

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2007-2008)

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2007-08)

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/
Observations contained in the Twenty Eighth Report of the
Standing Committee on Agriculture (2006-2007)}**

THIRTY FOURTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

November, 2007/Agrahayana, 1929 (Saka)

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AND EDUCATION)**

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 30.11.2007

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 30.11.2007



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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 Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture
 (2006-2007) (14th Lok Sabha)

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2007-2008)

Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

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3. Shri Anil Basu
4. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta
5. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava
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2.	Shri A.K.Singh	-	Joint Secretary
3.	Shri Raj Kumar	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri N.S.Hooda	-	Deputy Secretary
5.	Shri Anil Kumar	-	Senior Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Agriculture, [2007-2008] having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty Fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Twenty Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2006-2007) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) for the year 2007-2008.

2. The Twenty Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2006-2007) on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) was presented to Lok Sabha on 27.04.2007 and laid in Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to the recommendations contained in the Twenty Eighth Report. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received.

3. The Committee considered the action taken replies furnished by the Government at their sitting held on 27.11.2007, approved the draft comments and adopted the Thirty Fourth Report. Minutes of the sitting are placed at Appendix I.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Twenty Eighth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
27 November, 2007
6 Agrahayana, 1929(Saka)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV
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 Twenty Eighth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2006-2007) on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) which was presented to the Lok Sabha and laid in the Rajya Sabha on 27.04.2007.

1.2 The Action taken replies have been received from the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) in respect of all the 11 recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorised as under:

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

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10 (Total-5)

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

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

Recommendation Sl. No. 11 (Total-1)

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

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Total-5)

1.3 The Committee desire that the final replies in respect of recommendations for which only interim replies have been given by the Government, should be furnished to the Committee expeditiously.

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

Decline in DARE/ICAR proposed/demanded allocation for XIth Plan

(Recommendation No. 2)

1.5 Regarding decline in DARE/ICAR allocation for Xith Plan, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee observe that Ninth Plan Working Group constituted by the Planning Commission for DARE/ICAR had recommended that DARE should be provided at least one per cent of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AGDP) initially, with a gradual increase upto two per cent of AGDP in subsequent years. Similarly, Xth Plan Working Group for DARE had also recommended at least one per cent of AGDP share which amounted to about Rs.25,000 crore at that time. The XIth Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research and Education has also recommended that at least a sum of Rs.31,672 crore should be provided for various sectors and State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), in addition to the funding of the Externally Aided Projects(EAPs)/World Bank Aided Projects as per their approved programmes.

To the sheer astonishment of the Committee, DARE has proposed/demanded an allocation of Rs.12176.40 crore for the XIth Plan which happens to be Rs.3823.60 crore less than the outlay proposed/demanded by them for Xth Plan which was Rs.16000.00 crore (including Rs.1000.00 crore as one-time catch up Grant for replacing/renovating the age-old/obsolete infrastructure/equipments, etc.)

The Committee have always been very strongly recommending year after year to the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for providing at least one per cent of AGDP to DARE/ICAR for fulfilling their mandate, but have failed to understand the attitude of the Department that has belittled the Department's own pleadings before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture for seeking enhanced funding every year.

The Committee would like to be informed of the reasons as to why the DARE has failed to propose more outlay for XIth Plan which was expected to be greater than the Xth Plan Projections of Rs.16000.00 crore, which was repeatedly endorsed by the Committee through their various recommendations.”.

1.6 The Government, in their Action Taken reply, have stated as follows:

“The Department was constrained to project the XI Plan Outlay at Rs. 12176 crore in the background of the instructions received from Planning Commission in November 2006 while inviting the Department’s Plan proposals for the XI Plan period and Annual Plan 2007–08 wherein the Department was asked to submit with a maximum limit of an increase of 15% p.a. (at current prices). Going by this criterion as suggested by Planning Commission, the XI Plan outlay works out to Rs. 10467 crore whereas the Department had projected a higher figure of Rs. 12176 crore. However, the XI Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research & Education had recommended Rs. 31672 crore – against which a communication is yet to be received from Planning Commission. Further, in pursuance of the decisions taken by the NDC sub-committee on Agriculture and related issues a sub-group on Adoption and Generation of Relevant Technologies and their Dissemination to the Farmers was set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, which has recommended to the Planning Commission Rs. 36,000 crore during the XI Plan.”.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.7 The Committee note that the XIth Plan Working Group on Agriculture Research & Education had recommended Rs.31672 crore against which a communication is yet to be received from Planning Commission. The Committee also note that in pursuance of the decisions taken by the National Development Council (NDC) Sub-Committee on Agriculture and related issues a sub-group on Adoption and Generation of Relevant Technologies and their Dissemination to the Farmers was set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR, which has recommended to the Planning Commission Rs.36,000 crore during the XIth Plan.

