds accordingly. The Committee are aware that the implementation of the agriculture schemes are to be carried out by the State as Agriculture is a State Subject however, the Committee expect that the Department have an effective monitoring system.

Reply of the Government

A web based monitoring system is already in place to monitor status of implementation of the projects under RKVY. RKVY, being a project based scheme, states need longer duration for completion of projects taken up under the scheme. A more detailed monitoring system is also being explored and NIC is preparing a backgrounder on the subject.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.33 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Recommendation (Para No. 19)

On the issue of a dynamic monitoring mechanism at the apex level, the Committee opine that this is very essential to ensure that funds allocated by the Centre for Development of Agriculture are fully utilized for the same and are not kept unutilized, re-appropriated or misused in any way. Though Agriculture is a State Subject, yet the Centre needs to be an impartial watchdog to ensure a smooth and hassle free functioning of this pivotal scheme. Thus, they desire that the Ministry's monitoring mechanism be a dynamic one, so as to ensure real-time data updation and effective use of Management Information System (MIS).

Reply of the Government

A web based monitoring system is already there in place for monitoring implementation of RKVY (www.rkvy.nic.in). States are required to upload status of utilization of funds and progress of implementation of the projects in the Website of RKVY for real-time monitoring of implementation of the scheme. A more comprehensive monitoring mechanism is being examined.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.33 of Chapter-I of this Report.

National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP)

Recommendation (Para No. 21)

The Committee express their satisfaction on observing that during the course of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, due to increase in the coverage/penetration of schemes, a more and more farmers are coming in crop insurance fold. The resultant of this is the increasing requirement of funds as is evident from the figures of allocation and utilization of funds, which reflect the same. They further note that for the first time, the States of the North Eastern Region (NER) were brought under the ambit of insurance scheme. Being well aware of the fact that vagaries of nature have increased the element of risk and uncertainty in agriculture, the Committee exhort upon the Government to further fine tune the implementation of NCIP so that the risk factor can be mitigated to the extent possible and in the wake of natural calamities, settlement of claims be resolved in real time so that succour can be provided to farmers when they need it most.

Reply of the Government

The implementation of NCIP particularly during the Rabi 2014-15 season in which some parts of the country are affected by unseasonal rains & hailstorms has continuously been reviewed by the Department in consultation with States and implementing insurance companies. Necessary directions including early settlement of 25% on account claims, assessment and settlement of claims of individual farmers levels which were affected due to localized calamities like hailstorm etc. have also been issued.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP)

Recommendation (Para No. 22)

Deeply concerned to note the havoc wrecked by unseasonal rains/ hailstorm in the Country during the month of March, 2015 on the standing Rabi crops, the Committee recommend that the Government leave no stone unturned in firstly assessing the quantum of loss and then get the insurance claims of the affected farmers verified and settled by the insurance companies at the earliest. This in their considered view would provide the farmers relief to some extent for the monumental losses suffered by them. If the Government adopts a pro-active role herein, and ensures speedy settlement of claims, the effect of this unseasonal rainfall would be mitigated to a certain extent and motivate the farmers to start work preparatory work for the ensuing Kharif season.

Reply of the Government

Claims under crop insurance schemes are worked out and settled as per the provisions of the respective scheme and the formula for indemnity under the scheme and not otherwise. Amount is dependent on the loss/shortfall measured based on the yield data submitted by the State Government under yield based schemes namely, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) & Modified NAIS (MNAIS) and on weather deviation from the notified standards on the basis of weather data received from the notified Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) under weather index based scheme namely, Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS).

To provide immediate help to farmers in the wake of natural calamities, a provision of on account payment of 25% of estimated claims has been made under MNAIS. Further, there is also a provision of individual assessment of claims in case of localized calamities like hailstorm etc. under MNAIS.

However, during the current Rabi season *i.e.* 2014-15 due to unseasonal rains and hailstorm, the Chief Secretaries of the affected States have been requested to expedite the assessment of yield losses in association with concerned insurance companies at the earliest to expedite the settlement of claims. Insurance Companies have also been directed to expedite the assessment of losses based on weather parameters (under WBCIS) and individual basis (under localized risks) for early settlement of claims and also on account payment (25% of likely claims) to the farmers.

