

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
(2016-2017)

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2016-17)'

{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/  
Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the  
Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-2016)}

THIRTY THIRD REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

December 2016/Agrahayana,1938 (Saka)

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**(Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/  
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Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-2016)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on	15.12.2016
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on	15.12.2016



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

December 2016/Agrahayana,1938 (Saka)

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(i)

## **COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**(2016-17)**

**Shri Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav - Chairperson**

### **MEMBERS**

#### **LOK SABHA**

2. Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath Gaikwad
3. Shri Sanganna Karadi
4. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
5. Smt. Raksha Khadse
6. Md. Badaruddoza Khan
7. Shri C. Mahendran
8. Dr. Tapas Mandal
9. Shri Janardan Mishra
10. Shri Devji Patel
11. Shri Nityanand Rai
12. Shri Mukesh Rajput
13. Shri Neiphiu Rio
14. Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao
15. Shri C.L. Ruala
16. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi
17. Shri Satyapal Singh (Sambhal)
18. Shri Virendra Singh
19. Shri Dharmendra Yadav
20. Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav
21. Shri B. S. Yeddyurappa

#### **RAJYA SABHA**

22. Shri Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati
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24. Shri Janardan Dwivedi
25. Shri Meghraj Jain
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27. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
28. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
29. Shri R. Vaithilingam
30. Shri Shankarhai N. Vegad
31. Shri Darshan Singh Yadav

## **SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri U.B.S. Negi	-	Joint Secretary
2. Shri Arun K. Kaushik	-	Director
3. Shri C. Vanlalruata	-	Deputy Secretary

(iv)

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture (2016-17), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty Third Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).

2. The Twenty Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' 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 02 May, 2016. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 08 August, 2016.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 09.12.2016.

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

**NEW DELHI;**  
**09 December, 2016**  
**18 Agrahayana, 1938 (Saka)**

**HUKM DEO NARAYAN YADAV**  
***Chairperson,***  
***Standing Committee on Agriculture***

## CHAPTER - I

### REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 02 May 2016.

2. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 27 Observations / Recommendations contained in the Report. These replies have been categorized as under:-

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

Recommendation Para Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 (Chapter II - Total 19)

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

Recommendation Para No. NIL (Chapter III - NIL)

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

Recommendation Para Nos. 7, 8, 18, 19, 20 and 22 (Chapter IV - Total 06)

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

Recommendation Para Nos. 13, 15 (Chapter V - Total 02)

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 Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.

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

**A. ATTRACTING RURAL YOUTH TOWARDS AGRICULTURE  
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.4)**

5. The Committee had observed/recommended as under:-

"Apart from increasing the financial allocation to the Agriculture Sector, the Committee are also of the firm conviction that the vocation of Agriculture needs to be a remunerative one like any other vocation. A sense of pride needs to be infused if this vital sector of the economy is to attract youth especially, the rural educated youth. These youth need to be given institutional training to develop their entrepreneurship skills in the field of agriculture apart from providing institutional finance at easy terms to kick start their ventures. The Committee hope that as result of involvement of youth in agriculture, the core sector of our economy could become sustainable and viable. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard."

6. In its Action Taken reply, the Department has stated as under: -

"Educated Youth in Agriculture & allied sectors are encouraged to develop Entrepreneurship skills in the field of agriculture. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India is implementing a scheme of "Agri-clinics & Agri-Business Centres (ACABC) Scheme" in which 2 months institutional training (MANAGE through selected Nodal Training Institute (NTI) across India) and financial assistance (Back Ended Subsidy) through NABARD to Nationalized and Rural Cooperative Banks are being provided. In the same way, one programme, namely, Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) is being implemented by ICAR and scheme for Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY) is being implemented by DAC&FW involving rural youth in agriculture (ANNEXURE-1)."

**7 The Committee were of the view that Youth especially rural educated youth need to be given institutional training to develop their entrepreneurship skills in the field of agriculture and provide them institutional finance at easy terms to kick-start their ventures. On perusal of the Action Taken Reply, the Committee express their satisfaction that educated youth in Agriculture and Allied Sectors are encouraged to develop entrepreneurship skills in the field of agriculture through "Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres scheme" in which, two months training through selected Nodal Training Institute across India and financial assistance through Nationalized and Rural Cooperative Banks are being provided. Further, ICAR is implementing a programme i.e. Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) and scheme for Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY) being**

implemented by DAC&FW involving rural youth in agriculture. However, being aware of the stark reality that educated rural youth do not consider agriculture to be a viable career option, the Committee are of the firm opinion that concerted and coordinated efforts need to be put in by the Government in order to reverse the current trend. On their part, the Government should publicise these schemes vigorously so that awareness is created amongst the rural educated youth to take up agriculture as their vocation. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the Department should make continuous and vigorous efforts for attracting rural educated youth to the field of agriculture. The Committee would like to be apprised of the details of steps taken alongwith the progress achieved in this regard.

**B. SLOW PACED UTILIZATION OF FUNDS  
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.7)**

8. The Committee had observed/recommended as under:-

"Notwithstanding the argument put forth by the Department that their utilization of funds has been around 99.23%, 98.53%, 98.26% and 96% (provisional) of RE during the fiscals 2012-13; 2013-14; 2014-15 and 2015-16, the facts remain that the funds allocated to them have been drastically cut down with reference to funds actually required as reflected in BE as per their plan of action. The Department cannot rest satisfied based on high percentage of utilization of RE funds, as contrary to the fact their plan of action has been affected due to drastic cut in the approved plan outlay. Thus, by relying on RE figures, the Ministry is trying to put a lid over the slow pace of utilization of funds during the first two quarters of a fiscal year which results in Ministry of Finance resorting to reducing the allocation at RE

Stage. If BE figures are taken into consideration, then percentage of actual utilizations dips to 87.74%; 86.63%; 86.02% and 82.71% (provisional) for the fiscals under consideration. The Committee are of the firm opinion that the later figure is more accurate as it reflects the true picture. On the flip side if credence is to be given only to actual utilization figures vis-a-vis RE figures, this will ultimately prove detrimental to the overall growth and development of agri-sector due to slow-pace of utilization of funds with reference to BE. The Committee therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take a holistic view in the matter and efforts should be made for optimum utilization of funds in the first two quarters under various schemes implemented by them. In this regard the Department should impress upon the implementing agencies i.e. States/UTs to expedite the pace of utilization of funds so as to demand more funds from the Ministry of Finance."

9. In its Action Taken reply, the Department has stated as under: -

"The Department internally reviews the pace of utilization of funds on a weekly basis in Senior Officers meetings. Apart from this, the Department has been taking up the issue of expediting fund utilization with State Governments and implementing agencies on a regular basis in meetings as well as through letters. The Department is covered under the Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) of Ministry of Finance where amount of funds that can be released in a particular quarter is fixed. The Department has been strictly adhering to the MEP. It may, however, be mentioned that release of funds by the department depends on timely release of matching share by the state governments and submission of utilization certificates."

10. While noting that the funds allocated to the Department has been drastically cut down with reference to the funds actually required as reflective in BE as per their plan of action, the Committee recommended that the Ministry should strive for optimum utilization of funds in the first two quarters and impress upon all implementing agencies to expedite the pace of utilization funds. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated that the pace of utilization of funds is being resisted internally on weekly basis and takes up the issue of expediting funds utilization with all implementing agencies on a regular basis. The Department has also been strictly adhering to Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) which fixes quarterly release of funds. According to the Department, the release of funds by them depends upon timely release of matching share and submission of utilization certificates by implementing agencies. The Committee are not convinced with the evasive reply of the Department as they are trying to pass the buck to the implementing agencies. Needless to say, the plan of action of the Department may have been adversely affected due to drastic reduction of funds at RE stage by the Ministry of Finance. The Department being the nodal agency should make efforts to address this problem rather than being content with high utilization of RE funds. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the Department should impress upon all implementing agencies to expedite the pace of utilization of funds in the first two quarters of a fiscal year alongwith UCs of past allocation, so as to enable them to demand more funds from Ministry of Finance at RE stage. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiative undertaken by the Department in this regard.

**C. OUTSTANDING UTILIZATION CERTIFICATES  
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.8)**

11. The Committee had observed/recommended as under:-

"The issue of liquidation of Outstanding Utilization Certificates has been raised time and again by the Committee in their earlier Reports. The Committee have been apprised that inspite of the efforts of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), as on 31 March, 2016, 414 Utilization Certificates are still pending, amounting to Rs.726.95 crore. While appreciating the efforts put in by the Department with regard to liquidation of Outstanding Utilization Certificates, the Committee feel that the entire issue needs to be relooked afresh, so that corrective measures may be taken to address the issue comprehensively. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should take up the matter proactively with all State Governments/Implementing Agencies ensuring a lasting solution to this perennial problem. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiative undertaken by the Department in this regard."

12. In its Action Taken reply, the Department has stated as under: -

"As on 25.07.2016, 743 UCs for an amount of Rs. 1853.87 Crores only are outstanding for funds released up to 31.3.2015. The Department and Principal Accounts Office is monitoring status of outstanding Utilization Certificates rigorously and no funds are being released without submission of the Utilization Certificates."

13. **While appreciating the efforts made by the Department with regard to liquidation of outstanding Utilization Certificates, the Committee felt that the entire**

issue needs to be relooked afresh and desired that the Department should take up the matter proactively with all State Governments/Implementing Agencies for ensuring a lasting solution to this permanent problem. As on 31.03.2016, 414 utilization certificates amounting Rs. 726.95 crore were pending. However, the Committee are anguished to note that since then, the situation has deteriorated further, as is clear from the Action Taken reply of the Department that the number of pending Utilization Certificates as on 25.07.2016 has risen to 743 UCs amounting to Rs.1853.87 crore for funds released up to 31.03.2015. This lack of financial discipline on the part of the Implementing Agencies adversely impacts the 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 the increased 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. Deeply concerned at this alarming state of affairs, the Committee reiterate their recommendation that the Department needs to look into the issue afresh and take corrective measures at the earliest so that all outstanding Utilization Certificates are liquidated without further delay. The Committee would like to be apprised of the concrete action taken by the Department in this regard.