The Committee would like to be apprised of the fate of these two recommendations mentioned above.

One Time Catch up Grant should be provided separately

(Recommendation No. 5)

1.8 Regarding One Time Catch up Grant, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee observe that the DARE/ICAR has a number of institutions/laboratories, which are more than twenty years old. It was felt necessary that a one time catch-up grant may be sought from the Planning Commission, so that the requirement of renovation of old infrastructure and up-gradation/replacement of obsolete equipment could be met. The Ninth Plan Working Group recorded that one time catch-up grant was the critical need for upgrading laboratory equipment, pilot plants, farm and laboratory facilities, class rooms and audio visual facilities. In order to have excellent academic standards in State Agricultural Universities and to have globally competitive research working environment, the Eighth Plan, Ninth Plan & Tenth Plan Working Groups had recommended Rs.300 crore, Rs.500 crore & Rs.1000 crore respectively as one time catch-up grant.

The Committee have been strongly recommending and urging the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance year after year to provide the much needed one time catch up grant over and above the annual allocations in a phased manner to ICAR, given its track record of service to the nation and being privy to agricultural revolution in the country.

The Committee also note that in this regard, the Department had written a number of times to the Planning Commission but the Planning Commission had always taken a rigid stand that the very purpose for which this grant was sought and felt necessary, viz., critical repair/renovation/upgradation of research and education facilities, etc., had already been taken care of in the total Plan Budgetary Support. Maintaining their earlier stand again, the Planning Commission in their guidelines for formulation of XI Five Year Plan has indicated that in the Plan budget critical repair and maintenance upto 15% of the Plan budgetary support can be included.

The Committee are dismayed with the routine response of ignoring and rejecting the recommendation of the Committee by the Planning Commission and pessimistic attitude of the Department in giving up the efforts to procure the essentially required one time catch up grant. The Committee strongly deplore the attitude of the Planning Commission to give false promises since IXth Plan onwards.

Further, the plea of the Planning Commission that the requirement of one time catch up grant has been taken care of in the Xth Plan allocations and hence no separate funding was required, is baseless as the Annual Plan allocations are always much below the budget proposals of the Department and hardly enough to maintain the on-going schemes of the Department. The meagre funding provided to the Department has always been inadequate and has proved insufficient for changing/renovating the obsolete infrastructure/equipment as is evident from the nil response from all the ICAR Institutes and SAUs who were given instructions during the IXth Plan that 20 to 40% of their total Annual Plan grant every year was meant for the purpose of one time catch up grant, but not even a single Institute/SAU could do that and the conditions with regard to obsolete equipment, age old infrastructure including laboratories and other related research facilities remain the same which is why the Department had again proposed an amount of Rs.1,000 crore during the Tenth Five Year Plan but the Planning Commission had never made separate allocations specifically for catch up grant through Annual Plans.

So far as the latest guidelines/instructions of the Planning Commission for formulation of XIth Five Year Plan which indicated that in the Plan budget critical repair and maintenance upto 15% of the Plan budgetary support can be included, is concerned, it is more than evident from the financial budgetary figures of the Department for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 that although there seems to be some increase in BE (2007-08) i.e., Rs.1620.00 crore [Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) which includes DBS + EAPs] from the RE(2006-07) of Rs.1430.00 crore yet practically the actual Domestic Budgetary Support viz., Rs. 1620.00 crore(GBS) – Rs. 290.00 crore (EAP) = Rs.1330.00 crore is Rs.83.50 crore less than the DBS of RE (2006-07) which is Rs.1413.50 crore.

The Committee, after keeping in view the potential of agriculture in changing socio-economic condition of millions of Indians, urge the Planning Commission and the Government to seriously consider agricultural research & education as one of the central elements of the planning efforts in the XIth Five Year Plan. The Committee as well as the Government have widely accepted that concomitant with high growth rate in our economy, agriculture must grow at 4%, as the improvement in productivity is the most important option to raise production which can't be done without developing new varieties of seeds which needs a lot of investment.