Accordingly, on account 25% of estimated claims have already been paid, where applicable, under these schemes. Further, almost all the claims for Rabi 2014-15 under WBCIS have already been settled by most of the companies.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Soil Health Management (SHM) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

Recommendation (Para No. 26)

The deteriorating soil health in our Country is a constant cause of concern to the Committee. They are fully aware of its dire consequences to our agriculture, if not combated on a war footing and that too at the earliest. The Committee consider the Soil Health Management (SHM) Scheme under the National Mission on sustainable Agriculture to be a pivotal scheme, that, if implemented correctly would nurture our soil health and sustain it in the long run. This is so, as Soil Health Management aims at promoting integrated nutrient management through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity; strengthening of soil and fertilizer testing facilities to provide soil test based information to farmers for improving soil fertility. This Scheme also aims to upgrade skill and knowledge of Soil Testing Laboratory staff, extension staff and farmers through training and demonstration and promoting organic farming practices etc. The Committee, therefore, impress upon all agencies involved in the implementation of this scheme to work in real earnest towards firstly having real-time information on the status of soil health across India and then taking cogent remedial measures to improve and sustain our soil health in good time. They emphasise the Department to pursue the States to implement the Scheme in letter and spirit.

Reply of the Government

Soil Health Management (SHM) is one of the most important interventions under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). SHM aims at promoting location as well as crop specific sustainable soil health management, creating and linking soil fertility maps with micro-micronutrient management, judicious application of fertilizers and organic farming practices. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to State Governments for setting up and strengthening of static and mobile soil testing laboratory as well as fertilizer quality control laboratory.

To know the status of all the 14 crore land holdings in the country our Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched a Central Sector "Soil Health Card scheme" on 19.02.2015 at Suratgarh, Rajasthan with an outlay of Rs. 568.54 crore. The aim of this scheme is to promote soil test based application of fertilizers in respect of all the farm holdings in the country and to implement uniform norms of sampling and testing of soil.Soil data and information will be made available to all the farmers so that they can apply appropriate dosages of fertilisers to increase productivity and profitability. For successful implementation of this scheme funds to the tune of Rs. 23.59 crore has already been provided to States during 2014-15 for making initial preparation like training for taking soil samples etc. To have better coordination regular meetings with states are organized and their annual action plans are discussed.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Soil Health Management (SHM) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

Recommendation (Para No. 27)

The Committee express satisfaction on being informed that the new Scheme of Soil Health Card has been implemented *w.e.f.* February, 2015. Considering it to be a Scheme of vital importance, the Committee desire that this scheme be structured in such a way that the infrastructure and soil testing paraphernalia is easily accessible to the farmer at the village level. In particular, attention needs to be paid to increasing the number of mobile soil testing laboratories. Further, the exercise of collection of soil sample from a field should be comprehensive *i.e.* soil sample to be collected from all the five sides of a field. The said information should cater to both micro and macro nutrients. Farmers should also be provided a pictorial chart in regional languages highlighting what crops to plant in their field to raise the content of micro and micro nutrients and also educate them on the benefits of crop diversification.

Further, on the institutional level, the Committee desire that a synergy should exist between the Centre, States, Agri-Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and the farmer at the field level to have clarity on the implementation of this Scheme. Also, farmers need to be educated on mixed and judicious use of bio/chemical fertilizers.

Lastly, trained agri-graduates, agri-clinics, agri-business centres, as well as science students during their vacations, after a crash course on soil testing equipment etc., living in rural areas should be roped in for doing the field work of collection of sample and its analysis.

Reply of the Government

The Scheme "Soil Health Card" has been approved for implementation during 12th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 568.54 crore. Under the scheme Soil Health Card will be provided to all farmers in the country at an interval of 3 years so as to enable the farmers to apply appropriate recommended dosages of nutrients for crop production and improving soil health and its fertility. To have better soil testing facilities in remote areas 69 Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (MSTLs) have been sanctioned to States in a single year 2014. The quality of soil testing and fertilizer recommendation depends upon soil sampling, for that there is uniform norms of soil sampling. In the irrigated areas, samples will be drawn in a grid of 2.5 ha. and in rainfed areas samples will be drawn in a 10 ha. grid. A composit sample from the grid will be tested and soil health card issued to all the farmers whose land falls in the grid. For soil test based fertilizer recommendation a uniform application software is being developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

To have better coordination with State Governments in implementation of soil health card scheme Director General (DG), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been asked to direct all the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under ICAR to coordinate with State Governments for proper implementation of soil health card scheme across the country.

In the SHC scheme guidelines there is provision that State Governments may draw and get the soil samples tested through following agencies:

(i) Agencies that may be involved for drawing samples from field:

  (a) Directly through Agriculture Department staff and soil test laboratories.

  (b) By involving Science Colleges and students and its soil test laboratory staff.

  (c) By State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) and its soil testing staff.

(ii) Agencies that may be involved in testing:

  (a) By outsourcing the process of testing and reporting to private agencies through tender.

  (b) By outsourcing soil testing laboratories.

  (c) By nominating Science Colleges and providing them equipment to test the samples.