**D. INTEGRATED SCHEME ON AGRICULTURAL MARKETING (ISAM)  
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.15)**

14. The Committee had observed/recommended as under:-

"The Committee were informed that funds meant for general category for construction of Rural Godowns under the sub-scheme of Agricultural Marketing

Infrastructure (AMI) during the year 2014-15 has exhausted. In the year, 2015-16, out of the RE of Rs.675.86 crore for AMI schemes, funds for the general category were fully exhausted with the release of Rs.493.81 crore. The BE for the whole of ISAM for the current fiscal is only Rs.787.90 crore, out of which AMI is one of the five sub-schemes. Further the total liability as on date stands at Rs.1250.27 crore. This comprises of Rs.317.52 crore pipeline liability and Rs.932.75 crore committed liability. This total liability is mostly for the general category. Also, the limited allocations for AMI in 2016-17 will be restricted to 65.2% for the general category. Totally dissatisfied at this sordid state of affairs, the Committee recommend that allocation of funds be enhanced at RE stage during the fiscal for ISAM, so that the Department is in a position to honour its total liability of Rs.1250.27 crore at the earliest."

15. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has started as under:-

"Demand for additional funds at RE stage is placed around August-September of each year. Accordingly, demand for additional funds under the sub-scheme of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) will be sought to honour the liability."

**16. The Committee were concerned to note that shortage of funds for Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, a sub-scheme of ISAM, had resulted in creating a liability of Rs.1250.27 crore. This liability comprises of Rs.317.52 crore pipeline liability and committed liability of Rs.932.75 crore. Being of the firm opinion that shortage of funds had a negative impact on AMI, the Committee had recommended that allocation of funds be enhanced at RE stage during 2016-17 so as to enable the Department to be in a position to honour its liability of Rs.1250.27**

crore. In response, the Department has informed that demands for additional funds at RE stage is placed around August-September of each year. Accordingly, demand for additional funds under the sub-scheme of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) will be sought to honour the liability. As the funds at RE stage might have been allocated for AMI by the Ministry of Finance by the time, the Committee would like to be apprised of the same at the earliest.

**E. RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)  
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.18)**

17. The Committee had observed/recommended as under:-

"The Committee have been informed that from April, 2016, the Ministry's online monitoring mechanism would be functional which would ensure uploading of up to date figures at the touch of a button and thereby providing the much needed dynamism to the monitoring mechanism. It has further been stated that Central Teams under a Joint Secretary conduct field visits every two months. However, the Committee are anguished to note that the visit of the Central teams are confined to the State Capital level only. However, the Committee is of the opinion that these visits should invariably be done at the district level so as to get the situation prevalent at the ground level. The Committee would like the Department to act accordingly."

18. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated as under: -

"The issue of non finalization of State Agriculture Plan (SAP) / District Agriculture Plan (DAP) by various State Governments were taken up by the Department with the State Government in various meetings held with officials of State Governments. All the defaulting State Governments have been informed that

during 2016-17, the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of 50% of funds allocated to the State under the scheme would not be released if they failed to finalize DAP/SAP."

**19. The Committee were of the opinion that visits of Central Teams under a Joint Secretary for monitoring the progress of implementation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana should not be confined to the State Capitals but these visits should invariably be done at the district level so as to get the situation prevalent at the ground level. However, the Committee are anguished to note from the Action Taken Reply that the Department is conspicuously silent on this aspects. Taking a rather serious view of this oversight on part of the Department, the Committee desire that the Department should exercise extreme caution before furnishing their action taken reply to the Committee's recommendation so as to ensure that such instances are never repeated again. Nevertheless, the Committee would like the Department to respond to their recommendation that bi-monthly field visits of Central Teams should take place at the district level as well and the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard.**

**F. RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)  
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.19)**

20. The Committee had observed/recommended as under:-

"The Committee express their concern to note that out of the 29 States, only 8 States have prepared their State Agriculture Plan (SAP) and out of the 652 Districts, District Agriculture Plan (DAP) for only 194 District have been prepared as on date despite the fact that preparation of DAP and SAP is mandatory and has been mentioned in the revised guidelines of the scheme for the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. This sordid state of affairs is reflective of the lackadaisical approach of all concerned

and pervading morass in the system as a result of which the entire agriculture sector has to suffer. Strongly deprecating this fact, the Committee urge the Department to get the message conveyed to all State/UTs for strict compliance with the mandatory provision to prepare SAP/DAP without any further loss of time. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Department in this regard."

**21. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated as under: -**

"The issue of non finalization of State Agriculture Plan (SAP) / District Agriculture Plan (DAP) by various State Governments were taken up by the Department with the State Government in various meetings held with officials of State Governments. All the defaulting State Governments have been informed that during 2016-17, the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of 50% of funds allocated to the State under the scheme would not be released if they failed to finalize DAP/SAP."

**22. While deprecating the fact that in spite of the revised guidelines of RKVY for the 12th Plan which made preparation of State Agriculture Plan (SAP) and District Agriculture Plan (DAP) by States mandatory, only 8 States out of 29 had prepared their SAP and only 194 districts out of 652 have prepared their DAP. The Committee had, therefore, urged the Department to impress upon all States for strict compliance of these guidelines. In its action taken reply, the Department has merely stated that this issue was taken up by them with the States in various meetings with officials of State Governments. Further, all the defaulting State Governments have been informed that during 2016-17, the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of 50% of funds allocated to the State under the scheme would not be released if they failed**

to finalize DAP/SAP. However, this reply of the Department is incomplete as it neither provides details of the States that have complied with the mandatory provision of preparation of DAP/SAP nor provides details of States that have not been able to comply alongwith the reasons for the same. The Committee, therefore, desire that detailed information on this aspect be furnished to them at the earliest. The Committee would also like the Department to continue to motivate the defaulting States to finalize their DAP/SAP without further loss of time.

**G. RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)  
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.20)**

23. The Committee had observed/recommended as under:-

"Another significant issue under RKVY which has captured the attention of the Committee is the differential pricing of agriculture implements under RKVY scheme. This has lead to a peculiar situation wherein particular agri-implement is available at different prices in different States. Further, in spite of the subsidy being provided to the farmers, they end up paying more than the market price of the implement. Further, it has come to the notice of the Committee that implements of a particular brand are being forced upon farmers. Strongly condemning this state of affairs, wherein one vulnerable farmers are being exploited by unscrupulous agents whose sole intention is to make a quick buck, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to look into this matter at the earliest and in tandem with the States to ensure uniform pricing of agri-implements under RKVY in the entire country. The Committee further desires that the subsidy being granted on agriculture implements be provided directly to the farmers who will then exercise their freedom of choice based upon their need."

24. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated as under: -

"1. The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare does not regulate/control the prices of agricultural equipments and machines. However, the respective State Governments empanel suppliers for supply of agricultural machines and equipments alongwith their cost under subsidy schemes/programmes through their process of tendering.

2. The guidelines of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) stipulates that the State Level Executive Committee (SLEC) will be responsible to enlist manufacturers/suppliers who have tested their products either from Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes or any identified institute by DAC&FW and fix the cost of agricultural machinery and equipment on the basis of quality inspection and field performance evaluation for supply under various components of SMAM. However, complete freedom to beneficiary will be available for selection of agricultural machinery and equipment as per his/her choice.

3. Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments for compliance and necessary action in the matter vide letter of even number dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016."

25. **While noting with deep concern that agri-implements were priced differently across the country, the subsidized implements were costlier than the market price, and implements of a particular brand were being forced upon farmers, the Committee had recommended the Department to look into this matter urgently and impress upon all State to ensure uniform pricing of agri-implements under RKVY**

in the entire country. The Committee had also desired the Department to transfer subsidy being granted for purchase of agri-implements directly to the farmers. According the Department they do not regulate/control the prices of agricultural equipment and machines but it is the respective State Governments who empanel suppliers for supply of agri-implements alongwith their cost under subsidy schemes through the process of tendering. Further, the Department has also stated that the beneficiary has the ultimate choice of freedom for selection of agricultural machinery and equipment as per his choice. However, the Committee are not convinced with the Action Taken Reply of the Government. It is a fact that a number of such instances are being reported frequently wherein vulnerable farmers are being exploited by unscrupulous agents. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Government to adopt a pro-active approach in this matter and should coordinate with all States to look into this issue with the alacrity it deserves so that farmers are not exploited by the unscrupulous agents by keeping uniform pricing of agri-implements pan India under RKVY. The Committee also note that the Department is silent on the issue of transfer of subsidy direct to the farmers. The Committee would like the response of the Government in this regard. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the response of the State Governments to the Ministry's letter of even number dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 on the issue.

**H. SUPPORT TO STATE EXTENSION PROGRAMMES  
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.22)**

26. The Committee had observed/recommended as under:-

"The rather candid reply of the Department that the present mechanism for routing Central funds through State Treasuries and increasing State matching share from 10% to 40% have contributed the reduction of allocation at RE stage. In fact, State Government of Maharashtra has requested that the scheme guidelines may be reviewed making provision for implementing the scheme under reduced funding pattern. However, the Committee are of the view that as the revised funding of Central Sector Schemes cannot be revised immediately, it would be but necessary for the Department to take this matter at the highest level with all Implementing States to ensure that they come up with their matching share of 40% under ATMA without fail at the earliest. The Committee also desire that the matter of routing ATMA funds directly to the Implementing Agencies rather than routing the same through State Treasury be looked into at the earliest by the agency concerned. The Committee feel that both these issues need to be tackled with the alacrity they deserve. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard."

27. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated as under: -

"This Department has been regularly taking up this issue with the State Governments to ensure timely release of 40% State Matching Share. State specific letters have been issued at various levels for addressing the key issues including release of State matching for getting 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of funds released in time. As regard transfer of funds to the State Treasuries, this Department has written letters to Senior State level officers including Finance Secretaries for their intervention in the matter and to issue suitable directions to the State Treasuries to facilitate timely release of funds pertaining to ATMA Scheme so that season

based and time bound extension activities are not hampered and salaries to the deployed manpower are paid in time."

28. Guided by the candid admission of the Department that the present mechanism for routing Central funds through State Treasuries and increasing State matching share from 10% to 40% have contributed to reduction of allocation at RE stage, the Committee were of the view that the Department should impress upon implementing states at the highest level to come up with their matching share of 40% under ATMA at the earliest. Further, the Committee had also desired that the matter of routing ATMA funds directly to implementing agencies instead of State Treasury need to be looked into. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has responded that they are regularly taking up this issue with the State Governments to ensure timely release of their matching share of 40%. However, the Committee are anguished to note that their reply is silent on the issue of routing of ATMA funds directly to the implementing and not through State Treasury as is in vogue presently. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that matter of routing ATMA funds directly to the implementing agencies rather than State Treasury be taken up with the State Governments with all seriousness and alacrity it deserves. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department on the issue and the progress achieved therein.

**CHAPTER-II**  
**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.1)**

1. The Committee note that the Action Taken Replies regarding the action taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of the Committee were furnished by the Government within the stipulated three months. The Committee further note that in pursuance of Direction 73-A of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, the Minister concerned is required to make a Statement on the status of implementation of Observations/Recommendations contained in the Original Reports of the Committee within six months of their presentation to the Parliament. However, the Statement under Direction 73-A in the context of Ninth Report of the Committee within the stipulated time. The Committee take strong exception to the failure of the Ministry time and again to adhere to stipulations laid down in Direction 73-A in respect of statements to be made by the Minister concerned. They expect that there will not be a repeat of such lapses in future. The analysis of the action taken by the Government reveals that 65.5% Recommendations have been implemented. 17.25% Recommendations have not been implemented and 17.25% of Recommendations are in various stages of implementation. The Committee desire the Government to take conclusive action in respect of the fourteen Recommendations commented upon in their Ninth Action Taken Report and furnish further action taken notes to the Committee expeditiously.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

The recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee is noted for compliance.

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**NON-FURNISHING OF ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.2)**

2. The Annual Report of any Ministry/Department is an important document in context of examination of Demands for Grants of a Ministry document as it gives an in-depth look into the working of a Ministry/Department in a given financial year. In the instant case, the Committee express their deep anguish over the fact that during the course of examination of Demands for Grants 2016-17 of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, copies of the Annual Report 2015-16 were not made available to them. During the course of oral evidence too, when this matter was raised by the Committee, it did not elicit any response from the Department. Taking a serious note of this serious lapse on part of the Department, the Committee advise the Department to adopt a cautious approach and timely furnish all budget related documents and also ensure that such instances are not repeated in future. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the reasons for non-furnishing of Annual Report 2015-16.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

On account of some issue relating to finalization of the contract for printing, the publication of the Report was delayed. The inconvenience caused due to delay in submission of Annual Report is regretted. Henceforth, it would be ensured that such delays are avoided and copies of Annual Report are submitted in time for examination of the Grants by the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

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**VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.3)**

3. The Committee are well aware of the fact that agriculture plays a vital role in our nation's economy. As per the 2011 census figures about 54.6% of our populace is engaged in agriculture and allied activities and it contributes 17.4% to the country's

Gross Value Added. However, the Committee are constrained to observe that things are not satisfactory in this vital component of the economy and we still far away from achieving the goal of food and nutritional security for the poor people of the Country. The condition of farmers, especially the small and marginal farmers is very pitiable. Due to ever rising cost of agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides etc., alongwith the vagaries of climate change coupled with a myriad of other problems like increasing land fragmentation, depleting soil health, lowering of water table, lack of easy access to institutional credit and not getting the best price for their produce, the agriculture sector is no longer a viable vocation. Deeply perturbed and concerned at this alarming state of affairs, the Committee impress upon the Government to take a stock of the situation in a holistic manner and work in real earnest to bringing a turnaround of the agriculture sector and ensuring that ever toiling farmers of the country are adequately paid in return for their produce. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

As Agriculture is a state subject, it is for the State Governments to take appropriate measures for its overall development in the State. Government of India only supplements the efforts made by the State Governments development the sector through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. The Department has launched a number of new schemes recently in this regard that would go a long way in giving a boost to the growth of the sector. Some of these schemes are as under:

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can identify the major and minor nutrients present in their soils so as to ensure judicious use of fertilisers. This would significantly reduced the cost of farming. Balanced use of fertilisers would enhance soil productivity and thus ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated. From the current year (i.e. 2016), the urea that is imported would also be neem coated.

(iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented to promote organic farming in the country. Adoption of organic farming will improve soil health by improving organic matter content of the soil and enable the farmer to get premium prices for his organic produce.

(iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.

(v) In addition, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET); Unified National Agricultural Markets (NAM); and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

(vi) A new crop Insurance scheme, namely, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented from Kharif 2016 season. The Scheme has addressed the shortcomings in the earlier National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) scheme and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.

(vii) The Government provides interest subvention @ 3% on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.

Further the Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme(MPS) on the request of State/UT Government. The MIS is implemented to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared by the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). Profit, if any, earned by the procuring agencies is retained by them.

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**ATTRACTING RURAL YOUTH TOWARDS AGRICULTURE**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.4)**

4. Apart from increasing the financial allocation to the Agriculture Sector, the Committee are also of the firm conviction that the vocation of Agriculture needs to be a remunerative one like any other vocation. A sense of pride needs to be infused if this vital sector of the economy is to attract youth especially, the rural educated youth. These youth need to be given institutional training to develop their entrepreneurship skills in the field of agriculture apart from providing institutional finance at easy terms to kick start their ventures. The Committee hope that as result of involvement of youth in agriculture, the core sector of our economy could become sustainable and viable. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

Educated Youth in Agriculture & allied sectors are encouraged to develop Entrepreneurship skills in the field of agriculture. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India is implementing a scheme of "Agri-clinics & Agri-Business Centres (ACABC) Scheme" in which 2 months institutional training (MANAGE through

selected Nodal Training Institute (NTI) across India) and financial assistance (Back Ended Subsidy) through NABARD to Nationalized and Rural Cooperative Banks are being provided. In the same way, one programme, namely, Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) is being implemented by ICAR and scheme for Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY) is being implemented by DAC&FW involving rural youth in agriculture (**ANNEXURE-1**).

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### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 7 of Chapter I of this Report.

### **SHARE OF AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTOR IN CENTRAL PLAN (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.5)**

5. The augmentation of share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in the Central Plan is one which has been espoused by the Committee time and again. From the figures furnished by the Department, the Committee note that the share of DAC&FW in the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plans is Rs.13,200 crore, Rs.66577 crore and Rs.71,500/- crore respectively. In percentage terms this works out to 1.48%, 3.09% and 1.65% respectively. Thus, the share of the Department in the Central Plan in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan has declined with respect to 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. However, in its explanation, the Department submitted that the allocation approved for 12<sup>th</sup> Plan is Rs.1,34,746.00 crore and not Rs.71,500.00 crore. Also, the percentage share of the Department with respect to the total Central Plan is actually 3.11% and not 1.65%. While expressing their satisfaction over this increase in plan allocation, the Committee are of the opinion that this increase is just incremental and falls way short of what the agriculture sector actually needs. Further, the Committee are also aware that inspite of this increase, the share of agriculture and allied sectors is way less than those of other Departments of the social sector. While accepting this fact, the Secretary of the Department submitted before the Committee that they would be requesting the Ministry of Finance for increased allocation. Taking into focus the plight of our farmers and being well aware that the country has

miles to go before it can achieve the goal of Food and Nutritional Security for all, the Committee urge the Ministry of Finance to increase the share of the Department in Central Plan so that various schemes undertaken by them do not suffer for want of funds. The Committee would like the Department to take initiative to impress upon the Ministry of Finance to allocate funds to them as per their requirement at RE stage.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

- (a) Para (5) and (6) pertain to the issue of adequacy of budgetary allocations and alignment of resources approved by Planning Commission for a particular sector with actual allocation by Budget Division. The total plan outlay for plan period is subject to the availability of resources and fiscal space at the time of actual allocation of resources to Ministries/Departments. Apart from these two overriding factors, the allocation is decided in detailed consultation with line Ministries/Departments as per their actual requirement and capacity to spend in a particular fiscal. Due care is taken to ensure that the releases made by the Government to implementing agencies are actually spent on the ground with minimum possible time lag.
- (b) Many new initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil health card, organic farming in NE, Paramparagat Krishi Yojana etc. have been taken in past two years which have been getting priority and sufficient resources in the budget. Besides, the imposition of Krishi Kalyan Cess is further expected to mobilize resources for improvement of agriculture sector.

The mismatch between approved outlays by Planning Commission and actual allocation is due to reasons as explained above. Besides, GoI has been giving very high priority to the agriculture and allied sector and providing sufficient resources for the overall improvement and growth of the sector.

