

(1999-2000)

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL  
HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING)

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1999-2000)

*[Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/  
Observations contained in the Twentieth Report of the Standing  
Committee on Agriculture (1998-99)]*

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 14th March, 2000*  
*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 2000*



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

March, 2000/ Phalgunā, 1921 (*Saka*)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE  
(1999-2000)

Shri S.S. Palanimanickam — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

*Lok Sabha*

2. Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhari
3. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
4. Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullu
5. Shri Ramdas Rupala Gavit
6. Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot
7. Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda
8. Shri Raghunath Jha
9. Shri Shivaji Vithalrao Kamble
10. Shri Abul Hasnat Khan
11. Shri Y.G. Mahajan
12. Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale
13. Shri Savshibhai Makwana
14. Shri Jagannath Mallick
15. Shri M. Master Mathan
16. Shri Tarachand Shivaji Patel
17. Shri Prakash V. Patil
18. Shri Sharad Pawar
19. Shri G. Sukender Reddy
20. Shri N.R.K. Reddy
21. Shri Pyare Lal Sankhwar
22. Shri Adi Shankar
23. Shri Chhattapal Singh
24. Shri Lakshman Singh
25. Shri Rampal Singh
26. Shri Tejveer Singh
27. Shri Zora Singh

(iv)

28. Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav
29. Shri Mahaboob Zahedi
30. Vacant

*Rajya Sabha*

31. Shri Oscar Fernandes
32. Shri Gufran Azam
33. Shri Ramji Lal
34. Shri Devi Prasad Singh
35. Dr. Ranbir Singh
36. Shri Khagen Das
37. Shri Yadlapati Venkata Rao
38. Shri H.K. Javare Gowda
39. Shri Naresh Yadav
40. Shri R. Margabandhu
41. Shri Korambayil Ahammed Haji
42. Shri Sharief-Ud-Din Shariq
43. Shri Devi Lal
44. Shri Kanshi Ram
45. Vacant

*Secretariat*

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Shri Harnam Singh               | - Joint Secretary    |
| 2. Dr. (Smt.) Paramjit Kaur Sandhu | - Director           |
| 3. Shri Rajshekhar Sharma          | - Deputy Secretary   |
| 4. Shri K.L. Arora                 | - Assistant Director |
| 5. Smt. Ratna Bhagwani             | - Committee Officer  |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1999-2000) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Third report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 20th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1998-99) (Twelfth Lok Sabha), Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

2. The Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1998-99) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying was presented to Lok Sabha on 22.4.99 and laid in Rajya Sabha on 23.4.99. The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to recommendations contained in the Twentieth report. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received.

3. The Committee considered these action taken replies furnished by the Government and approved the draft comments and adopted the Third Report, in its sitting held on 28th February, 2000.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Twentieth Report (12 th Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI  
February, 2000  
Phalgun, 1921 (Saka)

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

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1998-99) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying) which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 1999 and laid in Rajya Sabha on 23rd April, 1999.

1.2 Action taken replies have been received from the Government in respect of all the 31 recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorised as follows:

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

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 1,3,4,7,9,12,13,15,17,18,24,26,27,28 and 30.

(Total 15)

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

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 5,14 and 31

(Total 3)

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

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 16,19,21 and 22

(Total 4)

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

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 2,6,8,10,11,20,23,25 and 29

(Total 9)



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

#### **Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory**

##### **Recommendation (SI. No. 10)**

1.4 The Committee had noted that the Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory has been a sanctioned Central Sector Scheme from the Seventh Plan onwards. This Laboratory with modern diagnostic facilities for speedy diagnosis of obscure infectious diseases is also to function as a Referral Laboratory for the entire country and for the neighbouring countries also. The importance of the laboratory could be gauged from the main objectives for it as enumerated in the Performance Budget Document this acquires added importance from the fact that India has signed the GATT agreement. The Committee are disappointed to find that this scheme remained only in print throughout the Eighth Plan Period also, never to be realised in concrete terms. The Committee found that the Expenditure Finance Committee, while discussing the scheme for the Eighth Plan, observed that instead of establishing an independent unit by spending a huge amount, the objective can be achieved by identifying and strengthening an existing laboratory by providing adequate funds for moderations. In view of this, the decision to have an independent Diagnostic Laboratory could not be implemented and it was decided to strengthen the IVRI Laboratory and four selected Laboratories of the ICAR/State Agricultural Universities. The Committee noted that this scheme was again in the Ninth Plan proposals and a team under the leadership of the National Project Coordinator of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying was constituted to identify the Laboratories. The Committee could so far identify only three Laboratories for the Southern, Western and Eastern Regions. For the Northern Region, no Laboratory has been found suitable. The Committee had found that the direction of the original proposal had been completely diverted from its original course and whatever had been done in place of the original scheme, do not appear to lead to the achievements of the original goals. The whole episode is a sad commentary on the lack of will on the part of the Government to concertise a scheme and it is a matter of pity that even after a period of two decades, the Government were not in a position to establish a Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory as originally envisaged by them fifteen years ago. The Committee were of the firm opinion that our country, which is actually leading the third world countries in many matters, should have the pride of having a superspeciality facility in the form of a Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Therefore, adequate funds should be laid out for this facility

in the Ninth Plan positively. Since no laboratory was found suitable in the Northern Region, the Committee recommended that the Laboratory of IVRI, Izatnagar should be strengthened as a Regional Laboratory for the Northern Region. The Committee also recommended that the Government should reconsider its decision in the matter of setting up of an independent Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and set it up as an independent unit within the Ninth Five Year Plan Period as originally thought of several years ago, in an area which had a predominantly high density of cattle population in the country.

1.5 The Government have stated in their reply that in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee for setting up an independent Disease Diagnostic Laboratory during the Ninth Plan, the Department had requested the Planning Commission to accord required approval to modify the existing scheme which provides for strengthening of identified Laboratories. The Planning Commission has informed *vide* letter dated 1.9.99 that the Ninth Plan is already underway, and the work of strengthening of 3 laboratories has already been taken up by the Department. Hence no proposal for setting up a new laboratory should be taken up at this stage. In view of the decision of the Planning Commission, the Department has taken stock of the progress so far achieved in the matter of identifying/strengthening Central/Regional Laboratories. For this purpose, considerably higher allocation of Rs. 16 crores has been earmarked during the Ninth Plan as against Rs. 6 crores during the Eighth Plan. The Expert Committee constituted by the Department has been requested to consider two alternatives, *viz.*

- (i) to finalise proposals for establishment of a new Laboratory, and request reconsideration of the Planning Commission of its decision, or
- (ii) to finalise location of Laboratory for the northern region; falling which consider upgradation & strengthening of IVRI, Izatnagar to function both as diagnostic lab for northern region and National Referral Lab as recommended by the Standing Committee. The Expert Committee is expected to convey its recommendations shortly.

#### Comments of the Committee

1.6 The Committee desire that the Expert Committee constituted by the Department should finalise their recommendations expeditiously and action taken thereon be intimated to the Committee.



## Central Cattle Breeding Farms

### Recommendation (Sl. No. 16)

1.7 The Committee had noted that the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying operates seven Central Cattle Breeding Farms in different agro-climatic regions of the country for maintenance of some important indigenous and exotic cattle breeds as well as buffaloes. These Farms produce and distribute superior pedigreed bull-calves for use in Cattle and Buffalo Development Programmes in various States. The Committee had found that the Farm at Suratgarh maintains Tharparkar breed of cattle and every year bull-calves of this breed were produced in this Farm. It had been noticed that in the year 1997-98, this Farm could produce only 25 bull-calves against a target of 40 Tharparkar bull-calves. In the year 1998-99 also, the target of 40 bull-calves could not be achieved. In the Farm at Hesseraghatta in Bangalore, against a target of producing 20 Holstein Friesian breed of cattle, the Farm could produce only 13 bull-calves in the year 1997-98. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that special efforts should be made in respect of these Farms to tone up their level of achievement in respect of these species.

1.8 The Government have stated in their reply that efforts are being made to achieve the target of bull calves production.

### Comments of the Committee

1.9 The Committee are dismayed at the casual reply of the Government and feel that the matter is not being pursued with seriousness it deserves. The Committee also note that the Department have not enumerated any concrete steps taken so far to achieve the targets of bull calves production. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire that the Department should earnestly strive for achievement of targets set in this regard.

## Assistance to State Poultry Farms

### Recommendation (Sl. No. 19)

1.10 The Committee had been informed that during the Ninth Five Year Plan, a new centrally sponsored scheme had been introduced with an outlay of Rs 30 crores to assist at least two poultry/duck farms in each State all over the country. During the year 1998-99, no expenditure could be incurred on this scheme, although budgetary allocations were made. The Committee had been informed that the scheme required the approval of the full Planning Commission and the approval was received only on

29 January, 1999 and that too with certain restrictions on the scope of the scheme. The scheme now would be implemented during the next two years only in the North Eastern States on a pilot basis. Thereafter in the last year of the plan, it would be implemented in 8 States only as a pilot scheme. The Committee were disappointed to note the reduction in the scope of the scheme. The Committee had recommended that the scheme should be extended to all the States in the country on a regular basis and suitable budgetary allocations should be made at the revised estimates stage for the year 1999-2000 for this purpose.

1.11 The Government have stated in their reply that the Planning Commission has been approached to re-consider their views so that the scheme could be extended to all the States in the country on a regular basis from the year 1999-2000. The Planning Commission has in their letter dated 12th July, 1999 not agreed to this proposal. Further extension of the scheme beyond the areas allocated would be undertaken during the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

#### Comments of the Committee

1.12 The Committee in their Third Report (11<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1996-97) had observed that huge funds to the tune of Rs. 13.50 crore were allocated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97) for setting up of a National Poultry Development Board but these precious funds remained unutilized all these five years. Pending formation of the Board a proposal was made to utilise Rs.2.60 crore for setting up Poultry Complexes on pilot basis in six States. In this context, the Committee had recommended release of funds for the proposed poultry complexes. The Department in their action taken reply had stated that the proposal for establishment of National Poultry Development Board was under consideration and the scheme of poultry complexes had been turned down by IFD of the Ministry with the recommendation that it would be considered afresh in the Ninth Plan. While the proposal for setting up of Poultry Board remained pending, a proposal for setting up of Poultry Complexes in the backward States for the development of small scale poultry (which is one of the activities of the Proposed Board) was planned. However, that too was not agreed to by the Ministry of Finance.