  (d) Directly through soil testing laboratories.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA)

Recommendation (Para No. 28)

Observing that Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is a purportedly farmer-driven institutionalized arrangement at district level for dissemination of farm technology and knowledge and which aims at making extension system farmer driven and farmer accountable. Taking into consideration the pivotal nature of this scheme that aims for empowering the farmer, the Committee desire that ATMA work in such a way that the benefits of agriculture technology in terms of good practices/new developments in scientific approach are able to percolate down to the farmer who is then able to imbibe the same with his traditional knowledge and practice. This can only be ensured if the extension services are able to deliver their mandate. Further, Government should ensure adequate funding and impress upon optimum utilization of allocated funds, so as to make this extension system farmer centric and farmer accountable. The Department should conduct periodic training of specialist/functionary staff, who would in turn impart training to the farmers *i.e.* 'Training the Trainers' so that they can further train large number of farmers.

Reply of the Government

'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA)' in existence since 2005 is one of the Centrally Sponsored component of "Sub-mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)" under National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET). This initiative is currently under implementation in 652 districts of 29 States and 3 UTs of the country.

In order to percolate the benefits of ATMA Scheme down to the farmers for adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), an innovative support is being provided under the Scheme through 'Farmer Friend' (FF) at village level @ one FF per two villages. The FF is serving as a vital link between extension system and farmers at village level. Also, the scheme provides support for operationalizing Farm Schools at the Block/Gram Panchayat Level which are essentially set up at the Field of outstanding or achiever farmers.

Under the scheme grants-in-aid is released to the States with an objective to support State Governments efforts of revitalization of the extension system and making available the latest agricultural technologies in different thematic areas to farmers to increase agricultural production through extension activities *viz*. Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and Setting up of Farm Schools. Due to change in fund routing mechanism during 2014-15 from implementing agency to State treasury, the fund utilization has been badly affected due to inordinate delay in releasing of funds from State treasury to implementing agency in majority of the States.

There is a inbuilt provision for periodic training of specialists and extension functionaries under the Scheme. During 2014-15, over 16,215 extension functionaries have been trained in various schematic areas of agriculture and allied sectors so that they can further impart training to the farmers.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

Recommendation (Para No. 29)

Rampant and injudicious use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides, due to lack of proper knowledge about its harmful effects has lead to a situation of loss of soil fertility and presence of pesticide and chemical residue in crops, thereby affecting the human & animal lives also. As such, there is an urgent need to reorient agricultural practices according to our traditional farming knowledge/wisdom. Organic Farming needs to be given impetus, while dependence on chemical fertilizers needs to be lessened. The Committee are petty sanguine that if properly implemented, the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana would be successful in bringing about the perfect mix of balanced use of fertilizers and also ensure the increased popularity of organic farming by motivating farmers to use more of organic manure and bio-pesticides/bio-fertilizers.

The Committee further desire that in order to popularize organic farming the Government should provide all sops/incentives to the organic fertilizer/bio-pesticides/bio-fertilizer industry so as to bring them at par with the chemical fertilizer industry and give our farmers the right to choose between the same. Lastly, they impress upon the Government to widen the scope of PKVY and bring under its ambit the upgradation/modification of traditional agricultural implements as well as popularize the usage of traditional/light weight agri-implements so as to cater to the needs of small and marginal farmers.

Reply of the Government

Chemical fertilizers are the source of NPK, secondary and micro-nutrients. The average nutrient content available in chemical fertilizers is quite high when compared to that in organic fertilizers. The average nutrient (N/P/K) content available in organic manures/fertilizers is about 1% of weight of manures/fertilizers Organic fertilizers are primarily the source of organic carbon. The organic carbon content is vital for maintaining and enhancing soil fertility. In order to enhance even the efficacy of chemical fertilisers and for improving crop response to the applied fertilisers, use of organic fertilisers is required. Therefore, for sustained agricultural production, Integrated Nutrient Management, which envisages soil test based use of chemical fertilisers in conjunction with organic fertilisers (Compost, Farm Yard Manure etc.) is accepted as a good practice and therefore, recommended.

Chemical fertilisers are made available to the farmers for purchase at subsidised prices. Following table shows approximate amount of subsidy given on chemical fertilisers required for crops *viz*. wheat, paddy and pulses as per the balanced nutrient management.