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## **MISMATCH BETWEEN APPROVED OUTLAY AND ACTUAL ALLOCATION (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.6)**

6. The approved plan outlay of the Department for the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan Period is Rs.134746.00 crore. However, it has been observed by the Committee that BE for all the five fiscals amounts to only Rs.101172.35 crore, which means a reduction of Rs.33573.65 crore during the period. Not only this, the RE for the four fiscals amounts to Rs.71897.32 crore. Going by the precedent, the Committee are very sure that even in the current fiscal the BE of Rs.20400.00 crore would be pruned at RE stage. What raises the apprehension of the Committee is rather standard reply of the Department that Revised Estimates, vis-a-vis the Budget Estimates are decided by the Ministry of Finance based on its internal assessment of the fund requirements of the Department keeping in view the overall macro-economic situation of the country. The Committee do not buy this argument at all as they view it as the mockery of planning process and the failure of the Department to convince the Ministry of Finance to allocate funds as per their plan. Irrespective of the approved outlay, the BE would be significantly lower than the approved outlay and again the actual allocation i.e. RE would be lower than the BE. Due to a considerable variation in the figures of approved outlay, BE & RE, the Committee feel that this issue needs to be looked into afresh. The Committee, therefore, exhort upon the Ministry of Finance to arrive at a formula wherein there is a semblance between approved outlay, BE and RE figures so as to make this exercise rational, realistic and meaningful for effective implementation of the various schemes undertaken by the Department. The Committee would also like the Department to take up this issue with the Ministry of Finance.

### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

(b) Para (5) and (6) pertain to the issue of adequacy of budgetary allocations and alignment of resources approved by Planning Commission for a particular sector with actual allocation by Budget Division. The total plan outlay for plan period is subject to the availability of resources and fiscal space at the time of actual allocation of resources to Ministries/Departments. Apart from these two overriding

factors, the allocation is decided in detailed consultation with line Ministries/Departments as per their actual requirement and capacity to spend in a particular fiscal. Due care is taken to ensure that the releases made by the Government to implementing agencies are actually spent on the ground with minimum possible time lag.

- b) Many new initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil health card, organic farming in NE, Paramparagat Krishi Yojana etc. have been taken in past two years which have been getting priority and sufficient resources in the budget. Besides, the imposition of Krishi Kalyan Cess is further expected to mobilize resources for improvement of agriculture sector.

The mismatch between approved outlays by Planning Commission and actual allocation is due to reasons as explained above. Besides, GoI has been giving very high priority to the agriculture and allied sector and providing sufficient resources for the overall improvement and growth of the sector.

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#### **UNDER UTILIZATION OF FUNDS EARMARKED FOR NORTH EASTERN STATES** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.9)**

9. 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. Needless to say, the under utilization of funds has had a negative impact on the overall growth and development of agriculture sector in North Eastern States. The Committee, therefore, desire that the issue needs to be looked into comprehensively in consultation with all involved in the process and expedite optimum utilization of funds earmarked for North East States. In this regard, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare may 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 optimum utilization of funds meant

for the North Eastern Region for schemes being implemented by them. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress made in this regard.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

Agriculture being a State subject, It is for the State Governments in the North-East to take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in their States. However, taking note of the agricultural strengths specific to the North Eastern Region, Government of India has initiated a scheme of “Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region” from 2015-16 whereby development of organic farming in the region would be supported in a substantial manner. Apart from this, a Horticulture Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan (HMNEH) States is under implementation as part of the Umbrella Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). It is believed that implementing schemes that cater to specific requirement of NER would ensure better acceptance by the beneficiaries, and hence, better fund utilization. Apart from this, the matter is being taken up regularly by the Department with NER States in various review meetings held from time to time to expedite fund utilization.

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#### **PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAI YOJANA (PMKSY)** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.10)**

10. Being well aware of the fact that major part of our agriculture is rain fed, the Committee view the scheme of PMKSY as a step in the right direction for enabling our agriculture to break free from the shackles of overdependence on monsoon for providing water to the crops. The involvement of three agencies viz. Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme; Department of Land Resources for Integrated Watershed Management Programme and Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for On Farm Water Management gives it a holistic look as it more or less encompasses all the areas of irrigation. The Committee would stress upon increased cooperation amongst the three agencies so as to ensure the smooth working and viability of this scheme.

DAC&FW, being the nodal agency for PMKSY, has its task cut out as not only does it have to ensure the smooth implementation of its responsibility On Farm Water Management, but also needs to act as a facilitator and coordinator with the other two Departments. The Committee hope that as a result of concerted and coordinated efforts by the participating agencies including the DAC&FW, the avowed objectives of the scheme to provide Water Security to agriculture sector would be achieved. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made under the scheme.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

To improve the implementation of PMKSY and to ensure better co-ordination and convergence, It was decided that the PMKSY is to be implemented in Mission Mode approach. The Mission will be steered by Ministry of Water Resources with Addl/Special Secretary of Ministry of Water Resources as Mission Director and Joint Secretaries of Department of Land Resources & Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare as Addl. Mission Director responsible for implementation of their respective components and functioning of the Mission. As per decision, the overall coordination of project implementation under PMKSY including monitoring has been entrusted to M/o Water Resources, RD & GR and Niti Aayog. To this effect a Cabinet Note has been circulated by MoWR. Details of strategies for effective implementation of the PMKSY can only be conveyed only after the structure of the Mission is approved by the Cabinet.

However, as per the existing guidelines of PMKSY, at National level 'National Steering Committee' under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister and 'National Executive Committee' under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog have been constituted to ensure effective coordination/ convergence of programme components.

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**PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAI YOJANA (PMKSY)**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.11)**

11. So far as the ambit of DAC&FW under PMKSY is concerned, the Committee desire that the Department should work in real earnest in ensuring Per Drop More Crop component of the programme resulting in efficiency and optimum utilization of available water resources. This would also ensure that water storage and water conservation/management activities would finally be able to provide support to the farmers in the eventuality of a weak/lean monsoon and mitigate the adverse impact of drought/drought like situation on agriculture to a great extent. The Committee expect that the Department will take all measures involving proper implementation of the scheme and the effective monitoring and adherence to the timelines. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the time period by which the Government hopes to provide water to all fields in the country.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

The component of Per Drop More Crop mostly aims at efficient use of water at farm level. DAC&FW has been assigned the responsibility of implementation of this component. During 2015-16 area of 5.60 lakh ha. has been covered under Precision Irrigation and it is targeted to cover 8.00 lakh ha. in 2016-17. A dedicated MIS system to monitor the programme is in place.

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**PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAI YOJANA (PMKSY)**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.12)**

12. The Committee take note of the fact that the programme architecture of PMKSY envisages a 'decentralized State Level planning and projectised execution' Structure that will allow States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plans(DIPs) and State Irrigation Plans(SIPs) prioritising the immediate needs of a State. Further, 148 draft DIPs have been prepared and are in the process of approval by State Level Sanctioning Committees. It was also stated that the Government is expecting that DIPs for all districts would be ready by September 2016. Being of the firm conviction that formulation and approval of DIPs/SIPs are the bedrock of the PMKSY, the

Committee recommend that the Department should impress upon all States/UTs the necessity and importance of formulating and approving their DIPs/SIPs by the stipulated timeline. The Department should provide all necessary support to the States/UTs in this regard to ensure compliance of the deadline. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

For preparation of DIPs, 6 national training programmes were arranged in which 153 officers have been trained. States were also supported for organising State Level Workshops for DIP preparation. Funds have been provided to the States for preparation of DIPs for all the districts.

Against the target of preparation of 100 DIPs in the 2015-16, 235 DIPs have been prepared by 31.03.2016 and many states are in the process of finalizing the DIPs in the current fiscal.

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**PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA(PMFBY)**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.14)**

14. The Committee express their satisfaction on being informed that in order to make crop insurance simple and cheaper for farmers and to provide them with better insurance services, a Central Sector scheme of PMFBY has been approved by the Government, replacing the erstwhile schemes of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Insurance Scheme (MNAIS). PMFBY is a marked improvement over the earlier schemes as it provides comprehensive risk coverage from pre-sowing to post-harvest losses. Unit area has been reduced to Village/Village Panchayat Level. Also for localised risks like hailstorm, landslide and inundation, claims will be settled on individual farm basis, etc.. While the Committee would like to wait and watch before passing any comments on PMFBY, they feel that the farmers need to be explained the benefits of PMFBY in vernacular language repeatedly, before they are totally convinced that by subscribing to PMFBY they would actually safeguarding their crops from damage due to vagaries of nature. In this regard, the Committee desire that vigorous publicity and

awareness campaign about the benefits of the scheme may be made amongst farmers in print and media in their vernacular language. The Committee recommend that Agri-clinics and Agribusiness Centres be roped in for generating awareness on PMFBY.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

To enhance the coverage of farmers/areas and to popularize the PMFBY, Government is undertaking a comprehensive publicity and awareness programme to educate the farmers about the benefit of crop insurance schemes. Capacity building and training programmes for other stakeholders are also being organized. The salient activities under awareness campaign, involve the publicity of features & benefits of the scheme through advertisements in leading National/local News Papers in vernacular language, telecast through audio-visual media, distribution of pamphlets in vernacular language, participation in agriculture fairs / mela / gosti and organization of workshops / trainings and SMS through Kisan Portal etc. State Governments/UTs are also being regularly persuaded to increase the coverage including notifying more crops under crop Insurance schemes. Recently, one day seminar/kisan fair especially on the PMFBY has been organized at various Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) from 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 throughout the country. The pamphlet containing main features and FAQ in vernacular languages has also been distributed in different Kisan Sammelans/fares. Publicity through print & electronic media including TV & Radio are also been done.

Comprehensive media policy has been prepared for using various channels including Agri-clinics and Agribusiness Centers for creation of awareness about the benefits of the scheme.