1.13 The Committee again in their 12<sup>th</sup> Report (12<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1998-99) had reiterated that during the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan a new centrally sponsored scheme with an outlay of Rs. 30 crores for assisting at least two poultry duck farms in each state of the country had been envisaged. However, no expenditure was made till January, 1999 because the approval from Planning Commission was received only on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1999. The approval was received with the stipulation to assist the North-Eastern States only on a pilot basis during the next 2 years and in the last year of the Plan it will be implemented in 8 States only as a pilot scheme. The recommendation of the Committee that the scheme be extended to all the states has not been accepted by the Planning Commission.

1.14 The Committee are unhappy to note that the Government have not taken any concrete decision to implement any of the aforesaid proposed schemes during the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Plans. The Committee feel that indecisiveness of the Government adversely affects one of the most important economic activities undertaken by the poor and marginal farmers on the one hand and on the other the developmental activities are, non-utilisation of funds. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Department should chalk out well thought out plans, in the time behind manners and implement them in such a manner, so that the benefits reach the target groups.

#### Alternative site for Central Sheep Breeding Farm — Hissar

##### Recommendation (Sl. No.21)

1.15 The Committee had noted that out of 6,477 acres of land provided to Central Sheep Breeding Farm, Hissar, the Government of Haryana had taken back 4,028 acres of land in 1997 which had made it difficult for the Central Sheep Breeding Farm to achieve its targets. In fact, against the usual target of supply of 1000 rams a year, the target had then been scaled down to 750 rams from 1998-99 onwards. The Committee had been informed that the Large Sheep Breeding Farm at Bhainsora in Chandauli district of U.P. and the Large Sheep Breeding Farm at Mamdipalli in Hyderabad District of Andhra Pradesh had been identified as two suitable locations for shifting the Farm. However, as an alternative, the Government of Haryana had also been requested to extend the lease period for the Central Sheep Breeding Farm at its existing location with a reduced land area of 990 hectares at an enhanced lease rent of Rs.1000/- per acre per annum. The response of the State Government of Haryana was held up pending payment of lease rent arrears to the tune of Rs.5 crores. The



Committee had found that that alternative course of continuing the Farm at an enhanced lease rent would only lead to increased expenditure on account of the lease and in no way it would help increasing the target of production of rams. Therefore, the Committee felt that this would affect the achievement of the objectives for which the Farm was originally created. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Central Sheep Breeding Farm should be immediately shifted to another suitable place so that the Farm could carry on its activities to achieve the original objectives for which it was set up.

1.16 The Government in their reply have stated that the recommendation made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee were examined by this Department in detail. Of the two sites tentatively identified, the Sheep Breeding Farm at Mamidipally, Andhra Pradesh is not considered acceptable because of acute water shortage and arid conditions. Similarly, the Sheep Breeding Farm, Bhainsora, Uttar Pradesh is handicapped for want of basic infrastructure facilities particularly in respect of fencing and sheds and office space available for relocating the farm. Moreover, the Department has also considered the recommendations of the High Powered Committee for evaluation of central farms and allied activities. The Committee's recommendation on this issue is that replicating the facilities for a sheep breeding farm elsewhere would be counter productive, prohibitive in cost and efforts, and would not be justifiable *vis-a-vis* the development need of the country. The financial burden and the logistic feasibility of shifting 6,000 sheep and 380 families and staff together with existing office/farm equipment, machinery, furniture etc. also has to be considered.

1.17 Keeping these issues in view, a sum of Rs. 5.20 crores has been paid to the Government of Haryana in July 1999 as arrears of lease rent. The State Government has also been approached to renew the lease for 2449 acres of land, and its response is awaited. In the meantime, the Department is presently concentrating its efforts to optimise the activities of the existing farm, so as to fulfil its basic objectives.

#### Comments of the Committee

1.18 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Department that they are presently concentrating its efforts to optimise the activities of the existing farm, so as to fulfil its basic objectives. The Committee find that the Department is not very keen on identifying other alternate place for Central Sheep Breeding Farm, Hissar where due to paucity of land it has not been able to achieve its basic objectives.

Even the High Powered Committee for evaluation of central farms and allied activities of the Department did not deliberate on this issue. The Committee feel that with the meagre 2449 acres of land left with CSBF, Hissar and enhanced lease rent, it will not be able to do justice to the basic objectives of the farm for which it was set up. The Committee, therefore, reiterate its recommendation and desire that immediate steps should be taken to relocate the CSBF so as to carry out its activities unhindered and achieve its original objectives.

#### Piggery Development

##### Recommendation (Sl. No. 22)

1.19 The Committee note that the allocation for Piggery Development has been reduced to Rs. 4 crores against the original budget allocation of Rs. 5 crores during the year 1998-99. The Committee have been informed that the reduction in allocation was due to the need for effecting savings by the Budget Division. The Committee find that in 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 400 lakhs was released to the States for assisting the Pig Farms, while only Rs. 378 lakhs could be utilised in 1998-99. The Committee were not happy with the reason advanced for reducing the allocation for this programme especially when the programme was being implemented well all those years and the targets were being achieved. The Committee did not approved of the tendency to reduce allocations from the programmes that had been performing well and they consider that it is not prudent to effect cuts in such programmes while there are several other programmes available for effecting such cuts in view of the poor off-take of funds from them. The Committee felt that proper attention should also be given to the matter of import of pigs, as this area was quite neglected during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period.

1.20 The Govt. in their action taken reply have stated that the Department has provided an allocation of Rs. 6.00 crores for 1999-2000 which is an enhancement of more than 33% compared to 1998-99 budget allocation. This enhancement was made keeping in view the importance of the scheme and also the recommendations made by Standing Committee.

1.21 The Department has called global tenders for import of pigs. The tender for import of 360 pigs has been approved in September 1999. These imports should now take place during 1999-2000.

##### Comments of the Committee

1.22 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Government. The Committee note that the Pig farming is an important



activity of weaker sections of the society and it plays an important role in improving the socioeconomic status of the weaker rural community.

1.23 The Department have received requests from different states for import of 578 breeding pigs whereas the tender for import of 360 pigs has been approved in September, 1999. The Committee desire that all the requests from different states should be fulfilled and the entire allocated funds for the year 1999-2000 should be fully utilized without making any cuts at the revised estimated stage.

#### Visakhapatnam Unit of Integrated Fisheries Project

##### Recommendation (Sl. No. 29)

1.24 The Committee had noted that there was an ongoing scheme for strengthening and fully operationalising the Visakhapatnam Unit of Integrated Fisheries Project, where the progress of work had been very slow due to delay in procurement of machinery. Due to this slow progress of work a major share of the plan allocation made since 1997-98 had not been utilised. The Committee had been assured that the project will be completed this year. The Committee are concerned about the delay and recommended that the work requires speeding up so that the funds allocated for this purpose are fully utilised and the plant becomes operational in this year itself.

1.25 The Government in their reply have stated that all civil works of the Administrative Block and Plan building of the Vizag unit of the Integrated Control Board has cleared the plant for operation with the condition that only electrical heating system is permitted instead of oil fired boiler which has been installed by the Project. As the oil fired boiler has already been installed by the Project, it is not possible at this stage to change the oil fired boiler with electric heating system. The issue is being taken up with the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board to delete this condition. Further, progress on installation of High Tension Electric Supply is held up for want of clearance from Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

##### Comments of the Committee

1.26 The Committee feel that as the project has been considerably delayed both the issues of boiler and High Tension Electric Supply should be taken up at the highest level with Andhra Pradesh Pollution Board for their expeditious settlement.

## CHAPTER II

### RECOMMENDATIONS / OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

#### Inadequate Ninth Plan Allocations for the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

##### Recommendation No. 1

2.1 The committee note that the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been provided an allocation of Rs. 1,677.88 crores for the Ninth Plan. In the light of the Prime Minister's announcement for doubling the foodgrain production and making India hunger-free in the next ten years, the Department has evolved a Special Action Plan for achieving accelerated growth of live-stock products. The funds required for the implementation of the Special Action Plan work out to Rs. 2,490 crores. The Planning Commission is yet to take a decision about the quantum of allocation for this Department for the implementation of the Special Action Plan. The percentage of current Ninth Plan outlay of Rs. 1,677.88 crores in favour of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying out of the total central plan comes to 0.2% whereas in the Fourth Five Year Plan Period the sum was as high as 1.3% of the total. The Committee feel that the Planning Commission should appreciate the fact that the gross value of output from the live-stock accounts for about 26% of the total agricultural output and the animal husbandry and dairying activities provide employment opportunities for the landless labourers and small and marginal farmers especially in the rainfed and drought prone areas. The Committee congratulate the nation for having achieved the ambitious target of milk production of 96.49 million tonnes has been envisaged in the Ninth Plan while the egg and wool production targets have been set at 35 billion eggs and 5400 lakh kilos of wool respectively. Besides this, the Ninth Plan envisages a fish production target of 7.04 million tonnes. Since the current production of these live-stock products are at a much lower level, huge public investment is necessary for this sector to achieve the goals of the Ninth Plan. The Committee, therefore recommend that the Planning Commission should allocate the funds sought by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying for the implementation of this Special Action Plan without making any cuts. The Committee also recommend that the annual plan outlay of 1999-2000 should also be increased substantially, as there are only three years of the Ninth Plan now left for the implementation of the Special Action Plan of the Department.

## **Reply of the Government**

2.2 The recommendation was referred to the Planning Commission. They have sent us the following comments :

2.3 "National Development Council (NDC) has recently approved the Ninth Plan allocation for all the Central Ministries/Departments of Government of India. Taking into account the need for implementing Special Action Plan, the NDC has approved the plan allocation for the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying at Rs. 2345.64 crores (at 1996-97 prices). Hence, there has been a substantial enhancement of allocation in the Ninth Plan as against Rs. 1677.88 crores mentioned in the Standing Committee's recommendations.

2.4 The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying do not have any internal resources, its allocation is total Budget Support in the Ninth Plan and, therefore, it would be appropriate if comparison is made with the total Budget Support to the Central Ministries/Departments of Government of India and not to the total Central Plan outlay, which include internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR), generated by various Ministries/Departments. On this basis, total Budget Support for the Ninth Five Year Plan to the Central Ministries/Departments is Rs. 2,03,982 crores and out of which the percentage of allocation provided for the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying works out to 1.149%, which is slightly higher than the Fourth Five Year Plan allocation.

2.5 The Annual Plan 1999-2000 allocation as approved for Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying is Rs. 381.90 crores against the revised estimate of Rs. 210.60 crores during the year 1998-99, an increase of 81.33%. This is a significant step-up from the last year's revised expenditure. Planning Commission has made allocations for the Ninth Plan as well as Annual Plan 1999-2000 of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying taking into account the fund requirements for implementation of the Special Action Plan during Ninth Plan period".