Name of Crop	General Nutrient Dose (Integrated Package) (Kg./hectare)				General Chemical Fertilizer Dose + FYM/Compost (Kg./hectare)				Approx Subsidy on Chemical Fertilizers (Rs./hectare)
	N	P	K	FYM/ Compost	Urea	DAP	MOP	FYM/ Compost	
Rice	60	40	30	10000-12000	110	90	50	10000-12000	3300
Wheat	90	60	30	10000-12000	150	130	50	10000-12000	4400
Pulses	10	20	20	2500-3000	25	45	33	2500-3000	1200

As average nutrient (N/P/K) content available in organic manures/ fertilisers is about 1%, of weight of manures/fertilizers requirement of organic fertilisers as per recommended doses of nutrients from organic fertilisers alone, is shown below:

Name of Crop	Approximate Requirement of FYM/ Compost (metric tonnes/hectare)
Rice	16
Wheat	16
Pulses	3.5

Organic farming is a sustainable form of agricultural production based on the standards notified from time to time. Under organic farming standards, organic fertilisers are recommended to be produced on farm itself through composting of locally available material such as farm waste/cow dung/waste straw etc.

No subsidy is given on prices of organic fertilisers that are marketed such as city compost and vermin-compost etc. The delivered prices of city compost and vermin-compost are about Rs. 5500-6000/metric tonnes (MT) and Rs. 7500-8000/tonnes respectively. Besides, compost is bulky in nature as well. In view of above, purchase of organic fertilisers from the market, its transportation to the farms and storage is both costly and a challenge.

Organic manure to the extent of 25-30 tonnes per annum can be produced through vermi-composting of locally available waste in a pit/ unit of size 7'x3'x1'. Accordingly, financial assistance @ Rs. 5000 per unit is given under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) scheme of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for construction of vermi-composting units (size 7'x3'x1'), which includes assistance for procurement of earth worms, preparation of pits, labour charges and other raw materials required etc.

Apart from above, under NMSA, financial assistance @ 50% of cost subject to a limit of Rs. 5000 per hectare and Rs. 10000 per beneficiary is also provided for promotion of organic inputs (manure, vermi-compost, bio-fertiliser, waste compost etc.) on farmers' fields.

In view of above, it is submitted that organic fertilisers are not marketed in a similar way as being done in case of chemical fertilisers. Since production of organic fertilisers is recommended for production in farms itself with natural resources available, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) scheme has been formulated to promote cluster based certified organic farming through adoption of PGS certification.

Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) charges is one of the sub-components under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana. Under the sub-component, financial assistance is given to pay the charges of custom hiring centres for utilizing the agricultural implements such as Power Tiller, Cono Weeder, Paddy Thresher, Furrow Opener, Rose Can, Top Balance etc. for processing/grading/cleaning/threshing of organic produce and land preparation etc. Further, the SMAM guidelines provide a list of tested/ approved tools/machinery, which is updated every year. Hence, there is scope for including implements which are upgraded/modified traditional agricultural implements, after they are duly approved. Also, steps will be taken to popularise the usage of lightweight agricultural implements by the small and marginal farmers.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

CHAPTER III

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

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Recommendation (Para No. 17)

The Committee are concerned to note the variation in the figures pertaining to actual expenditure for the Fiscal 2014-15. In their Basic Material, it has been stated that expenditure till 20th February, 2015 is to the tune of Rs. 7993.33 crore. However, in their Post-Evidence Replies they have submitted that the total utilization during 2014-15 is Rs. 2948.96 crore against the release of Rs. 8443.20 crore. This variance of Rs. 5008.37 crore if taken into consideration on its face value would point towards an unprecedented instance in the annals of the RKVY Scheme. This being so that within a span of slightly more than a month, the actual utilization figures have witnessed a steep drop of Rs. 5008.37 crore. Completely flummoxed with this state of affairs, the Committee recommend that the Department reconcile the variation in figures and furnish the correct figures of actual utilization during the Fiscal 2014-15 within three months of the presentation of the Report to Parliament.

The Committee would also caution the Ministry to ensure that such instances are never repeated, as it reflects them in a poor light.

Reply of the Government

Attention of the Committee is drawn to the fact that the expenditure till 20th Feb., 2015 to the tune of Rs. 7993.33 crore is the expenditure made by the Government of India (funds released to State Government as on 20th Feb., 2015) and not expenditure reported by the State Government out of the release made during 2014-15. The utilization reported by the State as on 20th Feb., 2015 was Rs. 2906.35 crore only against release of Rs. 7993.33 crore made to the States on that date. The total funds released under the scheme during 2014-15 is Rs. 8443.20 crore of which utilization of Rs. 3906.79 crore is reported by the States as on 14.05.2015.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

CHAPTER IV

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

Share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in Central Plan

Recommendation (Para No. 3)

While perusing the documents furnished by the Department in context of examination of Demands for Grants (2015-16), the Committee came across a instance wherein a variation in numerical terms was witnessed. In their Background Material, the Department submitted that the outlay for agriculture sector in 2015-16 has been increased to 2.01% of the total Central Plan Outlay of Rs. 5,78,302 crore; during the course of Evidence the representative of the Department deposed before the Committee that the allocation to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for the Fiscal 2015-16 was Rs. 16,466.35 crore which in percentage terms in 2.8% of the Central Plan Outlay of Rs. 5,78,382 crore, while in their Post-Evidence written replies, the Department again submitted that outlay for the entire agriculture and allied sectors for the year was Rs. 11,675.00 crore, which is 2.01% of the total Central Plan Outlay of Rs. 5,78,382.00 crore.