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#### **INTEGRATED SCHEME ON AGRICULTURAL MARKETING (ISAM)** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.16)**

16. The Committee concur with the submission of the Department that for marketing infrastructure the scheme will have to be rationalised so as to ensure that subsidy is not cornered by a few States/Projects. Also it should be explored whether allocations should be made to States based on their existing capacity or need to work out on the basis of

their food grains and oilseeds marketing surplus. Lastly, subsidy ceiling limits may have to be restricted upto smaller capacities and amounts so as to ensure that small/marginal farmers may get maximum benefit and subsidy is available for more number of projects. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department may act upon their suggestions at the earliest.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

Suggestions of the Committee have been noted for compliance. The integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) [of which Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) is a sub-scheme] was approved for XII Plan period 2012-17. If the scheme is to be continued further and funds are made available, the scheme guidelines would be revised and suggestions of the Committee be suitably incorporated in the revised guidelines.

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**RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.17)**

17. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the flagship scheme of the Ministry has ensured increase in allocation to agriculture and allied sectors by States from Rs.8770.16 crore (4.88% of total States Plan Expenditure) in 2006-07 to Rs.38768.47 crore (8.36% of total State Plan Expenditure) during 2013-14. RKVY during course of its implementation has triggered substantial additional investment in agriculture by the States. It has also emerged as one of the principal instrument in financing development of agriculture and allied sector in the country. However, the Committee note with concern that the bug of under-utilization of allocated funds by State/UTs has not spared this flagship scheme either. The Department has explained that they always insist on furnishing of UCs alongwith the progress report at the time of release of funds. Utilization of funds released under RKVY is done by the prerogative of State Government. Further, late utilization of funds by some States may be attributed to weather related factors. Completion of infrastructural projects takes longer time in comparison to other projects due to which states have unspent balances. While agreeing with the views of the Department, the Committee feel that the Department, being the nodal agency can not absolve themselves

on the issue. The under-utilization of funds reflects the point that the mechanism in place to monitor the scheme is not effective and needs to be strengthened and made active. The Committee, therefore impress upon the Department that the existing mechanism to monitor the scheme may be made pro-active, so as to ensure optimum utilization of funds by the State Governments/Implementing Agencies.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

It has been made mandatory for the State to enter the progress of implementation of the scheme in the web-based monitoring system developed by DAC&FW. The progress of implementation has been reviewed by the Department. The issue of under utilization of funds and the need for effective implementation RKVY scheme has been taken up with the officials of the State Governments during desk review meetings held by the Department every year to review the progress of implementation in the States. Department has also time and again impressed upon all the States in Desk Review meetings and also through various communications the need for timely utilization of fund to avail 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment.

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**SUPPORT TO STATE EXTENSION PROGRAMMES**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.21)**

21. The Committee are distressed to note that BE for the scheme has been pruned at RE Stage during the first four fiscals and actual expenditure is lower than the RE. The reasons for the same have been attributed to the fact that majority of the States/UTs have not submitted their approved State Extension Work Plan (SEWP) in time. Hence, the pace of expenditure during the first and second quarter of a financial year is slow. Also, States furnish their demands for grants at the fag end of a financial year. Notwithstanding the argument put forth by the Department, the Committee express their dissatisfaction with the financial performance of the Department under the scheme. Keeping in view the pivotal nature of the scheme, the Committee recommend that bottlenecks which impede the effective implementation of the scheme be addressed at

the earliest. The Department being the nodal agency should play pro active role and motivate the Implementing Agencies to ensure optimum utilization of central funds.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

In order to motivate the Implementing Agencies to enhance their active participation in implementation of the ATMA Scheme and ensure optimum utilization of Central fund / share, regular written communications are sent to the States/UTs at various levels to complete all essentialities for release of funds and submit their approved State Extension Work Plans (SEWPs) well in advance in addition to improving their pace of expenditure. Besides, a regular in-depth State-wise review of implementation of the Scheme is undertaken during the Zonal Input Conferences held twice every year for Rabi & Kharif season. Apart from this, regular day-to-day follow-up with States is also being done through e-mails, Video Conferences etc. For ensuring effective implementation of the Schemes in the real field situation, support for procurement of IT related equipment i.e. Pico-Projector and Hand-Held Devices for use of field level functions has also been provided to the States/ UTs.

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#### **SUPPORT TO STATE EXTENSION PROGRAMMES** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.23)**

23. On the aspect of under-achievement of physical targets under the scheme, the Committee were informed that this was due to higher targets kept by the States in their SEWPs, whereas achievement is based on actual availability of funds and implementation during a financial year. Taking a cue from the Ministry's admission, the Committee desire that the Ministry take up the issue with the States bringing the targets fixed at a realistic level guided by the achievements of the previous year as well as the availability of funds.

## **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

As per the Scheme Guidelines, States are encouraged to prepare their Action Plans for a large shelf of projects/activities to be able to get more funds in case some other States default on this count. As such, better performing States have been encouraged to seek higher revised allocations against approved activities in respect of Work Plans submitted by them.

During 2015-16, some States have got about 150% more funds than their original allocation. However during 2016-17, while sharing GoI comments with States on their draft State Extension Work Plans, State Governments are being requested to restrict their SEWP only up to 150% more than their State's tentative allocation (GoI + State) so that targets are kept near to realistic.

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## **SUPPORT TO STATE EXTENSION PROGRAMMES** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.24)**

24. The Committee note 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 percolate down to the farmers for implementation along with their 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 impress upon States to conduct periodic training of farmers, who would then act as farmer trainers to train more farmers. On field training of farmers assumes significance importance as in the Committee's considered view 'Seeing is Believing' and a farmer is easily able to assimilate the knowledge gained via live

demonstration and then replicate the same on his field. The Committee, therefore, desire that on field training of farmers may be organized regularly and frequently in all parts of the country.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

The Government has been trying to strengthen extension system in the country by empowering the ATMA institution by way of providing committed extension functionaries at all levels, especially block level where the no. of Assistant Technology Managers (ATMs) have been enhanced to an average of 3 per block, so that effective and timely dissemination of information to the farmers can be ensured. Out of total eligibility of 27664 posts at all levels under the Scheme, States have reported deployment of over 13772 manpower. Regular efforts and follow-up is being made to impress upon States to fill up all their vacant posts.

For accelerating the pace of implementation of ATMA Scheme in the field, funds have been released to State Governments in October, 2015 to procure Pico-Projectors and Hand-Held Devices. The process for procurement of these IT equipment is in advance stage in majority of the States.

The on field training of farmers under the Scheme is ensured through Demonstrations organized at Farmers Fields and Farm Schools which are run by progressive farmers. A total of 2,42,109 Demonstrations and 10838 Farm Schools have been organized during 2015-16

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**SUPPORT TO STATE EXTENSION PROGRAMMES**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.25)**

25. The Committee also desire that meetings of ATMA Core Committee i.e. Governing Board, Block Technology Team, Block Farmer Advisory Committee, District Farmer Advisory Committee and State Farmer Advisory Committee be held regularly as

per norms and people's representatives may also be made a party to these sittings and be informed of the same well in advance, so as to ensure their participation in these meetings.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

This Department has been regularly requesting the State Governments to convene meeting of ATMA Core Committees as per norms laid down in the Guidelines during the course of all Review Meetings. Besides, this information also forms a part of the Reporting Format of Monthly/Annual Progress Report, Tour Report of Visiting Officers and now the Extension Reforms Monitoring System (ERMS) – a Portal for online submission of Reports.

Further, as per ATMA Guidelines, farmers are not only represented on Farmer Advisory Committees set up at Block, District and State level but their participation is also essentially ensured in all other Core Committees viz. Inter-Departmental working Group (IDWG); ATMA Governing Board and ATMA Management Committee (Annexure - II).

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**AGRI-CLINICS AND AGRI BUSINESS CENTRES BY AGRICULTURE GRADUATES (ACABCs)**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.26)**

26. Noting that the scheme aims to provide extension and also to promote self-employment in agriculture sector by way of setting up of agri-ventures, the Committee opine that the Government work towards actively involving agri-graduates in extension related activities like soil-testing and also involve them in educating farmers on Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and then ensuring farmers subscribe to this scheme. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Department in this regard.

### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

Apart from providing the Extension services by Agripreneurs, under the scheme the Agripreneurs are dealing with 32 different service areas. Soil Testing & Crop Insurance areas are already covered (Details are given in Annexure-III). However, emphasis will be given to attract more agripreneurs in the field of soil testing and educating farmers on Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

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### **SUB-MISSION ON SEED AND PLANTING MATERIAL** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.27)**

27. The Committee emphasize the importance played by quality seed as a vital agricultural input. To take care of this, the SMSP proposes to intervene to cover the entire gamut of seed chain from nucleus seed to supply to farmers for sowing and also to major stakeholders in the seed chains. This fact has gained credence as is evident in the 14 components of the sub-mission. Keeping this aside, what concerns the Committee are the cases of spurious seeds and pesticides being sold by unscrupulous agents. These people have a simple trick policy of making a fast buck, whilst spelling economic disaster for the farmer who uses their products. Being well aware of the turmoil caused to the farmers by these unscrupulous agents, the Committee recommend that swift and strict action be initiated against those indulging in this malpractice. Further, the Department should seek exemplary punishment for these racketeers so that they are deterred before venturing into sale of spurious seeds and pesticide. The Committee further desire that the details of these agents/firms may be furnished alongwith the action initiated against them at the earliest.

### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

Agriculture is State Subject and Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance for the seed related activities through various crop development schemes/ programmes. National

Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil-Palm (NMOOP), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSM), etc., which are implemented through State Governments. Quality seeds are provided to various State Governments at affordable prices through these schemes for their distribution to farmers by implementing agencies viz. State Seeds Certification Agencies, State Seeds Corporations, State Agricultural Universities, etc.

Seed Division is implementing Sub-Mission for Seed and Planting Material (SMSM) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) w.e.f. 01.04.2014 on all India basis through State/ UT Departments of Agriculture, State Seed Corporations, State Seed Certification Agencies, State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, National Seeds Corporation, etc. The main objective of the Sub-Mission is to develop/strengthen seed sector and to enhance production and multiplication of high yielding certified/ quality seeds of all agricultural crops and making it available to the farmers at affordable prices and also place an effective system for protection of plant varieties, rights of farmers and plant breeders to encourage development of new varieties of plants.