### **Poor utilisation of Plan Funds**

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 3)**

2.6 The Committee observe that against an allocation of Rs. 319.45 crores in 1997-98 for the plan schemes, the actual expenditure is only Rs. 209.80 crores which is only 66% of the original outlay. For the year 1998-99, the Committee find that an expenditure of Rs. 210.60 crores only has been incurred out of the budgetary allocation of Rs. 381.90 crores for



the plan schemes, thus bringing the percentage of utilisation of funds to 55% of the total. The Committee have been informed that the pace of utilisation of plan funds was slow in the first two years of the Ninth Plan mainly because of the delay in the approval of the Ninth Plan and the delay in the consideration of the EFC memos as a result of which necessary administrative approval could not be communicated to the States. Consequently this led to considerable delay in the receipt of proposals from the State Governments for approval and implementation of various schemes and projects. The Committee note that for the year 1999-2000 the plan budgetary allocation is Rs. 381.90 crores. In view of the likely sanction of additional funds for the Special Action Plan, more funds will be available at the disposal of the Department in 1999-2000. The Committee expect that the Department would improve its performance by fully utilising the funds allocated to it from this year onwards, as only three years are now left for the implementation of the plan schemes of the Ninth Plan. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying should accordingly gear up its administrative machinery so that the ambitious targets set forth in the Ninth Five Year Plan are achieved. The Committee also recommend that responsibility should be fixed for targets not achieved and allocations left unutilised.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.7 The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying has been supplementing the efforts of the State Govts. for the rapid growth of livestock and fisheries sectors through the Plan schemes which are executed by the State Govts. The pace of utilisation of the Department has been slow during the first two years of the Plan, because of poor response and participation of States in schemes due to resource constraints and their own priorities, and other impediments such as shortage of staff, procedural delays in furnishing utilisation certificates, and delays in launching new schemes etc. The Department has initiated steps for improving the monitoring mechanism for effective implementation of Plan schemes. The States are being impressed upon for actively participating and taking benefit of all schemes of the Department. The pace of utilisation of schemes is expected to improve and accelerate with proper coordination and involvement of States, in the remaining period of the Ninth Plan.

### Full Central Funding of the Programmes meant for the North-East

#### Recommendation (Sl. No. 4)

2.8 The Committee note that some of the plan programmes of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying stipulate matching contribution from all the States including the North Eastern States. The Committee feel that there is need for change in this kind of funding pattern to a system of hundred per cent grant in respect of the North-Eastern States. In view of the special problems of the North-Eastern States, substantial portions of their funds are spent in tackling the problems of militancy which leave very little funds at their disposal to make matching contribution. Therefore, the Committee recommend that all the plan schemes to be implemented in the North Eastern States should be 100% funded by the Union Government.

#### Reply of the Government

2.9 Keeping in view the problems of North Eastern States, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying has been implementing many Centrally Sponsored Schemes on 100% grant basis in the region. These schemes include Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme, National Bull Production Programme, National Project on Rinderpest Eradication, Integrated Dairy Development Projects in Non-OF Hilly and Backward Areas, and Animal Husbandry Extension Programme. Besides, a new scheme assistance to State Poultry Farms also with 100% central funding has commenced during the current year, exclusively in North Eastern States for development of backyard poultry, and for improving the socio-economic condition of the poor in the region. Even with 100% Central Govt. funding, the progress in these schemes in the NER is not very encouraging. This is primarily due to poor utilisation of funds in State Governments, delays in forwarding proposals to the Central Government and in submission of utilisation certificates for expenditure incurred.

The Planning Commission has established a Special Central Pool for NER which is to be utilised for accelerating development in the NER. This Department has contributed Rs. 6.26 crores to this Special Central Pool for NER.



### **Appointment of Animal Husbandry Commissioner**

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 7)**

2.10 The Committee is informed that papers have been sent to the Ministry of Finance for reviving the post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner which had earlier lapsed for having remained vacant for over four years. The Committee are also happy to note that the incumbent will be in position within two months.

The Committee express the hope in the assurance of the Department and would be greatly pleased if the Animal Husbandry Commissioner is in position within two months. However, the Committee would like to caution the Department about the usual bureaucratic delays involved in reviving the post and therefore advise the Department keep pursuing with the Ministry to get it cleared at the earliest at a very high level.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.11 The Ministry of Finance has agreed for revival of the post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner. Dr. V.K. Taneja, Assistant Director General (Animal Production & Breeding), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has joined as Animal Husbandry Commissioner with effect from the fore-noon of 11<sup>th</sup> June, 1999.

### **National Veterinary Biological Products Quality Control Centre**

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 9)**

2.12 The Committee note that since 1992-93 the Government have been working on the proposal to set up a National Centre which would help in making available quality biologicals in the country which in turn would help the control of animal diseases effectively in time. After several years only, the Government could take possession of the land at Bhubaneswar for establishing the National Veterinary Biological Products Quality Control Centre. The Committee have been now given to understand that the Department is exploring the possibility of external funding to establish the Centre, since the construction of the Quality Control Centre would involve a huge investment. Since the European Union assisted project of "Strengthening of Veterinary Services for Control of Animal Diseases" came to an end on 31 July, 1998, the Department could not get any help from that agency. As such, the Government is in search of another funding agency and for this purpose a study also has been commissioned under a Consultant whose report is expected by 30 April, 1999. From the foregoing points, it appears that the question of having a

National Level Quality Control Centre would remain only a dream for many years to come. The Committee are very much concerned to note that precious, foreign assistance for this project could not be availed of, due to the inaction on the part of the Government for years together. The Committee recommend that urgent measures should be taken at least hereafter to make concrete progress in the matter.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.13 Despite serious resource constraints and other technical problems, the Department is concerned about the delay in establishing the National Centre, which is necessary for making available quality biologicals for controlling animal diseases. A higher allocation of Rs.16.00 crores has been made for the Centre during the Ninth Plan, in comparison to Rs. 7.20 crores of Eighth Plan outlay. The Department has engaged a Consultant to make a sound project report during March, 1999. The Consultant's report has now been received. Some of the recommendations made by the Consultant are as under :

- 1 . The setting up of this Centre is absolutely essential to assure the quality of vaccines manufactured / imported to have a better result on control measures throughout the country and to bring about a harmonious way of testing the vaccines, in all vaccine production units.
2. The range and the number of vaccines produced in the country are large, i.e. 89 in number. The development of quality assurance, be taken up in a phased manner and according to the importance of the vaccine.
3. The poultry vaccine testing facilities have to be developed within Ninth Plan and for the rest during the Tenth Plan.
4. The minimum technical staff required for the project is 31 and should be, filled in phased manner according to the facilities developed.
5. A minimum budget allocation of Rs. 10.00 crores is required in Ninth Plan and Rs.15.00 crores in the Tenth Plan, inclusive of both capital and recurring expenditure.
6. The recurring expenditure on this project will be of the order of Rs. 1.5 crores when fully functional per annum.

2.14 The planning and construction of the laboratory has been taken up on priority. The CPWD is being requested to identify experts for designing such laboratory and initiate construction immediately.

#### **National Project for Rinderpest Eradication**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 12)**

2.15 The Committee note that rinderpest which is popularly known as cattle plague has been contained in the major part of the country as a result of activities undertaken in the National Project for Rinderpest Eradication. Rinderpest is a highly infectious viral disease of the cloven-hoofed animals inflicting heavy mortality in the bovine population and also in the small ruminants. The Rinderpest Control Programme had been in operation in India from the Second Five Year Plan onwards. Due to sustained planned efforts, "Provisional Freedom from Rinderpest" for all the States and Union Territories of the country has been declared from 1 March, 1998 and this has been notified by the International Agency concerned in April, 1998 in Paris. In order that the disease, does not re-occur an intensive surveillance has to be conducted extensively to detect any hidden focus of infection in all the States of the country. This will lead to the next stage of declaration of "Substantive Freedom from Rinderpest". The Committee have been informed that at present vaccination of all the species of animals against rinderpest has been stopped throughout the country except in the Indo-Pak border of 30 kms. width in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The Committee find that there has been a feeling of complacency on the part of the Government in the Implementation of this project. An amount of 41 crores was at their disposal in 1997-99 which includes a component of 30 crores by way of external assistance. The actual expenditure was Rs. 9.45 crores only thereby leaving the entire 30 crores of actuals upto 31.3.98. (financial year 1997-98). The project expired on 31st July 1998 (and this fact was known to the Department well in advance). All 30 crores went unutilised. The Committee have been informed that the EFC memo for this scheme could be approved only in October, 1998 and the final approval of the Finance Ministry was received only in March, 1999. Pending clearance of the EFC memo., it was not possible for the Union Government to release any funds to the States/Union Territories for the implementation of the Project.

2.16 The Committee take a serious view of the lethargy shown by the Department in virtually throwing away a sum of Rs. 30 crores offered on a platter by an external agency again of the delay in the sanctioning of this scheme, which had been a continuing scheme for several decades in the



country. They warn the Union Government that any laxity shown in the implementation of the Project would lead to improper surveillance leaving a scope for non-detection of any hidden focus of infection which may later develop into a serious epidemic. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the pace of implementation of this Project should be redoubled in the coming three years of the Ninth Plan as virtually nothing had been done in the last two years under this project to protect the animals from this virulent disease.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.17 During a review meeting taken by the Department of Economic Affairs in September, 1997 with the participation of the EEC representative, we were told that no EEC funds should be utilised till the extension proposal beyond 31.7.98 was approved by the EEC. Accordingly, out of Rs. 30 crores of external funds available during 1997-98, only Rs. 2.84 crores could be utilised for clearing outstanding bills. Non utilisation of the balance external funds in 1997-98 was a consequence of the embargo placed by the EEC in 1997-98 itself, even before the Project came to an end. In May, 98, the EEC conveyed its decision to withdraw the EEC funds. The Department immediately took up the matter with the Indian Embassy at Brussels and at the level of Minister of State for Agriculture, with the Vice President of EEC, but the extension of the project was not agreed to and the decision to this effect was communicated in July, 98.

2.18 Keeping in view the importance of the project in eradication of rinderpest, the Department prepared a fresh proposal for implementation of the ongoing components, out of internal resources, during the remaining period of Ninth Plan. The EEC approved the proposal in its meeting held on 20th October, 98 and it was finally cleared by Ministry of Finance in January, 99.