The Committee strongly deprecate this variance in figures regarding allocation to Agriculture and allied sectors out of the Central Plan Outlay for the Fiscal 2015-16, as it is reflective of their callous attitude while furnishing any information to Parliament. They, therefore, caution the Department that in the future, extreme care should be taken before furnishing any document to Parliament to ensure uniformity in data on a particular topic across all documents to avoid repeat of this incident.

Reply of the Government

As per the facts and figures available, the total Central Plan Outlay for the year 2015-16 is Rs. 578381.67 crore. The allocation to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during this year is Rs. 16646.35 crore (this includes both the Central Sector and State/UT Sector — CSS component) which is 2.87% of the Central Plan Outlay.

It is further submitted that the total Central Plan Outlay for Agriculture and Allied sectors [*i.e.* for Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Department of Agricultural Research and Education

(DARE) and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD&F) is Rs. 10669.99 crore. (Rs. 5845.85 crore for DAC, Rs. 3691.00 crore for DARE and Rs. 1133.14 crore for DAHD&F)]. The total Central Plan Outlay for the entire Agriculture & allied sectors during 2015-16 *i.e.* Rs. 10669.99 crore which does not include the State/UT sector components which is Rs. 10800.50 crore for DAC, Rs. Nil for DARE and Rs. 358 crore for DAHD&F.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.7 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Allocation and Utilisation of Funds

Recommendation (Para No. 6)

During the course of examination of Demands for Grants first three fiscals of the Twelfth Plan, the Committee have observed out of approved Plan Outlay of Rs. 134746.00 crore, the actual allocation for the first four fiscals amounts to only Rs. 80772.35 crore, which is only 60% of the approved Plan Outlay, thus leading to a gap of Rs. 53973.65 crore between the funds earmarked and actually allocated. This has lead to a situation wherein the Department is left with 40% of the approved Plan Outlay for the last Fiscal of the Twelfth Plan *i.e.* 2016-17. However having been a witness to this roller coaster, the Committee are well aware that the chances of such a situation fructifying is not impossible. The rather candid assurance of the Department that in case of such an eventuality actually arising, they would be able to utilize the remaining 40% of the Twelfth Plan Outlay in the Fiscal 2016-17 is not dittoed by the Committee. However, empathizing with the Department on this issue, they urge the Ministry of Finance to adopt a rational approach while making future allocations to ensure that the mismatch between approved Outlay and actual allocation is narrowed down to a great extent.

Reply of the Government

No specific comments to offer.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.10 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Allocation and Utilisation of Funds

Recommendation (Para No. 8)

The Committee note with concern that consequent to the award of the 14th Finance Commission the grant made to States from Central Divisible Pool has been hiked from 32% to 42%, which has resulted in drastic reduction of BE for 2015-16 of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, which is to the tune of Rs. 16646.36 crore as compared to Rs. 20,208.00 crore, Rs. 21,609.00 crore and Rs. 22,309.00 crore for the Fiscals 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively. This reduction was on account of reduction of funds in the State sector *i.e.* Centrally Sponsored Scheme component from Rs. 16,462.50 crore is 2014-15 to Rs. 10,800.00 crore in 2015-16.

While agreeing with the sentiments of this increased share of States in terms of fund allocation so as to increase their share in the funds pie, they are concerned to note that the revised contribution of States in Centrally Sponsored Schemes has not been arrived at. Rather, it is under discussion of a high level Committee in the NITI Aayog. Deprecating this haste in reduction of funds even before the quantum of State's contribution is finalised, the Committee desire that the high level Committee work out all modalities and arrive at the percentage share of States expeditiously. In their view the Government should have completed this task well before revising the funding pattern of CSS Schemes.