The seed quality regime in the country is governed by the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 made there under and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. In addition to these legal instruments, various guidelines and policy parameters have been laid down in the National Seeds Policy, 2002. There is greater emphasis on seed quality assurance particularly to safeguard the interest of the farmers. In addition, significant changes have occurred in the country's socio-economic conditions. The economy has been substantially liberalised and the private sector is playing an increasing role in various spheres including agriculture. These ongoing changes require upgradation of seed production, quality and regulatory standards. Therefore, a need has arisen for updating the seed quality regulatory regime by enacting a new legislation.

This Department has proposed Seeds Bill 2004 with the objective to regulate the quality of seeds and planting materials of all agricultural, horticultural and plantation

crops to ensure availability of true to type seeds for Indian farmers; curb the sale of spurious and poor quality seeds; protect the rights of farmers, increase private participation in seed production; distribution and seed testing; liberalize imports of seeds and planting materials, etc., which is pending in Rajya Sabha since 2004.

Further, Seed Inspectors are appointed by the States under Seed Act, 1966 as seed law enforcement is vested with the State Government. Details of state-wise Seed Law Enforcement actions for the last three years viz. 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are enclosed {Appendix(A-D)}.

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**Appendix-A**

**Progress Report of Seed Law Enforcement for the year 2013-14**

S. No	State	Total No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of cases stop sale order issued	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/ imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending in Court of Law	No. of cases where seed forfeited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7204	133	133	215	133	Nil	133	6
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	11874	109	22	1	0	0	0	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	1981	344	344	344	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	139	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
6.	Gujarat	5949	140	37	140	81	2	79	0
7.	Haryana	3673	53	30	-	20	-	20	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	398	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	734	18	-	18	18	16*	-	-
10.	Jharkhand	3199	47	10	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	9284	61	14	22	25	10	0	0
12.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2845	517	-	528	0	0	0	0
14.	Maharashtra	20681	894	592	1293	311	3	63	33
15.	Odisha	2392	543	25	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Punjab	4785	188	0	12	0	0	0	0
17.	Puducherry	224	38	1	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Rajasthan	4104	215	-	19	91	-	91	0
19.	Tamil Nadu	61002	2531	1595	2042	366	264	102	0
20.	Telangana	6788	170	163	143	170	18	152	6
21.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	U.P.	3126	79	15	2	2	0	0	0
23.	Uttarakhand	263	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
24.	W.B.	2357	339	120	130	0	0	0	0

\* Fine collected Rs. 7900/-

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**Appendix-B**

**Progress Report of Seed Law Enforcement for the year 2014-15**

S. No	State	Total No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of cases stop sale order issued	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/ imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending in Court of Law	No. of cases where seed forfeited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7535	269	269	115	269	Nil	269	4
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	14683	53	19	0	1	0	1	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	2182	369	369	369	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	164	4	3	4	4	1	15	-
6.	Gujarat	5517	113	23	113	70	3	67	0
7.	Haryana	4256	32	10	-	22	-	22	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	234	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	736	4	-	4	4	4*	-	0
10.	Jharkhand	1025	13	3	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	7050	121	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2741	549	348	547	8	0	0	0
14.	Maharashtra	20541	2205	472	1411	1296	25	610	172
15.	Odisha	1325	296	16	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Puducherry	154	44	3	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Punjab	4614	544	0	31	8	0	8	0
18.	Rajasthan	5136	314	-	13	47	-	47	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	58022	2642	2159	1334	270	212	58	0
20.	Telangana	7310	133	139	117	137	7	129	4
21.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	U.P.	4179	67	25	10	5	0	3	0
23.	Uttarakhand	262	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
24.	W.B.	28600	2272	187	144	0	0	0	0

\* \* Fine collected Rs. 1750/-

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**Appendix-C**

**Progress Report of Seed Law Enforcement for the year 2015-16**

S. No	State	Total No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of cases stop sale order issued	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/ imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending in Court of Law	No. of cases where seed forfeited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22274	537	537	350	450	0	450	15
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	14991	225	103	33	4	0	4	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	2263	190	190	190	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	82	8	6	7	5	7	13	-
6.	Gujarat	4092	113	4	72	18	0	18	0
7.	Haryana	3778	122	13	-	13	-	13	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	290	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	779	12	-	11	11	8*	-	-
10.	Jharkhand	1117	48	5	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	7368	70	236	0	56	1	24	0
12.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3610	362	222	360	1	0	1	0
14.	Maharashtra	17430	375	168	1300	25	5	59	15
15.	Odisha	1824	343	18	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Puducherry	212	32	3	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Punjab	4180	535	0	7	11	0	11	0
18.	Rajasthan	3404	95	-	17	8	-	8	0
19.	Tamil Nadu	61285	2665	2311	1513	403	311	92	0
20.	Telangana	7283	157	148	140	177	10	158	9
21.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	U.P.	4502	65	23	15	7	0	8	0
23.	Uttarakhand	347	24	23	1	0	0	0	0
24.	W.B.	15488	1986	158	248	0	0	0	0

\* Fine collected Rs. 3600/-

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**Statement showing Progress Report of Seed Law Enforcement for the State of Jammu & Kashmir last 3 years**

S.No	Year	No. of Licences issued	Total No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found substandard	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of Cases in which stop sale orders issued	No. of cases filed in the court of Law	No. of cases decided by court of Law fine/imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending in court of Law	No. of cases where seed forfeited
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8#	9	10
1	2013-14	300	1176	18	NA	18	19	16	01	Nil
2	2014-15	330	895	07	22	13	07	07*	03	Nil
3	2015-16	397	946	20	26	14	16	16**	04	Nil

# Recovered Rs.7900/- as fine.

\*Recovered Rs.3050/- as fine.

\*\*Recovered Rs. 5500/-as fine.

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### **CHAPTER - III**

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

**- NIL -**

## **CHAPTER - IV**

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

#### **SLOW PACED UTILIZATION OF FUNDS** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.7)**

7. Notwithstanding the argument put forth by the Department that their utilization of funds has been around 99.23%, 98.53%, 98.26% and 96% (provisional) of RE during the fiscals 2012-13; 2013-14; 2014-15 and 2015-16, the facts remain that the funds allocated to them have been drastically cut down with reference to funds actually required as reflected in BE as per their plan of action. The Department cannot rest satisfied based on high percentage of utilization of RE funds, as contrary to the fact their plan of action has been affected due to drastic cut in the approved plan outlay. Thus, by relying on RE figures, the Ministry is trying to put a lid over the slow pace of utilization of funds during the first two quarters of a fiscal year which results in Ministry of Finance resorting to reducing the allocation at RE Stage. If BE figures are taken into consideration, then percentage of actual utilizations dips to 87.74%; 86.63%; 86.02% and 82.71% (provisional) for the fiscals under consideration. The Committee are of the firm opinion that the later figure is more accurate as it reflects the true picture. On the flip side if credence is to be given only to actual utilization figures vis-a-vis RE figures, this will ultimately prove detrimental to the overall growth and development of agri-sector due to slow-pace of utilization of funds with reference to BE. The Committee therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take a holistic view in the matter and efforts should be made for optimum utilization of funds in the first two quarters under various schemes implemented by them. In this regard the Department should impress upon the implementing agencies i.e. States/UTs to expedite the pace of utilization of funds so as to demand more funds from the Ministry of Finance.

### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

The Department internally reviews the pace of utilization of funds on a weekly basis in Senior Officers meetings. Apart from this, the Department has been taking up the issue of expediting fund utilization with State Governments and implementing agencies on a regular basis in meetings as well as through letters. The Department is covered under the Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) of Ministry of Finance where amount of funds that can be released in a particular quarter is fixed. The Department has been strictly adhering to the MEP.

It may, however, be mentioned that release of funds by the department depends on timely release of matching share by the state governments and submission of utilization certificates.

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### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 10 of Chapter I of this Report.

### **OUTSTANDING UTILIZATION CERTIFICATES** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.8)**

8. The issue of liquidation of Outstanding Utilization Certificates has been raised time and again by the Committee in their earlier Reports. The Committee have been apprised that inspite of the efforts of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), as on 31 March, 2016, 414 Utilization Certificates are still pending, amounting to Rs.726.95 crore. While appreciating the efforts put in by the Department with regard to liquidation of Outstanding Utilization Certificates, the Committee feel that the entire issue needs to be relooked afresh, so that corrective measures may be taken to address the issue comprehensively. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should take up the matter proactively with all State

Governments/Implementing Agencies ensuring a lasting solution to this perennial problem. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiative undertaken by the Department in this regard.

**REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

As on 25.07.2016, 743 UCs for an amount of Rs. 1853.87 Crores only are outstanding for funds released up to 31.3.2015. The Department and Principal Accounts Office is monitoring status of outstanding Utilization Certificates rigorously and no funds are being released without submission of the Utilization Certificates.

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**COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 13 of Chapter I of this Report.

**RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)**  
**(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.18)**

18. The Committee have been informed that from April, 2016, the Ministry's online monitoring mechanism would be functional which would ensure uploading of up to date figures at the touch of a button and thereby providing the much needed dynamism to the monitoring mechanism. It has further been stated that Central Teams under a Joint Secretary conduct field visits every two months. However, the Committee are anguished to note that the visit of the Central teams are confined to the State Capital level only. However, the Committee is of the opinion that these visits should invariably be done at the district level so as to get the situation prevalent at the ground level. The Committee would like the Department to act accordingly.