2.19 In accordance with the recommendation of the Standing Committee to accelerate the pace of implementation of the project, the Department has initiated following measures for effective and speedy implementation of the project during the remaining period of Ninth Plan:

- (i) Annual Action Plan for the year 1999-2000 and Action Plan for 2000 onwards upto March, 2002 has been got approved by the Project Steering Committee and is being implemented.
- (ii) Clinical surveillance and sero-surveillance activities of the Project have been geared up in view of the provisional freedom of rinderpest being enjoyed by the entire country.

- (iii) National Animal Disease Emergency Committee (NADEC) and State Animal Disease Emergency Committee (SADEC) with Early Warning System (EWS) for monitoring, detection and follow up action has been established to meet any eventuality in respect of outbreak of rinderpest and other diseases.
- (iv) In order to strengthen the Central Project Monitoring Unit, a few Consultants from indigenous sources are being appointed.
- (v) For the procurement of critical equipment, reagents and other support systems, a Central Purchase Committee has been formulated and action initiated to utilise the entire allocated funds for the plan period.
- (vi) The progress of work is being monitored intensively through submission of Monthly Reports, besides spot visits by officers and convening regional review meetings periodically.

#### Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

##### Recommendation (Sl. No. 13)

2.20 The Committee note that there is a centrally sponsored programme implemented for the control of Foot and Mouth Disease. This disease is known to assume virulent magnitude in the high yielding indigenous, exotic and cross-bred cattle. The main objective of the programme is to protect the valuable high yielding cattle belonging to the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers by proper vaccination for which the cost of vaccine is subsidized. The cost of vaccine is borne by the Centre, State and the beneficiary in the ratio 25:25:50. The vaccination is done twice a year using polyvalent vaccine. The cost of vaccine is Rs. 630 in 1995-96. During 1999-2000, about 24 million vaccinations are expected to be carried out, while 20 million vaccinations are likely to be carried out by the end of the financial year 1998-99. The Committee find that against a budget estimate of Rs. 6 crores for 1998-99 for this programme, the revised budget estimate has been slashed down to Rs. 3 crores. In several of the previous years also, there had been under-utilisation of funds under the scheme. During the examination of Demands for Grants of the year 1997-98, the Committee were informed that the States had difficulty in providing matching allocations for the scheme due to resource constraints. In the absence of matching efforts by the States, the contribution by the Centre also gets reduced accordingly. The Committee



have been informed that the Department proposed to increase the share of the Centre to hundred per cent in the plan for the year 1997-98 to make the scheme more effective and to free it from the uncertainties of the contributions from the States. But the Planning Commission advised during the discussions to continue the earlier pattern of funding. In view of the continued under-utilisation of funds under the scheme, the Committee feel that the achievement of targets will continue to pose difficulty, unless the financing pattern is changed. The Committee, therefore, recommend that in the Ninth Plan Period, the Union Government should bear hundred per cent of the cost of the vaccine by suitably enhancing the budget allocation under this programme. In this connection, the Committee wish to point out that the scheme has the live-stock owned by the landless labourers and by small and marginal farmers as the main objective and focus and, therefore, it will not be proper to insist on contribution of 50% of the cost of the medicine from them.

#### Reply of the Government

2.21 In accordance with the recommendation of the Standing Committee and keeping in view the importance of Foot and Mouth, Disease Control Programme in protecting the valuable high yielding cattle belonging to the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers, the Department had requested the Planning Commission to accord necessary approval for implementing the scheme on 100% grant basis against the existing pattern of 25:25:50 between Central Government, and State Government and beneficiary. The Planning Commission *vide* letter dated 24.8.89 has approved the Department's proposal and advised formulation of a scheme for complete eradication of FMD on the lines of National Project on Rinderpest Eradication, within the outlay already sanctioned to the Department. The matter has accordingly been referred for concurrence of Integrated Finance.

#### Preservation of Traditional Medical Practices for Animal Health

##### Recommendation (Sl. No. 15)

2.22 The Committee have been recommending in the past for evolving a central plan scheme with adequate budgetary provisions for the purpose of carefully collecting and documenting the information on various traditional medical practices being followed in the rural areas for combating various animal diseases. The Committee were informed that an Expert Committee has been set up to achieve this purpose. The Committee find that the Report of the Expert Committee has not yet been received and, therefore, no further action could be taken in the matter. The Committee,

therefore, recommend that the matter of expeditious finalisation of the Report of the Expert Committee should be pursued vigorously in the matter. The Committee desire that a particular time-limit should be fixed for the finalisation of the Report of the Expert Committee.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.23 In accordance with the recommendation of the Expert Committee, the Chairman has suggested the following Action Plan to finalise the inventory of Traditional Indian Medical Practices within a period of 3 to 6 months :

- (i) To organise a workshop of experts from various Institutions, Indigenous Drug Manufacturers and Scientists to discuss the subject.
- (ii) To engage a consultant, if required, to compile information from various sources for identifying plants which are already finding a place in the Indian Pharmacopeia and those which are yet to be identified & codified and then take steps to study the Pharmacological, Chemical and Clinical aspects of such plants.

Necessary steps have been initiated by the department on the above Action Plan of the Expert Committee.

#### **Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute, Hesserghatta**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 17)**

2.24 The Committee note that the Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute at Hesserghatta produces and distributes frozen semen doses from high quality cattle and buffalo bulls. The Committee find that the Institute could produce only 8.1 lakh doses of frozen semen against a target of 10 lakh doses in 1997-98. During the year 1998-99, against a target of 10 lakh doses, only 7.55 lakh doses could be produced. The Committee have been informed that the low achievement in semen production is due to the fact that new bulls could not be introduced in the existing herd so far. The Committee recommend that suitable steps should be taken to overcome this difficulty so that the targets fixed for the Institute are achieved in future.

2.25 The Committee also find that the number of persons trained in the Institute has been gradually coming down in the last few years due to the shortage of technical staff to impart training. It had taken many years for the Department to get the essential post of Assistant Research

Officer filled up through UPSC on a regular basis, due to which the shortfall in achievement continued. The Committee have been informed that at last the UPSC could recommend a suitable candidate for appointment. The Committee recommend that immediate action should be taken to get the selected person in position so that the training efforts do not suffer.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.26 The Institute has produced 8.24 lakh doses of frozen semen during 1998-99 as against the target of ten lakh doses. In order to achieve the target, steps are being taken to import breeding bulls.

2.27 The post of Assistant Research Officer of CFSP & TI has been filled up and Shri Arun Kumar has joined on 14.7.99.

#### **Cattle Insurance**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 18)**

2.28 The Committee note that a new scheme of Cattle Insurance has been included in the Ninth Five Year Plan of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The objective of this scheme is to subsidize the insurance premium rates of the cattle and buffalo of people living below the poverty line and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have not yet been benefited under any poverty alleviation scheme such as IRDP, JRY etc. The target group includes small and marginal farmers and also the landless labourers. Under the scheme, the cattle will be insured at the premium rate of 4% out of which 1.75% will be borne by the Government in the form of subsidy. A Corpus Fund of Rs. 5 crores will be set up for this purpose and the interest accruing on the fund will be used to subsidize the insurance premium amount. The Committee note that only a token provision of Rs. 5 lakhs was made for the year 1998-99 and even this amount could not be utilised. The Committee have been informed that the Standing Finance Committee has approved this scheme only very recently and that too only as a Pilot Project to be implemented from 1999-2000 onwards. The Committee do not approve of the delay in the approval of the scheme and recommend that the scheme should be taken up for implementation positively in the very first quarter of the year 1999-2000. The Committee are also disappointed that the scheme has been reduced to the size of a Pilot Project only instead of a project covering the entire nation. The Committee recommend that the Government should implement this programme all over the country covering all the people living below the poverty line.



### Reply of the Government

2.29 In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, necessary steps have been initiated for implementing the scheme from the first quarter during 1999-2000. Approval of Ministry of Finance has been obtained for reappropriation of Rs. 5 crores from other schemes. The corpus fund of Rs.5 crores has been established, which will be operated by GIC for implementing the scheme during 1999-2000.

2.30 As per the agreement with GIC, the scheme will be operated in 8 districts *i.e.* 2 districts from each zone of the country (North, South West and East), so as to gain experience and ascertain the response in initial stages.

2.31 Based on the experience gained in these districts, the scheme will be extended to other parts of the country, thereby covering the entire nation as suggested by the Committee.

### Integrated Dairy Development Project in Areas not covered by Operation Flood Scheme

#### Recommendation (SI. No. 24)

2.32 The Committee have been informed that the Union Territory Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was given Rs. 74 lakhs as demanded by them for the implementation of the Dairy Development Project in the Islands in 1997-98. The Committee find that the Union Territory Administration actually utilised only Rs. 18.45 lakhs in the implementation of their Dairy Project. The Committee find that no review by any senior officer of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been taken to assess the progress of the Project in Andaman and Nicobar Islands so far. The Committee are aware of the non-availability of milk in sufficient quantities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They are not satisfied with the performance of the Union Territory Administration in regard to Dairy Development in the Islands. The Committee also are not satisfied with the extent of review conducted at the level of a senior officer of the Department in regard to this Island Territory. The Committee recommend that special attention should be paid by the Government to the development of dairying activities in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

### Reply of the Government

2.33 The Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands was released Rs. 74.00 lakhs under IDDP during 1997-98, to improve the dairy activities and increasing the milk production in the UT. A Technical Management

Committee, constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Animal Husbandry, A & N Islands, with representatives from Planning Commission and Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, monitors the progress of implementation of the project. The last meeting of TMC was held on 21.1.99, which was attended by the Assistant Commissioner, Dairy Development, in the Department. The Assistant Commissioner also visited villages and the dairy plant. Based on the report of the Assistant Commissioner, the matter was taken up with the Chief Secretary, A & N Islands in June, 99 to improve the pace of implementation of the Project. The Joint Secretary, Dairy Development, in the Department also proposes to visit Port Blair after the elections to assess and review the progress of the Project.