Reply of the Government

No specific comments to offer.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.13 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Outstanding Utilization Certificates

Recommendation (Para No. 9)

In spite of repeatedly pursuing the case of liquidation of pending UCs, the Committee are anguished to be apprised that no positive outcome has been forthcoming. The Committee have been apprised that inspite of the efforts of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, as on 31 December, 2014, 2459 Utilization Certificates are still pending, amounting to Rs. 10745.66 crore. The Committee express their displeasure at this pervading morass, at it is abundantly clear that the follow-up mechanism currently in place is unable to provide a lasting solution to this vexed issue. Strongly feeling that there is an urgent need to relook the extant mechanism and put in place necessary correctives at the earliest so that States/UTs are persuaded to adopt financial discipline and take cogent measures to liquidate these outstandings in a time bound manner and thereby ensure that the flow of Central funds continues unhindered. They, therefore, recommend that Department of Agriculture and Cooperation initiate corrective measures in this respect in good time and apprise them of the action initiated in this regard.

Reply of the Government

As on 29.05.2015 there are 2459 UCs for the amount 10745.66 crores still outstanding. Out of these UCs 186 UCs for Rs. 251.89 crore are outstanding prior to FY-2010-11 and remaining 2273 UCs are for the year 2011-12 and 2012-13. Year-wise details of outstanding UCs are enclosed.

The Department does not release any grant if UCs are outstanding against the agency/State. The payments are released on the basis of certification by the sanctioning authority and DDO. Financial Adviser, DAC has also written to the Chief Secretaries of all the States to liquidate the outstanding UCs without delay latest by 30th June, 2015. Principal Accounts Office, Ministry of Agriculture is regularly conducting the special audit of the States and tries to settle the outstanding UCs against them.

Year-wise details of outstanding UCs are enclosed (Annexure 'A')

Division-wise outstanding Utilization Certificate in r/o Grant-1 as on 29.05.2015 for the grant released upto 31.03.2013

Division	No. of Ucs	Amount in Rupees
1	2	3
CET DIVISION	45	415485000
COOPERATION DIVISION	13	1315000000
CROP DIVISION	264	12959086615

1	2	3
EA DIVISION	198	1063590000
EXTENSION DIVISION	223	9856059050
HORTICULTURE DIVISION	1321	75462787040
INM DIVISION	45	673214300
IT DIVISION	18	179676005
M & T DIVISION	1	6416000
MANURES & FERTILIZER DIVISION	16	167006200
MARKETING DIVISION	23	1007500000
PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION	11	176849000
RKVY DIVISION	13	823449000
SEED DIVISION	247	3291973536
TMOP Division	5	50976000
TRADE DIVISION	16	7499385
Grand Total	2459	107456567131.00

Year-wise outstanding Utilization Certificate in r/o Grant-1 as on 29.05.2015 for the grant released up-to 31.03.2013.

Year	No. of UCs	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1992-93	1	0.04
1993-94	3	0.02
1994-95	1	0.03
1995-96	2	0.12
2000-01	2	0.03
2001-02	7	0.09
2002-03	4	0.02
2003-04	6	0.04
2004-05	6	1.53

1	2	3
2005-06	6	5.00
2006-07	15	2.74
2007-08	22	3.17
2008-09	23	129.66
2009-10	33	60.01
2010-11	55	49.39
Total Outstanding Ucs Upto March-2011	186	251.89
2011-12	1045	4703.05
2012-13	1228	5790.72
Grand Total	2459	10745.66

State-wise outstanding Utilization Certificate in r/o Grant-1 as on 29.05.2015 for the grant released upto 31.03.2013

State	No. of UCs	Amount in Rupees
1	2	3
Delhi	447	16762446430
Andaman and Nicobar	4	34259000
Andhra Pradesh	153	10584569308
Arunachal Pradesh	16	306337000
Assam	61	1123932025
Bihar	81	3670274733
Chhattisgarh	63	3369942040
Daman and Diu	2	1200000
Goa	7	22713500
Gujarat	137	7879301053
Haryana	113	5837575033
Himachal Pradesh	44	547629000

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir	33	443176478
Jharkhand	61	2089963695
Karnataka	152	7491676874
Kerala	152	3832136270
Lakshadweep	1	200000
Madhya Pradesh	108	6876759245
Maharashtra	147	10965660473
Manipur	27	570451500
Meghalaya	11	154513000
Mizoram	21	460667000
Nagaland	20	546671000
Odisha	92	3696207054
Puducherry	4	13718000
Punjab	58	1928019906
Rajasthan	98	5365328108
Sikkim	30	311134000
Tamil Nadu	78	4054572050
Tripura	19	390466000
Uttar Pradesh	117	5481240961
Uttarakhand	38	339661290
West Bengal	64	2304165105
Grand Total	2459	107456567131.00

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.16 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Allocation to North Eastern States

Recommendation (Para No. 11)