## **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

The issue of non finalization of State Agriculture Plan (SAP) / District Agriculture Plan (DAP) by various State Governments were taken up by the Department with the State Government in various meetings held with officials of State Governments. All the defaulting State Governments have been informed that during 2016-17, the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of 50% of funds allocated to the State under the scheme would not be released if they failed to finalize DAP/SAP.

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## **COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 19 of Chapter I of this Report.

### **RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.19)**

19. The Committee express their concern to note that out of the 29 States, only 8 States have prepared their State Agriculture Plan (SAP) and out of the 652 Districts, District Agriculture Plan (DAP) for only 194 District have been prepared as on date despite the fact that preparation of DAP and SAP is mandatory and has been mentioned in the revised guidelines of the scheme for the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. This sordid state of affairs is reflective of the lackadaisical approach of all concerned and pervading morass in the system as a result of which the entire agriculture sector has to suffer. Strongly deprecating this fact, the Committee urge the Department to get the message conveyed to all State/UTs for strict compliance with the mandatory provision to prepare SAP/DAP without any further loss of time. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Department in this regard.

## **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

The issue of non finalization of State Agriculture Plan (SAP) / District Agriculture Plan (DAP) by various State Governments were taken up by the Department with the State Government in various meetings held with officials of State Governments. All the defaulting State Governments have been informed that during 2016-17, the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of 50% of funds allocated to the State under the scheme would not be released if they failed to finalize DAP/SAP.

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## **COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 22 of Chapter I of this Report.

### **RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.20)**

20 Another significant issue under RKVY which has captured the attention of the Committee is the differential pricing of agriculture implements under RKVY scheme. This has lead to a peculiar situation wherein particular agri-implement is available at different prices in different States. Further, in spite of the subsidy being provided to the farmers, they end up paying more than the market price of the implement. Further, it has come to the notice of the Committee that implements of a particular brand are being forced upon farmers. Strongly condemning this state of affairs, wherein one vulnerable farmers are being exploited by unscrupulous agents whose sole intention is to make a quick buck, the Committee impress upon the Ministry to look into this matter at the earliest and in tandem with the States to ensure uniform pricing of agri-implements under RKVY in the entire country. The Committee further desires that the subsidy being granted on agriculture implements be provided directly to the farmers who will then exercise their freedom of choice based upon their need.

### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

1. The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare does not regulate/control the prices of agricultural equipments and machines. However, the respective State Governments **empanel suppliers** for supply of agricultural machines and equipments alongwith their cost under subsidy schemes/programmes through their process of tendering.
2. The guidelines of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) stipulates that the State Level Executive Committee (SLEC) will be responsible to enlist manufacturers/suppliers who have tested their products either from Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes or any identified institute by DAC&FW and fix the cost of agricultural machinery and equipment on the basis of quality inspection and field performance evaluation for supply under various components of SMAM. However, complete freedom to beneficiary will be available for selection of agricultural machinery and equipment as per his/her choice.
3. Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments for compliance and necessary action in the matter vide letter of even number dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016."

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### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 25 of Chapter I of this Report.

### **SUPPORT TO STATE EXTENSION PROGRAMMES** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.22)**

22. The rather candid reply of the Department that the present mechanism for routing Central funds through State Treasuries and increasing State matching share from 10% to 40% have contributed the reduction of allocation at RE stage.

In fact, State Government of Maharashtra has requested that the scheme guidelines may be reviewed making provision for implementing the scheme under reduced funding pattern. However, the Committee are of the view that as the revised funding of Central Sector Schemes cannot be revised immediately, it would be but necessary for the Department to take this matter at the highest level with all Implementing States to ensure that they come up with their matching share of 40% under ATMA without fail at the earliest. The Committee also desire that the matter of routing ATMA funds directly to the Implementing Agencies rather than routing the same through State Treasury be looked into at the earliest by the agency concerned. The Committee feel that both these issues need to be tackled with the alacrity they deserve. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

This Department has been regularly taking up this issue with the State Governments to ensure timely release of 40% State Matching Share. State specific letters have been issued at various levels for addressing the key issues including release of State matching for getting 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of funds released in time. As regard transfer of funds to the State Treasuries, this Department has written letters to Senior State level officers including Finance Secretaries for their intervention in the matter and to issue suitable directions to the State Treasuries to facilitate timely release of funds pertaining to ATMA Scheme so that season based and time bound extension activities are not hampered and salaries to the deployed manpower are paid in time.

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#### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 28 of Chapter I of this Report.

## **CHAPTER - V**

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

#### **PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAI YOJANA (PMKSY)** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.13)**

13. The Committee further note that a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Brij Mohan Agarwal, Hon'ble Minister, Chhattishgarh has been constituted by MOWR, RD&GR to finalise the list of project under AIBP that can be completed by March, 2017 and 2019-20. This Committee is likely to submit its report shortly. The Committee desire that the details of this report be furnished to them after its submission.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

This Committee is constituted by Ministry of Water Resources. As and when the report of this committee is shared by Ministry of Water Resources with this Department, the same would be apprised to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)  
No. 6-5/2016-B&A dated 08.08.2016

#### **INTEGRATED SCHEME ON AGRICULTURAL MARKETING (ISAM)** **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.15)**

15. The Committee were informed that funds meant for general category for construction of Rural Godowns under the sub-scheme of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) during the year 2014-15 has exhausted. In the year, 2015-16, out of the RE of Rs.675.86 crore for AMI schemes, funds for the general category were fully exhausted with the release of Rs.493.81 crore. The BE for the whole of ISAM for the current fiscal is only Rs.787.90 crore, out of which AMI is one of the five sub-schemes. Further the total liability as on date stands at

Rs.1250.27 crore. This comprises of Rs.317.52 crore pipeline liability and Rs.932.75 crore committed liability. This total liability is mostly for the general category. Also, the limited allocations for AMI in 2016-17 will be restricted to 65.2% for the general category. Totally dissatisfied at this sordid state of affairs, the Committee recommend that allocation of funds be enhanced at RE stage during the fiscal for ISAM, so that the Department is in a position to honour its total liability of Rs.1250.27 crore at the earliest.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

Demand for additional funds at RE stage is placed around August-September of each year. Accordingly, demand for additional funds under the sub-scheme of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) will be sought to honour the liability.

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)  
No. 6-5/2016-B&A dated 08.08.2016

#### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 16 of Chapter I of this Report.

**NEW DELHI;**  
**29<sup>th</sup> November, 2016**  
**08 Agra-hayana, 1938 (Saka)**

**HUKM DEO NARAYAN YADAV**  
***Chairperson,***  
***Standing Committee on Agriculture***

**Brief on Central Sector Scheme, "Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC)"**

A Central Sector Scheme, "Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC)" has been under implementation since April, 2002 to supplement the efforts of public extension, support agricultural development and create gainful self-employment opportunities to unemployed youths with qualification in agriculture and allied sectors.

The scheme promotes involvement of agri-preneurs trained under the ACABC scheme in providing advisory and extension services to the farmers in agriculture and allied areas. The agri-preneurs trained under ACABC scheme are actively involved in providing advisory and extension services to the farmers on various technologies including soil, health, cropping practices, plant protection, post harvest technology etc.

The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) is the implementing agency for Training Component and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the implementing agency for Subsidy Component of ACABC scheme.

Under ACABC scheme, the training is imparted to unemployed candidates who possess degree/ diploma in agriculture and allied subjects, intermediate in agriculture and science graduates with PG in agri related courses through selected Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) in various parts of the country. The NTIs also provide hand-holding to the trained candidates for establishment of agri-ventures in agriculture and allied areas and facilitates in providing loan assistance from banks and subsidy support from NABARD.

There is a provision of credit linked back-ended upfront composite subsidy on the bank loan availed by trained candidates under the Scheme. The subsidy is 44% in respect of women, SC/ST and all categories of candidates from North-Eastern and Hill States and 36% in respect of other categories. The subsidy is admissible for loans upto Rs.20 lakh in case of individual and Rs.100 lakh in case of Group Projects (for ventures set up by a group of 5 trained candidates).

During the current year 69 candidates were trained and 236 have established their ventures. Since inception of the scheme, 47884 candidates have been trained and 20684 agri-ventures have been established in the country till 30.04.2016. These ventures are acting as active supplementary institutions for Government Extension mechanism in the states.

Details of the scheme may be seen at website [www.agriclinics.net](http://www.agriclinics.net)

## Annexure-II

### ATMA GOVERNING BOARD (GB)

The ATMA Governing Board (GB) is a policy making body which provides guidance, reviews & steers the progress and functioning of the ATMA.

#### Composition

1.	District Magistrate / Collector	Chairman
2.	Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Development Officer (CDO) District Head of Agriculture Department	Vice-Chairman Deputy Chairman
3.	Representative of Zila Panchayat/Zila Parishad	Member
4.	Joint Director / Deputy Director (Agril.)	Member
5.	Joint Director / Deputy Director (Hort.)	Member
6.	Joint Director / Deputy Director (Animal Husbandry/Fishery/Sericulture)	Member (one of them as per local priorities)
7.	A representative from Zonal Research Station (ZRS)	Member
8.	Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Member
9.	One Farmer representative (nominated from DFAC)	Member
10.	One Livestock Producer (nominated from DFAC)	Member
11.	One Horticulture Farmer (nominated from DFAC)	Member
12.	Representative of Women Food Security Group	Member
13.	Representative of FIG/CIG	Member
14.	One SC / ST farmer representative (nominated from DFAC)	Member
15.	A representative of NGO	Member
16.	Lead Bank Officer of the District	Member
17.	A representative of District Industrial Center	Member
18.	Representative of Agriculture Marketing Board	Member
19.	Representative of input supplying Association	Member
20.	A representative of trained input dealers who is also providing extension services	Member
21.	One Fisheries / Sericulture representative	Member
22.	A DRDA Representative	Member
23.	Project Director ATMA	Member-Secretary-cum-Treasurer (Ex-officio)

#### Note:

- i) States may identify any other officer, not below the rank of CEO, Zila Parishad /Chief Development Officer/Additional District Collector for 1 & 2 above, under intimation to DAC.
- ii) States may also co-opt additional members, if required.
- iii) All farmer representatives are to be nominated by the District Farmers Advisory Committee by consensus or by majority.