#### **Acquisition of New Vessels for the Fisheries Survey of India**

##### **Recommendation (SI. No. 26)**

2.34 The Committee have been recommending in the past the formulation and implementation of a perspective plan of purchase of new vessels in phases to replace the ineffective old survey vessels which are more than 15 to 19 years old. The Committee felt that this was essential in view of the mandays lost in conducting surveys due to the frequent and costly repairs of the old vessels which were kept in Dry Dock for long periods every year. In accordance with this recommendation, the purchase programme submitted by the Fisheries Survey of India was approved by the Government. Now the Committee have been informed that there is rethinking on the part of the Government on the matter and the number of new vessels to be acquired is going to be drastically reduced in view of the reorganization of survey work being performed by the Integrated Fisheries Project, Cochin and also by the Fisheries Survey of India, Mumbai. The Committee note that the Government have been incurring huge, recurring expenses in carrying out repairs of the old vessels every year as they have become totally ineffective. The four vessels which are with the Integrated Fisheries Project are also engaged in survey work. Since the nature of work of FSI and IFP are the same the four vessels are likely to be transferred to FSI. The Committee recommend that the Government should satisfy itself that survey work does not suffer because of vessels. Be it by acquiring four (4) vessels of IFP and utilising its entire fleet of 12 vessels or by acquiring entirely a new fleet of vessels as suggested earlier by the Committee. The Committee leave it to the Government to take a decision. But, the Committee is unified in their views that the Government will not be excused for spending heavily on extensive repairs, docking of old vessels for many number of days, inability to achieve targets, under utilisation of allocations etc.



### Reply of the Government

2.35 The Committee has expressed concern over recurring expenses in carrying out repairs of old vessels every year, and also on docking of old vessels for many days, inability of FSI to achieve targets, under utilisation of allocation, etc. In this context, it may be stated that under utilisation of allocation in recent years has been largely due to a much lower utilisation of allocation, earmarked for work services, by the CPWD. Further, as regards expenditure on docking of vessels, it may be mentioned that dry docking of each vessel once in two years is a statutory requirement under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. It is also essential to carry out planned maintenance of the machinery on board after certain duration of operation as recommended by the manufacturer in order to avoid major break down of machineries and to ensure safety of personnel on board. dry docking and maintenance charges in public sector yards even for a new vessel would work out to around Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 30 lakh per vessel. The expenditure on dry docking and planned maintenance of the vessels of FSI during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 has been of the order of Rs. 244 lakhs and Rs. 215 lakhs respectively. While it is expected that replacement of an old vessel by a new vessel may result in better utilisation of the physical targets, there may not be any significant reduction in the expenditure on repair/maintenance of an old vessel for the reasons indicated above.

The proposal to purchase three new vessels for the FSI is being progressed.

### Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries

#### Recommendation (Sl. No. 27)

2.36 The Committee note that under the scheme for Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries, 50% of the cost of engine is provided as subsidy limited to Rs. 10,000 for Out Board Motors and Rs. 12,000 for In Board Motors so that motorisation of traditional crafts could be encouraged. The Committee find that under this scheme against a target of 3000 crafts fixed for 1998-99 is also not likely to be achieved. It has been explained to the Committee that the shortfall in achievement was mainly for want of demand from major States like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. No proposals have been received from the State of Maharashtra during 1997-98 and 1998-99. It is quite surprising to note as to why fishermen are not coming forward to avail of this assistance from the State Governments. The Committee feel that the matter should be taken up at the Chief Minister level by the Union Minister of Agriculture so that the scheme is duly popularised and sufficient demand is generated.

### Reply of the Government

2.37 The demand from the State of Tamil Nadu is likely to pick up by 2000-01 when the backlog of the unspent balance presently available with the State Government is fully expended for motorisation of traditional crafts during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. However, the demand for motorisation of traditional crafts has also been affected by the steep increase in prices of OBM by about 100% which has made the present subsidy level unattractive. During Ninth Plan, it is proposed to revise the rate of subsidy level from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 16,000/- in case of kerosene run OBMs and from Rs. 12,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- in case of diesel OBMs. This is likely to encourage fishermen to opt for motorisation of traditional crafts in a big way.

### Integrated Fisheries Project

#### Recommendation (Sl. No. 28)

2.38 The Committee note that the physical targets fixed for fish processing could not be achieved by the Integrated Fisheries Project, Cochin due to several reasons, one among them being, severe powercuts. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should consider the question of establishing a captive power plant for the unit at Cochin as most of the activities could not be carried on properly in fish processing and in cold storage without continuous supply of electricity.

### Reply of the Government

2.39 This Ministry has already approved a proposal from IFP for procurement of one 250 KVA Generator Set and an engine for 100 KVA Norwegian Alternator at an estimated cost of Rs. 16 lakh and procurement action of inviting open tenders through DAVP has been initiated. The purchase is proposed to be accomplished during the current year 1999-2000.

### Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery

#### Recommendation (Sl. No. 30)

2.40 The Committee note that the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery does not have an office building of its own in Bangalore and, therefore, the Institute has acquired the required land from HMT Ltd., Bangalore recently. However, further progress of construction of office complex appears to be very slow and required to be speeded up. The Committee, therefore, recommend that sufficiently higher allocations should be made for the construction of office building and the matter also

should be pursued with CPWD authorities who may be requested to take this work on top priority basis. The Committee feel that there is need for setting up two Regional Offices of the Institute—one on the East Coast and the other on the West Coast—to enable it function more efficiently. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should prepare a plan to open two Regional Offices of the Institute and allocate sufficient funds for the establishment of those offices.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.41 The payment of full cost of the land was made to HMT Ltd., Bangalore in June 1998. The Sale Deed was registered in August, 1998 with the concerned authority of Government of Karnataka. Thereafter the CPWD, Bangalore were approached in October, 1998 to start planning and construction of the office complex on the land purchased by CICEF. The CPWD, Bangalore had requested CICEF to submit the land use certificate from Bangalore City Corporation for planning and constructing the office complex and the requisite certificate was obtained in February 1999. The Senior Architect, CPWD, Bangalore has already prepared preliminary drawing for the office building complex. These drawings were scrutinised and certain modifications were suggested to match the operational requirement of the Institute. As soon as the modified drawings are received by CICEF from CPWD, necessary action to obtain the approval of Government to the proposed lay out and also for release of funds would be taken up on a priority basis. An outlay Rs. 50 lakh has been provided during the current financial year for this purpose and this budgetary provision will be suitably enhanced, if need to be, at the RE stage.

2.42 The Committee has recommended setting-up two regional offices of the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery - on the East Coast and other on the West Coast - to enable it function more efficiently. While the need to strengthen the existing establishment of CICEF needs no emphasis, this Ministry is of the considered opinion that it would be much more cost-effective to make additions to the existing establishment of CICEF to enable it to undertake the higher task/new activities rather than set up two more regional offices as proposed by the Committee. There would be a considerable higher recurring and non-recurring expenditure on acquisition of land, construction of office accommodation and on creation of posts to provide the requisite administrative and logistic support for the proposed regional offices.



### CHAPTER III

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

##### Separate Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

##### Recommendation (Sl. No. 5)

3.1 The Committee has been recommending in the past for the creation of an independent Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying both in the States and in the Centre with an exclusive Cabinet Minister in charge of the Ministry.

3.2 The Committee has been informed that the Pay Commission has come up in the recommendation that the Department must be merged back with the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation and that this recommendation is under the consideration of the Government.

3.3 The Committee are surprised how the Pay Commission could recommend the merger of a Department which contributes 9 to 10% of our GDP. The Committee also feel that the recommendation given by the Committee which is actually a people's representative body should not be taken lightly by the Government vis-a-vis the recommendation of the Pay Commission whose primary duty was to evolve principles which should govern the structure of emoluments and those conditions of service of Employees which have a financial bearing.

3.4 The Committee take a serious view and impress upon the government that the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying should be converted to an independent Ministry both in the States and in the Centre with an exclusive Cabinet Minister in charge of the Ministry.

3.5 The Committee also direct the Department to impress on the Government the need of a separate Ministry. The Committee further would like the Department to take immediate action to fill in the 78 posts in various cadres which are lying vacant.

##### Reply of the Government

3.6 The recommendation of the Standing Committee for creation of a Separate Ministry for Animal Husbandry and Dairying under a separate Cabinet Minister has been considered by the Government, but the recommendation has not been accepted by the Prime Minister.



3.7 As regards filling up of the vacant posts, vigorous efforts are being made by the Department to expeditiously fill up the posts which are lying vacant.

#### **Bare Foot Veterinary Attendants**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 14)**

3.8 The Committee have been recommending in the past that the Central Government should come up with a plan to organise short-term training courses whereby a large number of bare foot veterinary attendants could be trained for being deployed all over the country with a view to make available animal health care within a short distance in the nooks and corners of the remote areas of the country. The Committee made this recommendation keeping in view the fact that at present the network of Veterinary Dispensaries all over the country is hardly sufficient to render proper medical care and attention to the animal population along the length and breadth of the country. Precious lives of cattle are lost for want of timely medical treatment, as no qualified Doctor could be found in the close proximity of the villages and also due to non-availability of quality medicines at reasonable prices in time. The Committee have been informed that the matter has been referred to the Veterinary Council of India and to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for obtaining their views. The Committee feel that the matter requires urgent attention and a decision on it should not be delayed for long in the interest of saving the lives of the poor cattle all over the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a concrete proposal for starting a short-term training course should be evolved and put into operation in the forthcoming academic year itself with suitable budgetary allocations for this purpose.

##### **Reply of the Government**

3.9 The recommendation was referred for comments of Veterinary Council of India. The VCI has informed that training of bare foot veterinary attendants will be against the Parliament's enacted VCI Act 1984, which provide for rendering quality veterinary services to the farmers and will adversely affect the livestock sector and the interest of livestock owners. Veterinary Supervisors, Stockmen and Stockman Assistants provide veterinary services to the farmers in the states, under Sub Clause (b) of Section 30 of the Veterinary Council Act, 1984.

3.10 In view of this it may not be feasible to formulate and implement the training of bare foot Veterinary Attendants.

## Delhi Milk Scheme

### Recommendation (Sl. No. 31)

3.11 The Committee have been informed that the proposal to transfer of Delhi Milk Scheme to the Government of Delhi has been under suspended animation and the Delhi government has not decided about taking over the Body. The Committee have also been informed that the Budgetary allocations are not released to the DMS in one go for the whole year but is given instalments. Further, the CISF personnel which the Committee had recommended to be deployed in the Delhi Milk Scheme for Security so as to avoid heavy losses have not been deployed till date and that the Director General CISF has forwarded a proposal for the consideration of the Joint Secretary.

3.12 The Committee feel that a quick decision should be taken on the matter of transfer of DMS as the delay is neither helping the plant nor is it helping in building the enthusiasm of the employees to make it a profitable venture. The release of funds in instalments is causing operational difficulties. The Committee also feel that the plant can enhance its utilisation of milk processing upto 5 lakh litres per day and has put it on hold pending a decision on take over. The Committee therefore recommend that the Government should not wait any further and it should go ahead with the plan for maximum capacity utilisation and proper allocation of budgetary provisions.