The continuous vicious cycle of under-utilization of funds earmarked for the North Eastern Region has been a regular cause of concern for the Committee. This being so, as this under utilization of funds has had a negative impact on the overall utilization of the Department. This fact was candidly admitted to by the representative of the Department during the course of evidence that a deficit of 1.5 to 2% in overall utilisation is always there as 10% is left to North East at Annual Plan stage and some grant for SC & Tribal sub-Plan which generally is not utilized fully. Not wanting to be critical of any party(ies) involved in the process, but espousing the cause of Indian agriculture and its practitioners, the Committee desire that all concerned should undertake a comprehensions review of the present process, the reasons for non-utilisation of funds in North East and address these issues. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation should seek the view points of the North Eastern Region through the representatives of the people, discuss it threadbare with them and then come up with a mutually agreeable mechanism which would ensure active participation of the North Eastern Region in schemes being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Committee further desire to be informed of the progress achieved herein.

Reply of the Government

So far as Tribal Sub-Plan is concerned, underutilization of funds have been noticed in some schemes with varying reasons, such as, non-releasing of fund instalments to the agencies due to non-availability of Utilization Certificates, lack of suitable proposals, funds being released as per the demand of projects under demand driven schemes etc. However, funds provided under SC Sub-Plan often remain unutilized as there is little SC population in that region.

Fund utilization however, remained very satisfactory under many of the schemes like Soil Health Management, a component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm, National Food Security Mission etc.

In order to ensure improved fund utilization position in North Eastern States, sensitization programmes amongst the stakeholders including the line departments of the State Governments for spreading awareness about the schemes like workshops/meetings with representatives of NE States, discussions at various forums, awareness camps etc. are being organized.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.22 of Chapter-I of this Report.

CHAPTER V

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

Results Framework Document (RFD)

Recommendation (Para No. 10)

The Committee are well aware that Agriculture being a State subject, the role of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation generally gets restricted to a broad policy formulation and the implementation of Schemes lies with the implementing agencies *i.e.* the States and Union Territories, who are independent constitutional entities. However, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation cannot just resort to passing the buck when asked to furnish reasons for drop in composite score from a high of 99.1% in 2010-11 to 91.8% in 2012-13, as the conditions that were prevailing in 2010-11 remained unchanged during 2012-13. In view of the above, as also to see the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation perform, the Committee desire that the Department undertake a proper introspection of its performance so that their composite for the Fiscal 2013-14 and 2014-15 can match the score of 2010-11 of 99.1%.

They further impress upon the Cabinet Secretariat to forward the composite score for the Fiscals 2013-14 and 2014-15, so that requisite remedial action can be initiated by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to further fine tune the implementation of its schemes and thereby increase their viability.

Reply of the Government

The Result Framework Document (RFD) for the Fiscal 2013-14 and 2014-15 of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has already been submitted to Performance Management Division (PMD), Cabinet Secretariat. However, the Composite Score for above fiscal has not been received from the PMD yet. As soon as it is received, the Department will undertake a proper introspection of its performance and requisite remedial action to further fine tune the implementation of its scheme. It is to be mentioned here that the Department has consistently taken effort for timely and optimum implementation of various scheme in order to achieve targeted results.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.19 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Recommendation (Para No. 20)

As informed by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation that the Institute of Social and Economic Changes (ISEC) has submitted two reports of evaluation of the Scheme. The Committee desire to be apprised of the recommendations of this Scheme as well as the status of implementation of these recommendations within three months of the representation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

The report submitted by ISEC has been circulated within the Department for their comments/views. The same are awaited.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.36 of Chapter-I of this Report.

National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP)

Recommendation (Para No. 23)

The Committee laud the Government for having come up with the concept of a comprehensive insurance scheme to protect the farmers against both yield loss and price fluctuations. They also note that at present, the Ministry is in the process of soliciting views of various stakeholders to evolve an acceptable insurance instrument to ensure farmers against yield loss and price volatility. Keeping in perspective the vulnerability of our farmers to the vagaries of nature, the Committee desire that the Government treat this issue with the alacrity it deserves and discuss threadbare the modalities of this scheme with all stakeholders, especially, the farmers and then arrive at a mutually agreeable scheme which would insulate our farmers against yield loss and price fluctuations in good time. They further desire to be apprised of the latest developments in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Improvement in crop insurance schemes to make them more scientific and to better serve the interests of the farmers is a continuous process. In view of this, Government is desirous to introduce a new comprehensive crop insurance instrument to protect the income of the farmers. Government is also reviewing the financial burden of premium on farmers under existing schemes alongwith several improvements required for better administration of the schemes. The draft of the proposed income insurance scheme has been discussed with different stakeholders/forum including PMO, NITI Ayog etc. During discussions it has emerged that the proposed new scheme should be simple and understandable to the farmers and covers the good features of NAIS and MNAIS. A unified package insurance to cover activities like machinery, life, accident, health, livestock, house, student, crops etc. may be worked out in consultations with the stakeholders. The Consultation with various stakeholders including State Governments is going on for formulation of proposed new insurance scheme and a unified package insurance for farmers.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.39 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Grameen Haat