**Appointment / Nomination / Term of Members:**

Non-official members of GB will be appointed for a period of 2 years by APC on the recommendation of the Chairman of GB.

Some initial appointments would be staggered to ensure that about two-thirds of the members would carry on for an additional year on the GB.

Thirty per cent of the farmer representatives on the GB would be reserved for women farmers to ensure that their interests are fully represented.

**Key functions of ATMA Governing Board****The key functions of ATMA Governing Board would be to:**

1. Review and approve Strategic Research and Extension Plan (SREP) and annual action plans that are prepared and submitted by the participating units.
2. Receive and review annual reports presented by the participating units, providing feedback and direction to them as needed, for various research and extension activities being carried out within the district.
3. Receive and allocate project funds to carry out priority research, extension and related activities within the district.
4. Foster the organization and development of Farmers' Interest Groups (FIGs) and Farmers Organizations (FOs) within the district.
5. Facilitate greater involvement of private sector and firms and organizations in providing inputs, technical support, agro-processing and marketing services to farmers.
6. Encourage agriculture lending institutions to increase the availability of capital to resource poor and marginal farmers, especially SC, ST and women farmers.
7. Encourage each line department, plus the KVK and ZRS, to establish farmer advisory committees to provide feedback and input for their respective Research - Extension Programmes.
8. Enter into contracts and agreements as appropriate to promote and support agricultural development activities within the district.
9. Identify other sources of financial support that would help in ensuring the financial sustainability of the ATMA and its participating units.
10. Converge human and financial resources available for extension under different schemes and programmes of DAC.
11. Establish revolving funds / accounts for each participating unit, and encourage each unit to make available technical services, such as artificial insemination or soil testing, on a cost recovery basis moving towards full cost recovery in a phased manner.
12. Arrange for the periodic audit of ATMA's financial accounts.
13. Adopt and amend the rules and by-laws for the ATMA.
14. Hold meetings of ATMA GB every quarter or frequently.
15. Any other functions that support effective functioning of ATMA in the district.

### ATMA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC)

The Management Committee would be responsible for planning and execution of day-to-day activities of ATMA.

#### Composition

1.	District Head of Dept., Agriculture	Chairman
2.	Project Director of Agriculture Technology Management Agency	Co-Chairman
3.	District Head of Dept., Horticulture	Member
4.	District Head of Dept., Animal Husbandry	Member
5.	District Head of Dept. Fisheries	Member
6.	District Head of Dept. Sericulture	Member
7.	Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Member
8.	Head, Zonal Research Station	Member
9.	Project Officer, District Rural Development Agency	Member
10.	One representative of Farmers' Organization promoted by an NGO	Member
11.	Representative of NGO, if any, involved in agricultural extension	Member
12.	District level INABARD Officer	Member
13.	Lead Bank Officer	Member
14.	A representative of trained input dealers who is also providing extension services	Member
15.	Two progressive farmers (one of whom should be a woman) (nominated from DFAC)	Member
16.	Two Deputy Project Directors (of which one will be nominated as Member Secretary)	Member Secretary

#### Note:

- (i) States may also consider co-opting additional members, if required.
- (ii) All farmer representatives are to be nominated by the District Farmers Advisory Committee by consensus or by majority.

#### Key functions of Management Committee (MC)

1. Carry out periodic Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) to identify the problems and constraints faced by different socio-economic groups and farmers within the district.
2. Prepare an integrated, Strategic Research and Extension Plan (SREP) for the district that would specify short and medium term adaptive research as well as technology validation and refinement and extension priorities for the district.
3. Prepare annual District Agriculture Action Plans in consultation with DFAC which would be submitted to the ATMA Governing Board for review, possible modification and approval.



4. Maintain appropriate project accounts for audit purposes.
5. Coordinate the execution of these annual action plans through participant line departments, ZRSs, KVVs, NGOs, FIGs/FOs and allied institutions, including private sector firms.
6. Establish coordinating mechanisms at the Block level, such as Farm Information & Advisory Centres (FIACs) that would integrate extension and technology transfer activities at the block and village levels.
7. Provide periodic performance reports as required by DAC to the Governing Board outlining the various targets and achievements.
8. Provide secretariat to Governing Board and initiate action on policy direction, investment decisions and other guidance received from the Governing Board.
9. ATMA Management Committee shall meet once in a month to review the progress in various blocks and submit the report to State Nodal Cell/ DAC.

### ANNEXURE-III

#### INDICATIVE LIST OF AGRI VENTURES UNDER ACABC SCHEME

- Extension consultancy services
- Soil and water quality cum inputs testing laboratories
- Crop protection services, including pest surveillance, diagnostic and control services (with culture rooms, autoclaves, microscopes, ELISA Kits etc for detection of plant pathogens including viruses, fungi, bacteria, nematodes, and insect pests)
- Micro-propagation including plant tissue culture labs and hardening units;
- Production, maintenance and custom hiring of agricultural implements and machinery including micro irrigation systems;
- Seed production and processing units;
- Vermiculture units;
- Production of bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides & other bio-control agents;
- Apriaries (bee-keeping) and honey & bee products' processing units;
- Agricultural insurance services;
- Agri tourism
- Agri journalism – film production, farm publications and exhibitions;
- Poultry and fishery hatcheries;
- Livestock health cover, veterinary dispensaries & services including frozen semen banks and liquid nitrogen supply and artificial insemination;
- Information technology kiosks;
- Feed production, marketing and testing units;
- Value addition centres;
- Cool chain including cold storage units;
- Post harvest management centres for sorting, grading, standardization, storage and packaging;
- Metallic and non-metallic storage structures;
- Horticulture clinic, nursery, landscaping, floriculture
- Sericulture;
- Vegetable production and marketing;
- Retail marketing outlets for processed agri-products;
- Production and marketing of farm inputs & outputs;
- Contract farming;
- Crop production and demonstration;
- Mushroom production;
- Production, processing and marketing of medicinal and aromatic plants;
- Production units like dairy, poultry, piggery, fisheries, sheep rearing, goat rearing, emu rearing, rabbit rearing etc.

**Note:** The above activities are indicative in nature. Any other activity in agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, allied sectors or combination of two or more of the above activities selected by the candidates, which, generate income to the agripreneur and render extension services to the farmers will also be eligible under the Scheme.

**AGRI-CLINICS AND AGRI-BUSINESS CENTRES (AC&ABC)  
ACTIVITY-WISE OF AGRI-VENTURES (from 01.04.2002 to 30.04.2016)**

SL.NO.	NAME OF THE AGRI-VENTURE	ACTIVISE-WISE NO. OF AGRI-VENTURES
1.	Agri-clinics	3,119
2.	Agri-clinics and agribusiness centres	6,765
3.	Agro-Eco Tourism	10
4.	Animal Feed Unit	47
5.	Bio Fertilizer Production and Marketing	102
6.	Contract Farming	58
7.	Cultivation of Medicinal Plants	112
8.	Direct Mkt.	168
9.	Farm Machinery Unit	712
10.	Fisheries Development	349
11.	Floriculture	107
12.	Horticulture Clinic	170
13.	Landscaping+Nursery	113
14.	Nursery	500
15.	Organic Production /Food Chain	88
16.	Pesticide Production and Marketing	40
17.	Value Addition	272
18.	Fishery clinic	15
19.	Seed Processing and Marketing	333
20.	Soil Testing Laboratory	102
21.	Tissue Culture Unit	28
22.	Vegetable Production and Marketing	239
23.	Vermicomposting /Organic manure	495
24.	VeterinaryClinics	874
25.	Crop Production	197
26.	Dairy /Poultry/Piggary/Goatary	5338
27.	Rural Godown	48
28.	Production & Marketing of Bio-Control Agents	18
29.	Agriculture Journalism	16
30.	Sericulture	49
31.	Mashroom Cultivation	99
32.	Apiary	101
<b>Total-</b>		<b>20,684</b>

## **ANNEXURE IV**

### **STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE** **(2016-17)**

#### **MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

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The Committee sat on Friday, the 09<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 from 1000 hrs. to 1050 hrs. in the Chamber of the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Room No. 138 (Third Floor), Parliament House, New Delhi.

#### **PRESENT**

Shri Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav – Chairperson

#### **MEMBERS**

#### **LOK SABHA**

2. Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath Gaikward
3. Shri Sanganna Karadi
4. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
5. Md. Badaruddoza Khan
6. Shri Janardan Mishra
7. Shri Devji Patel
8. Shri C.L. Ruala
9. Shri Satyapal Singh (Sambhal)

#### **RAJYA SABHA**

10. Shri Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati
11. Shri Meghraj Jain
12. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
13. Shri Ram Nath Thakur

## **SECRETARIAT**

1.	Shri U.B.S. Negi	—	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Arun K. Kaushik	—	Director
3.	Smt. Juby Amar	—	Additional Director
4.	Shri C. Vanlalruata	—	Deputy Secretary
5.	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 XXXX XXXX

\*(ii) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

(iii) Draft Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 25<sup>th</sup> Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).

\*(iv) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

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

***The Committee then adjourned.***

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\*Matter not related to this Report.

## **APPENDIX**

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

### **ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE TWENTY FIFTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2015-16) ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2016-17)' OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE)**

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	27
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27	
	Total	19
	Percentage	70.37%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Para No. Nil	
	Total	NIL
	Percentage	0 %
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para Nos. 7, 8, 18, 19, 20 and 22	
	Total	06
	Percentage	22.22%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para No. 13 and 15	
	Total	02
	Percentage	7.41%