3.13 The Committee also recommend that the proposal for deploying CISF personnel at the Delhi Milk Scheme premises for security purposes may be finalised by the Joint Secretary on urgent basis.

### Reply of the Government

3.14 The Department is constantly pursuing with the Home Ministry the question of transfer of DMS to Delhi Administration. However, our efforts have not yet borne success. MOS (Agriculture) has written to the Home Minister on 19.3.99. A reply is awaited.

3.15 The induction of CISF personnel in DMS has been examined at length. The induction of CISF personnel will require substantial additional expenditure. CISF has intimated that the initial requirement is Rs.50,000/- for conducting a survey jointly. Other requirements are provision of office accommodation, residential area for officers and other personnel to be deployed for watch and ward duty, transport parking, transport for the use of a CISF company, medical facilities, cost of uniform and kit articles, ration money and other allowances such as washing etc.

This is apart from the pay and allowances admissible to various ranks and files. It is also learned in case CISF is inducted the total amount of pay and allowances will have to be transferred to DG., CISF so that DG., CISF will disburse the pay and allowances to the CISF employees. Since DMS is being heavily subsidised, induction of CISF will further increase the subsidy burden.

3.16 Funds are released to DMS in accordance with guidelines of the Ministry of Finance and as per demands received from DMS.

3.17 The maximum capacity of the existing plant, machinery and equipment is 5 lakhs litres per day. But the actual capacity utilization is dependent upon the subsidy made available. The actual cost of production is much higher than the sale price of Rs. 7 Per litre for toned milk and Rs. 6 per litre for double toned milk. Utilisation of capacity is entirely dependent upon budgetary support.

## CHAPTER IV

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

#### Central Cattle Breeding Farms

##### Recommendation (Sl. No. 16)

4.1 The Committee note that the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying operates seven Central Cattle Breeding Farms in different agro-climatic regions of the country for maintenance of some important indigenous and exotic cattle breeds as well as buffaloes. These Farms produce and distribute superior pedigreed bull-calves for use in Cattle and Buffalo Development Programmes in various States. The Committee find that the Farm at Suratgarh maintains Tharparkar breed of cattle and every year bull-calves of this breed are produced in this Farm. It has been noticed that in the year 1997-98, this Farm could produce only 25 bull-calves against a target of 40 Tharparkar bull-calves. In the year 1998-99 also, the target of 40 bull-calves could not be achieved. In the Farm at Hesseraghatta in Bangalore, against a target of producing 20 Holstein Friesian breed of cattle, the Farm could produce only 13 bull-calves in the year 1997-98. The Committee, therefore, recommend that special efforts should be made in respect of these Farms to tone up their level of achievement in respect of these species.

##### Reply of the Government

4.2 Efforts are being made to achieve the target of bull calves production.

##### Comments of the Committee

4.3 For comments of the committee please refer to Para No. 1.9 of Chapter I of this Report.

#### Assistance to State Poultry Farms

##### Recommendation (Sl. No. 19)

4.4 The Committee have been informed that during the Ninth Five Year Plan, a new centrally sponsored scheme has been introduced with an outlay of Rs. 30 crores to assist at least two poultry/duck farms in each State all over the country. During the year 1998-99, no expenditure could be incurred on this scheme, although budgetary allocations were made.



The Committee have been informed that the scheme required the approval of the full Planning Commission and the approval was received only on 29 January, 1999 and that too with certain restrictions on the scope of the scheme. The scheme now would be implemented during the next two years only in the North Eastern States on a pilot basis. Thereafter in the last year of the plan, it will be implemented in 8 States only as a pilot scheme. The Committee are disappointed to note the reduction in the scope of the scheme. The Committee recommend that the scheme should be extended to all the States in the country on a regular basis and suitable budgetary allocations should be made at the revised estimates stage for the year 1999-2000 for this purpose.

#### **Reply of the Government**

4.5 Planning Commission has been approached to re-consider their views so that the scheme could be extended to all the States in the country on a regular basis from the year 1999-2000. The Planning Commission have in their letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1999 not agreed to this proposal. Further extension of the scheme beyond the areas allocated will be undertaken during the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

#### **Comments of the Committee**

4.6 For Comments of the Committee please refer to Para 1.12, 1.13 & 1.14 of Chapter-I of this Report.

#### **Alternative Site for Central Sheep Breeding Farm — Hissar**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 21)**

4.7 The Committee note that out of 6,477 acres of land provided to Central Sheep Breeding Farm, Hissar, the Government of Haryana has taken back 4,028 acres of land in 1997 which has made it difficult for the Central Sheep Breeding Farm to achieve its targets. In fact, against the usual target of supply of 1000 rams a year, the target has now been scaled down to 750 rams from 1998-99 onwards. The Committee have been informed that the Large Sheep Breeding Farm at Bhainsora in Chandauli District of U.P. and the Large Sheep Breeding Farm at Mamdipalli in Hyderabad District of Andhra Pradesh have been identified as two suitable locations for shifting the Farm. However, as an alternative, the Government of Haryana has also been requested to extend the lease period for the Central Sheep Breeding Farm at its existing location with a reduced land area of 990 hectares at an enhanced lease rent of Rs. 1000/- per acre per annum. The response of the State Government of Haryana is held up

pending payment of lease rent arrears to the tune of Rs. 5 crores. The Committee find that the alternative course of continuing the Farm at an enhanced lease rent would only lead to increase expenditure on account of the lease and in way it would help increasing the target of production of rams. Therefore, the Committee feel that this would affect the achievement of the objectives for which the Farm was originally created. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Central Sheep Breeding Farm should be immediately shifted to another suitable place so that the Farm could carry on its activities to achieve the original objectives for which it was set up.

#### Reply of the Government

4.8 The recommendation made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee were examined by this Department in detail. Of the two sites tentatively identified, the Sheep Breeding Farm at Mamdipally, Andhra Pradesh is not considered acceptable because of acute water shortage and arid conditions. Similarly, the Sheep Breeding Farm, Bhainsora, Uttar Pradesh is handicapped for want of basic infrastructure facilities particularly in respect of fencing and sheds, and office space available for relocating the Farm. Moreover, the Department has also considered the recommendations of the High Powered Committee for evaluation of central farms and allied activities. The Committee's recommendation on this issue is that replicating the facilities for a sheep breeding farm elsewhere would be counter productive, prohibitive in cost and efforts, and would not be justifiable *vis-a-vis* the development need of the country. The financial burden and the logistic feasibility of shifting 6,000 sheep and 380 families and staff together with existing office/farm equipment, machinery, furniture, etc. also has to be considered.

4.9 Keeping these issues in view, a sum of Rs. 5.20 crores has been paid to the Government of Haryana in July 1999 as arrears of lease rent. The State Government has also been approached to renew the lease for 2449 acres of land, and its response is awaited. In the meantime, the Department is presently concentrating its efforts to optimise the activities of the existing farm, so as to fulfil its basic objectives.

#### Comments of the Committee

4.10 For comments of the Committee please refer to Para 1.18 of Chapter-I of this Report.

## **Piggery Development**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 22)**

4.11 The Committee note that the allocation for Piggery Development has been reduced to Rs. 4 crores against the original budget allocation of Rs. 5 crores during the year 1998-99. The Committee have been informed that the reduction in allocation was due to the need for effecting savings by the Budget Division. The Committee have been informed that the reduction in allocation was due to the need for effecting savings by the Budget Division. The Committee find that in 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 400 lakhs was released to the States for assisting the Pig Farms, while only Rs. 378 lakhs could be utilised in 1998-99. The Committee are not happy with the reason advanced for reducing the allocation for this programme especially when the programme is being implemented well all these years and the targets were being achieved. The Committee do not approve of the tendency to reduce allocations from the programmes that has been performing well and they consider that it is not prudent to effect cuts in such programmes while there are several other programmes available for effecting such cuts in view of the poor off-take of funds from them. The Committee feel that proper attention should also be given to the matter of import of pigs, as this area was quite neglected during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period.

### **Reply of the Government**

4.12 The Department has provided an allocation of Rs.6.00 crores for 1999-2000 which is an enhancement of more than 33% compared to 1998-99 budget allocation. This enhancement was made keeping in view the importance of the scheme and also the recommendations made by Standing Committee.

4.13 The Department has called global tenders for import of pigs. The tender for import of 360 pigs has been approved in September, 1999. These imports should now take place during 1999-2000.

### **Comments of the Committee**

4.14 For comments of the Committee please refer to Para 1.22 and 1.23 of Chapter-I of this Report.

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## CHAPTER V

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

#### Need to Restore the Supremacy of Parliament in Financial Matters

##### Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)

5.1 The Committee note that there is a growing tendency on the part of the Executive to cut down altogether all the allocations for the Plan Schemes and also to reduce allocations drastically to the Plan Schemes at the revised estimates stage, although the Parliament has made available these funds to all those schemes in exercise of the Constitutional powers granted to them in the Constitution of India for sanctioning expenditure and its appropriation. The Committee have come across several instances where the entire allocations for various new plan schemes of the Ninth Plan have been reduced to zero at the revised estimates stage by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance and these schemes have become chronic non-starters, although we are in the third year of the Ninth Five Year Plan. The fact of these reductions come to the notice of the Parliament only through the Detailed Demands for Grants laid before the Parliament at the fag end of a financial year, a stage at which the Parliament has to helplessly acquiesce itself into a state of acceptance of this matter, as no restoration of the originally sanctioned amounts at this stage can help due to the sheer lapse of time of almost eleven months of a financial year already during which these should have been utilised. The Committee feel that such reductions by the Planning Commission, which is only adjunct of the main Executive without any constitutional sanction for its existence, amounts to exercise of powers, that can only be exercised by the passing of several Cut Motions for which the Parliament alone is empowered under the existing constitutional scheme of things. The Committee are aware that the expenditure budget is only an 'Estimate' and as such it has an inherent flexibility in it for 'reasonable' reductions or increases due to various factors. But such variations can be done only by the Parliament and by no other body under the existing provisions of the Constitution. The Committee feel that, ideally, once the Parliament passes a budget estimate for a purpose, sincere attempts should be made by the Executive to spend the funds for the purpose and procedural formalities to be adopted for issuing administrative sanctions for those schemes should not be abused to stall the very implementation of the

schemes. But the Committee find that the present system of accord of approval consisting of the various stages of sanctions by Expenditure Finance Committee, Standing Finance Committee, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs etc. has only led to strangulating delays in the process of implementation of schemes which have the seal of approval of popular will for them from the Parliament. The Committee cannot accept a position whereby the unending rigmaroles of procedural drills prescribed by the bureaucracy for accord of mere administrative approvals are sought to be used to put a spoke on the wheels of progress that should turn on the path delineated by the Parliament. The Committee are of the strong view that such practices are a negation of the basic principles of parliamentary democracy whereby extra-constitutional bodies, procedural devices and practices seek to undermine the supremacy of the Parliament over the Executive. They, therefore, recommend that the whole procedure prescribed for according post-budget approval for plan schemes should be thoroughly overhauled in the light of the observations of the Committee made above so that the supremacy of the Parliament is re-established and the will of the people prevails. It must be remembered that every estimate in a budget raises a hope in the minds of the people for their legitimate development and, therefore, any disadvantageous variation in it would only lead to misleading the public, particularly the poorer sections of the society and as such would amount to committing a fraud on those innocent people.