Recommendation (Para No. 24)

As Agriculture is moving towards increased mechanisation leading to increased production there is an urgent need for creating policy environment for sustaining their growth by providing easy access to proper marketing, storage, banking, transport and insurance facilities. As there are more than 22000 Grameen Haats operating in the Country, a mechanism must be evolved for creating infrastructure by earmarking proper place for these markets. It must also be kept in mind most of the people flocking to these haats are women and at present there are no basic amenities for them in these markets. Keeping in view the foregoing, the Committee desire that a holistic view should be taken for developing these Grameen Haats by developing proper sanitation and hygienic conditions for encouraging more and more women to participate and create cohesive and comfortable environment for them. They further desire that there should be proper transport linkages developed for efficient operation of Grameen Haats and these must be linked to all weather routes by involving all the relevant agencies be it through Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana or PWD or the highways authority.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry is making efforts to ascertain the present ownership of these 22,759 Rural Primary Markets (RPM) from the State Governments (State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Directorates/Departments) and to obtain other relevant data pertaining to these RPM's.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.42 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Grameen Haat

Recommendation (Para No. 25)

The rather casual response of the Ministry that they do not possess any data on the turnover of the 7114 regulated markets in the country under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act is strongly deprecated by the Committee as in their opinion it reflects a very callous attitude of the Government and the total lack of a monitoring mechanism at the apex and field level. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government set its house in order and come up with a monitoring mechanism promptly to ensure that all data pertaining to 7114 regulated markets under the APMC Act are collected, analysed and made available in the public domain.

They further desire that the Ministry of Agriculture obtain all necessary data on the 22,759 rural markets from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development at the earliest and furnish the Report to the Committee within three months from the presentation of this Report to Parliament.

Reply of the Government

Efforts are being made to collect the data pertaining to 7114 wholesale regulated markets. As on date, data on the market profile of more than 2500 markets is available in the public domain on the web portal *www.agmarknet.nic.in*.

The Ministry is making efforts to ascertain the present ownership of these 22,759 Rural Primary Markets (RPM) from the State Governments (State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Directorates/Departments) and other relevant data pertaining to these RPM's. Ministry of Rural development and Panchayati Raj are also being requested in the matter.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), F.No. 6-6/2015-B & A, dated 15 July, 2015]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.45 of Chapter-I of this Report.

NEW DELHI;
14 *December*, 2015
23 *Agrahayana*, 1937 *(Saka)*

HUKM DEO NARAYAN YADAV,
Chairperson,
Committee on Agriculture.

ANNEXURE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2015-16)

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 10th December, 2015 from 1000 hrs. to 1050 hrs. in Chamber of the Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Room No. 138 (Third Floor), Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Prof. Richard Hay
3. Shri Sanganna Karadi
4. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
5. Md. Badaruddoza Khan
6. Shri C. Mahendran
7. Dr. Tapas Mandal
8. Shri Janardan Mishra
9. Shri Ajay Nishad
10. Shri Mukesh Rajput
11. Shri Satyapal Singh (Sambhal)
12. Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
14. Shri Rajpal Singh Saini
15. Shri Ram Nath Thakur

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.B.S. Negi	—	*Joint Secretary*
2. Shri Arun K. Kaushik	—	*Director*
3. Shri C. Vanlalruata	—	*Deputy Secretary*
4. Shri Sumesh Kumar	—	*Under Secretary*

2. At the outset, Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the following draft Reports:

*(i)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXXX	XXXX	XXXX
*(ii)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXXX	XXXX	XXXX

(iii) Draft Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 9th Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2014-15) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).

*(iv)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXXX	XXXX	XXXX
*(v)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXXX	XXXX	XXXX

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Reports without any modification. They authorized the Chairperson to finalize and present these Reports to Parliament after getting them factually verified from the concerned Departments/Ministry.

*4. XXXX XXXX XXXXX XXXX XXXX

The Committee then adjourned.

*Matter not related to this Report.

APPENDIX

(*Vide* Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE NINTH REPORT (16th LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2014-15)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations:	29
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:	
	Para Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 and 29	
	Total	18
	Percentage	62.06%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:	
	Para No. 17	
	Total	01
	Percentage	3.44%
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:	
	Para Nos. 3, 6, 8, 9 and 11	
	Total	05
	Percentage	17.25%
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:	
	Para Nos. 10, 20, 23, 24, and 25	
	Total	05
	Percentage	17.25%