#### **Reply of the Government**

5.2 The Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure has been apprised of the recommendations of the Committee in this regard. A response from the Ministry is awaited.

#### **Setting up of Indian Council of Veterinary Research**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 6)**

5.3 The Committee have been recommending in the past for an autonomous body by the name "Indian Council for Veterinary Research" which should be set up on the lines of the Indian Council for Agriculture Research. The Committee have also expressed its desire that in every State there should be a separate University for animal science. Despite the repeated recommendations of the Committee, no concrete action has been taken by the Government in respect of these matters. The Committee desire that the recommendation of the Committee on these matters should be brought to the notice of the highest political executive for obtaining directions and a Centrally sponsored scheme should be drawn up within a specific time frame.

In view of the decision of the Planning Commission, the Department has taken stock of the progress so far achieved in the matter of identifying/strengthening Central/Regional Laboratories. For this purpose, considerably higher allocation of Rs. 6 crores has been earmarked during the Ninth Plan as against Rs. 6 crores during the Eighth Plan. The Expert Committee constituted by the Department has been requested to consider two alternatives, *viz.*

- (i) to finalise proposals for establishment of a new laboratory, and request reconsideration of the Planning Commission of its decision, or
- (ii) to finalise location of laboratory for the northern region; failing which consider upgradation & strengthening of IVRI, Izatnagar to function both as diagnostic lab for northern region and National Referral Lab as recommended by the Standing Committee. The Expert Committee is expected to convey its recommendations shortly.

5.15 For comments of the committee please refer to para 1.6 of Chapter-I of this Report.

#### **New Scheme for Creation of Disease free Zone**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 11)**

5.16 The Committee note that under the, Ninth Five Year Plan, a scheme named "Creation of Disease-Free Zone" has been proposed to cover a vast area in selected States in the country and it involves a totally new concept. The objective of the scheme is to select some areas/zones in the country which would be made free from most of the important live-stock diseases. The scheme will be implemented in areas having a high density of high yielding milch animals and meat producing live-stock/poultry. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has proposed an allocation of Rs. 85 crores under the Special Action Plan for the scheme. In order to implement the scheme in a time-bound manner, a Consultant has been engaged to prepare the project. The Committee have been informed that during a preliminary round of discussion with the States, it was found that they want a very large portion of the establishment expenditure to be reimburse by the Centre and the Central Government find it not possible to do so. The Committee note that the scheme is not finding acceptance by the State Governments and it is difficult for the Central Government to implement the scheme in right earnest even in the third year of the Ninth Five Year Plan. The Committee recommend that the



### **Reply of the Government**

5.4 The subject regarding establishment of separate Animal Science University comes under the purview of the concerned State Governments and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research. As such, this Department does not have a role in this issue.

As regards the creation of Indian Council of Veterinary Research (ICVR), the issue was considered by the Prime Minister and has directed that the matter should be considered by the new Government.

### **Expenditure on Animal Health**

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 8)**

5.5 Considering the fact that the animal health activities play a significant role, in controlling the production losses as well as protecting the valuable animals belonging to the poor farmers, the Committee have been recommending in the past that at least 50% of the outlay meant for animal husbandry sector should be earmarked for providing health cover to the animal population of this country and to achieve the goal of "Health for all Animals by 2010 AD". But the Committee are disappointed to note that in the Ninth Plan, the allocation in favour of animal health sector has been reduced to Rs. 272.10 crores by the Planning Commission against a projected demand of Rs. 688 crores by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The current allocation of Rs. 272.10 crores for health cover out of the approved allocation of Rs. 1,072.18 crores for the, animal husbandry activities works out to only 25.37% of the total. The Committee wish to point out that during the Eighth Plan, about 40.22% of the total outlay of the animal husbandry division was earmarked for animal health care. The Committee understand that in the Special Action Plan, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has sought an allocation of Rs. 352.18 crores for providing animal health cover during the Ninth Plan Period. The Committee recommend that the Planning Commission should consider the projections of the Department favourably and allocate the required funds in favour of this crucial sector upon which the precious lives of animal depend for existence.

5.6 The Committee further observe that against a budget estimate of Rs. 60 crores for the central sector scheme and Centrally sponsored schemes for ensuring animal health in 1997-98, the actual expenditure was only Rs. 19.44 crores. For the year 1998-99, the revised estimate comes to only Rs. 20 crores against the original budget estimate of Rs. 61 crores. The Committee take a very serious view of the continued under-utilisation of

funds meant for the animal health sector. They recommend that the Government should take special steps to utilise the funds allocated to ensure health cover, as Health is the first and foremost requirement for the very existence of the animal species and for deriving further economic output from them. The Committee observe that many medical centres for animal health do not have the necessary infrastructure like X-ray, operation theatre, blood transfusion, etc. as available at Chaudhury Charan Singh (Haryana Agriculture University) CSS (HAU) because of which these animals are put to pain and even loss of life.

5.7 The Committee recommend that all animal health medical centres in the country should have these basic amenities and provision should be made in their yearly project allocation for diagnosis infrastructure.

#### Reply of the Government

5.8 The thrust during the Ninth Plan is focussed on provision of better health care facilities for controlling, production losses, and protecting the valuable animal belonging to farmers. The Department has therefore earmarked a significantly higher allocation of Rs.284 crores under animal health schemes during the Ninth Plan as compared to Rs.160.88 crores during the Eighth Plan. The step up in individual scheme is as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)	
	Eighth Plan	Ninth Plan
1. Directorate of Animal Health	19.75	48.00
(i) Directorate of Animal Health (Hdqr.)	2.30	2.00
(ii) Animal Quarantine and Certification Services Stations	3.95	15.00
(iii) National Veterinary Biological Products Quality Control Centre	7.22	15.00
(iv) Referral Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories.	6.28	16.00
2. Assistant to States for control of animal diseases	40.00	119.00
3. Professional Efficiency Development	5.00	21.00
4. National Project on Rinderpest Eradication	96.13	48.00
5. Creation of Disease Free Zones	—	48.00

5.9 A provision of Rs.142.18 crores was initially made under NPPE, which included EEC assistance of Rs.112.18 crores. The EEC, however, stopped funding in July, 1998 and the ongoing components of the Project are now being implemented with an internal budget of Rs.48 crores.

5.10 Under the schemes, the Department supplements the efforts of State Governments in diagnosis, prevention and controlling animal diseases. The State Governments are primarily responsible for execution of these schemes, for which they have to provide equal matching grants (50:50) in the State budget. The pace of utilisation during the last 2 years 1997-98 & 1998-99 was low mainly because the State Governments could not provide their matching share. Against the budget allocation of Rs. 118.72 crores, only Rs. 28.38 crores was released to State Governments as they could provide matching share to this extent only. Besides, the schemes at S.No. I(i), I(iii) and I(iv) could not be implemented during the 2 years which also contributed to low pace of utilisation. The Department has been vigorously pursuing with State Governments for providing adequate matching grants, and for placing higher demands to improve the pace of utilisation in the remaining period of Ninth Plan.

5.11 With regard to the observation on non-availability of facilities like X-ray, operation theatre, the recommendation of the Committee has been communicated to the State Governments for taking appropriate action, since it is the responsibility of State Governments to maintain medical centres as required.

#### Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

##### Recommendation (Sl. No. 10)

5.12 The Committee find that the Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory has been a sanctioned Central Sector Scheme from the Seventh Plan onwards. This laboratory with modern diagnostic facilities for speedy diagnosis of obscure infectious diseases is also to function as a Referral Laboratory for the entire Country and for the neighbouring countries also. The importance of the laboratory could be gauged from the main objectives for it as enumerated in the Performance Budget Document this acquires added importance from the fact that India has signed the GATT agreement. The Committee are disappointed to find that this scheme remained only in print throughout the Eighth Plan Period also, never to be realised in concrete terms. The Committee find that the Expenditure Finance Committee, while discussing the scheme for the Eighth Plan, observed that instead of establishing an independent unit by spending a huge amount, the objective can be achieved by identifying and strengthening an existing



laboratory by providing adequate funds for modernisation. In view of this, the decision to have an independent Diagnostic Laboratory could not be implemented and it was decided to strengthen the IVRI Laboratory and four selected Laboratories of the ICAR/State Agricultural Universities. The Committee find that this scheme is again in the Ninth Plan proposals and a team under the leadership of the National Project Coordinator of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying was constituted to identify the Laboratories. The Committee could so far identify only three Laboratories for the Southern, Western and Eastern regions. For the Northern region, no Laboratory has been found suitable. The Committee find that the direction of the original proposal has been completely diverted from its original course and whatever has been done in place of the original scheme, do not appear to lead to the achievements of the original goals. The whole episode is a sad commentary on the lack of will on the part of the Government to concretise a scheme and it is a matter of pity that even after a period of two decades, the Government are not in a position to establish a Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory as originally envisaged by them fifteen years ago. The Committee are of the firm opinion that our country, which is actually leading the third world countries in many matters, should have, the pride of having a superspeciality facility in the form of a Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Therefore, adequate funds should be laid out for this facility in the Ninth Plan, positively. Since no laboratory was found suitable in the Northern Region, the Committee recommend that the Laboratory of IVRI, Izatnagar should be strengthened as a Regional Laboratory for the Northern Region. The Committee also recommend that the Government should reconsider its decision in the matter of setting up of an independent Central Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and set it up as an independent unit within the Ninth Five Year Plan Period as originally thought of several years ago in an area which has a predominantly high density of cattle population in the country.

#### **Reply of the Government**

5.13 In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee for setting up an independent Disease Diagnostic Laboratory during the Ninth Plan, the Department had requested the Planning Commission to accord required approval to modify the existing scheme which provides for strengthening of identified laboratories. The Planning Commission has informed vide letter dated 1.9.99 that the Ninth Plan is already underway, and the work of strengthening of 3 laboratories has already been taken up by the Department. Hence no proposal for setting up a new laboratory should be taken up at this stage.

In view of the decision of the Planning Commission, the Department has taken stock of the progress so far achieved in the matter of identifying/strengthening Central/Regional Laboratories. For this purpose, considerably higher allocation of Rs. 6 crores has been earmarked during the Ninth Plan as against Rs.6 crores during the Eighth Plan. The Expert Committee constituted by the Department has been requested to consider two alternatives, *viz.*

- (i) to finalise proposals for establishment of a new laboratory, and request reconsideration of the Planning Commission of its decision, or
- (ii) to finalise location of laboratory for the northern region; failing which consider upgradation & strengthening of IVRI, Izatnagar to function both as diagnostic lab for northern region and National Referral Lab as recommended by the Standing Committee. The Expert Committee is expected to convey its recommendations shortly.

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#### **New Scheme for Creation of Disease free Zone**

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5.16 The Committee note that under the, Ninth Five Year Plan, a scheme named "Creation of Disease-Free Zone" has been proposed to cover a vast area in selected States in the country and it involves a totally new concept. The objective of the scheme is to select some areas/zones in the country which would be made free from most of the important live-stock diseases. The scheme will be implemented in areas having a high density of high yielding milch animals and meat producing live-stock/poultry. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has proposed an allocation of Rs. 85 crores under the Special Action Plan for the scheme. In order to implement the scheme in a time-bound manner, a Consultant has been engaged to prepare the project. The Committee have been informed that during a preliminary round of discussion with the States, it was found that they want a very large portion of the establishment expenditure to be reimburse by the Centre and the Central Government find it not possible to do so. The Committee note that the scheme is not finding acceptance by the State Governments and it is difficult for the Central Government to implement the scheme in right earnest even in the third year of the Ninth Five Year Plan. The Committee recommend that the

Union Government should accord topmost priority for the resolution of differences in the matter among the implementing agencies, within a very short time so that the scheme could be implemented in the very first quarter of the financial year, 1999-2000.

#### **Reply of the Government**

5.17 This is a new concept with the objectives of controlling and eradication of certain important diseases in certain selected zones / areas of the country with special emphasis on control of FMD. With regard to Control of FMD, operational parameters such as vaccination and supervision, identifying of vaccinated animals, monitoring of vaccinated animals especially migratory flock, maintenance of immune belt, maintenance of sound cold chain system, etc. have to be given due attention before launching the programme for its successful implementation. In view of this, the Department has circulated the Report of the Consultant to the State Governments seeking their comments. Only Tamil Nadu has offered its comments. The Department convened a meeting of State Directors concerned with the implementation of the scheme to finalise the modalities for implementation of the scheme. The State Governments have so far provided insufficient data and information, and have been requested to forward the same. After finalising these modalities, funds will be released to the State Government for implementing as per guidelines framed for the scheme.

#### **Strengthening of Marketing Facilities for Poultry**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 20)**

5.18 The Committee are informed that the poultry sector which is chiefly operated by small and marginal farmers is devoid of any marketing facilities in the form available in the milk sector. The Committee recommend that poultry marketing federations should be set up so that the poor farmers have an assured marketability of their produce and also get reasonable prices to keep them engaged in their small trades. The Committee further recommend that in order to encourage participation the Government should evolve a plan scheme for 100% funding to set up these marketing federations.

#### **Reply of the Government**

5.19 Existing poultry corporations/federations and similar other organizations in the country have been approached to send their detailed comments and proposals for central assistance to establish or strengthen



the marketing structure for consideration. Their response has been poor. Consequently the State Governments have been addressed on this recommendation.

#### **Scheme of Assistance to Sick Milk Cooperatives**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 23)**

5.20 The Committee note that against a total budget allocation of Rs. 15 crores in 1997-98 and 1998-99, no expenditure could be incurred for the central sector plan scheme known as "Assistance to Cooperatives". The Committee have been informed that the guidelines for the implementation of the scheme could be finalised only on 28 July, 1998 and the scheme is now being processed for seeking approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. The Committee are disappointed to note the slow pace of work in the process of seeking necessary approvals for the implementation of the scheme. The Committee find that even in March, 1999, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has not taken up the scheme for approval. The Committee are apprehensive that even during 1999-2000, the scheme may not take off as a long winding procedural formality has yet to be observed for getting clearance for the scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend that topmost priority should be accorded for getting this scheme cleared expeditiously from the authorities concerned and all the 28 unions proposed by NDDB for assistance should be funded during 1999-2000 positively.

##### **Reply of the Government**

5.21 The Department has taken note of the serious concern expressed by the Committee on the slow progress in approval of this vital scheme. The Department sent a note to the Cabinet Secretariat for placing before the CCEA. The Cabinet Secretariat wanted us to examine if, in view of the Code of Conduct for Election, consideration of the matter should be deferred till a new Government is in position. We referred the matter to the Election Commission; the Election Commission have advised that consideration should be deferred till a new Government is in position.

#### **Development of Integrated Coastal Aquaculture**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 25)**

5.22 The Committee note that under the scheme for Development of Integrated Coastal Aquaculture, the Department could release only Rs.0.81 crores against a budget allocation of Rs. 4 crores in 1997-98. During the year 1998-99, the allocation has been reduced to Rs. 1 crore at the revised

estimates stage against the original budget estimate of Rs. 3 crores. It was explained to the Committee that the coastal aquaculture activities came to a halt due to the uncertainty caused by the Supreme Court's judgement in December, 1996 prohibiting non-traditional shrimp culture within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) i.e. 500 meters from the high tide line. A review petition in the Supreme Court is now pending for disposal in this regard. The Government is yet to come out with a proper legislative measure to tide over the situation by introducing a Bill in the Parliament so far. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter should be tackled on an emergent basis by bringing in appropriate legislative measures before the Parliament in this current Budget Session itself.

#### **Reply of the Government**

5.23 In order to enact legislation to regulate shrimp farming activities in coastal areas, the Aquaculture Authority Bill, 1997 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20.3.97. Although the Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha, the same could not be passed by the 11th Lok Sabha. Consequent on the dissolution of 11th Lok Sabha, the Bill lapsed and is required to be reintroduced in Parliament after obtaining the approval of the Cabinet.

5.24 A Cabinet Note dated 6.11.98 was sent to the Cabinet Secretariat, seeking approval of the Cabinet for re-introduction of the Aquaculture Authority Bill in Parliament. The Cabinet considered the note in its meeting held on 23.11.98 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be examined by a Group of Ministers headed by Commerce Minister and the recommendations of the Group of Ministers be placed before the Cabinet. A meeting of the Group of Ministers was held on 24.3.99. The minutes of the meeting have been finalised. Before the GOM recommendations could be submitted to the Cabinet, Parliament was dissolved. After the new Government and the new Lok Sabha are in position, the concerned Ministries will have to be consulted once again; thereafter the matter will be re-submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

#### **Visakhapatnam Unit of Integrated Fisheries Project**

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 29)**

5.25 The Committee note that there is an ongoing scheme for strengthening and fully operationalising the Visakhapatnam Unit of Integrated Fisheries Project, where the progress of work has been very slow due to delay in procurement of machinery. Due to this slow progress of work a major share of the plan allocation made since 1997-98 has not been utilised. The Committee has been assured that the project will be completed

this year. The Committee are concerned about the delay and recommend that the work requires speeding up so that the funds allocated for this purpose are fully utilised and the plan becomes operational in this year itself.

#### Reply of the Government

5.26 All civil works of the Administrative Block and Plant building of the Vizag unit of the Integrated Fisheries Project have been completed by the CPWD. Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board has cleared the plant for operation with the condition that only electrical heating system is permitted instead of oil fired boiler which has been installed by the Project. As the oil fired boiler has already been installed by the Project, it is not possible at this stage to change the oil fired boiler with electric heating system. The issue is being taken up with the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board to delete this condition. Further, progress on installation of High Tension Electric Supply is held up for want of clearance from Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

#### Comments of the Committee

5.27 For comments of the Committee please refer to para 1.26 of Chapter-I of this Report.

NEW DELHI  
February, 2000  
*Phalgunā, 1921 (Saka)*

SS.PALANIMANICKAM  
Chairman,  
Standing Committee on Agriculture.



## APPENDIX - I

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON MONDAY THE 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2000 IN  
COMMITTEE ROOM 'C'. PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1730 hrs.

Shri S.S. Palanimanickam – *Chairman*

### MEMBERS

#### *Lok Sabha*

2. Shri Ramdas Rupala Gavit
3. Shri Shivaji Vithalrao Kamble
4. Shri Y.G. Mahajan
5. Shri Jagannath Mallick
6. Shri M. Master Mathan
7. Shri Prakash V. Patil
8. Shri Adi Shankar
9. Shri Rampal Singh
10. Shri Zora Singh
11. Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav

#### *Rajya Sabha*

12. Shri Devi Prasad Singh
13. Shri Khagen Das
14. Shri Sharief-Ud-Din Shariq
15. Shri Devi Lal

### SECRETARIAT

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

At the outset, Chairman (AC) welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and requested them to take up for consideration the Draft Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of the following Ministries/Departments coming under the purview of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:-

**(1) M/o Agriculture**

- (i) Department of Agriculture & Co-operation
- (ii) Department of Agricultural Research & Education
- (iii) Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- (iv) Department of Food Processing Industries

**(2) M/o Water Resources**

3. The Committee considered the Draft Action Taken Reports one-by-one and adopted the Reports with minor additions/modifications.

4. The Members of the Committee thereafter authorised the Chairman to present the modified and adopted Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of all the above mentioned five Ministries/Departments to the House on a date and time convenient to him.

5. The Members also authorised the Chairman to include some more subjects of national importance for detailed examination and report by the Committee 1999-2000 in addition to those already selected by the Committee in its sitting held on 10th February, 2000.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

## APPENDIX II

### ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE 20TH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (TWELFTH LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	31
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Serial Nos. 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 24, 26, 27, 28 & 30	
	Total	15
	Percentage	48.5%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Serial Nos. 5, 14 & 31	
	Total	3
	Percentage	9.6%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Serial Nos. 16, 19, 21 & 22	
	Total	4
	Percentage	12.9%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Serial Nos. 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 20, 23, 25 & 29	
	Total	9
	Percentage	29%