The Committee, therefore, urge the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance to have interactive sessions with the Department to understand, assess and negotiate the requirement of one time catch up grant in the favour of the Department as per the latest requirement to be assessed by physical verification of the ICAR Institutes and SAUs rather than imposing their terms and conditions to do the major renovation/upgradation of infrastructure/laboratories from the meagre annual domestic budgetary support.”.

1.9 The Government in their Action Taken reply have stated as follows:-

“The above recommendation of the Committee has been forwarded to Planning Commission / Ministry of Finance. According to guidelines of Planning Commission the Department may also include upto 15% of Plan budget for critical repairs and maintenance. However, the Planning Commission has intimated that the proposals / initiatives in the form of SFC / EFC / CCEA would be considered favourably to provide need based allocation.”.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.10 The Committee note that the Department has forwarded the Recommendation No.5 of the 28th Report of the Committee (2006-07) to the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance for getting it implemented. However, the Planning Commission has intimated that the proposals/initiatives in the form of Standing Finance Committee(SFC)/Expenditure Finance Committee(EFC)/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs(CCEA) would be considered favourably to provide need based allocation.

The Committee would like to be apprised as to how the Department makes the best use of this positive assurance given by the Planning Commission and prove the need for one-time catch up grant to do the major renovation/upgradation of infrastructure/laboratories and put up the proposal in the form of SFC/EFC/CCEA for the same as has been desired by the Planning Commission.

Slow Budgetary Process needs revamping for optimal utilization of public money

(Recommendation No. 6)

1.11 Regarding the Slow Budgetary Process, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that in spite of the positive assurance from the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and also by the Department during the examination of the last three DFGs of the DARE/ICAR regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee that RE/BE grants/funds should be made available to the Department and various Institutes under its jurisdiction sometime in the month of December or a little earlier, practically nothing positive has been done so far, as is evident from the factual information made available to the Committee by the Department.

The Committee observe that Ministry of Finance conveyed RE(2006-07) to the Department officially on 4.1.2007 and the Department also intimated sectoral allocations to the Division(s) located in the Headquarters of the Department, on 18.1.2007. From the first written reply of the Department, it is clear that the exact date on which the Subject Matter Divisions(SMDs) actually communicated the RE(2006-07) to the concerned Institute/NRC/PD was : (i) Crop Science on 25.1.2007; (ii) NRM on 19.1.2007; (iii) Fisheries on 22.1.2007; (iv) Agricultural Extension on 31.1.2007; (v) Agricultural Engineering on 9.2.2007; (vi) Horticulture on 5.2.2007; (vii) Animal Science on 29.12.2006; and (viii) Education on 17.12.2006. When enquired further on a supplementary point as to how the Animal Science and Education SMDs were able to convey RE(2006-07) on 29.12.06 and 17.12.06 respectively, to various Institutes/NRCs/PDs under them, even when Ministry of Finance conveyed RE(2006-07) on 4.1.2007, the Committee were further informed that ‘Animal Science and Education Divisions also took an advance action by communicating the tentative RE to its Institutes so as to keep them in a state of preparedness, although final RE 2006-07 was conveyed on 18.1.2007 and 5.2.2007 respectively.’ The Department has stated that ‘In the meeting held on 27.11.2006 Secretary(Expenditure), Ministry of Finance, while deciding the RE 2006-07 for DARE/ICAR through discussion with Financial Adviser, indicated the Plan RE as Rs 1430 crore. Initiating an advance action, the Department communicated tentative RE 2006-07 to all SMDs on 12.12.06 itself. The final RE 2006-07 of Rs 1430 crore was officially conveyed by MoF on 4.1.2007 and the Department also intimated sectoral allocations to Division on 18.1.07.’

The Committee feel that if Animal Science and Education Divisions could take an advance action by communicating the tentative RE to its Institutes on 29.12.2006 and 17.12.2006; respectively, then why the other six SMDs failed to take the same advance action in the month of December itself. Astonishingly, the Department has given belated action taken dates for their first six SMDs and advance action taken dates for the last two SMDs in the same reply. Moreover, the Department is admitting in their reply that the formal and actual RE(2006-07) was conveyed to the concerned Institutes etc. by their respective SMDs, as late as, for Horticulture & Education on 5.2.2007 and Agricultural Engineering on 9.2.2007 whereas Animal Science SMD is said to have conveyed on 18.1.2007 to its institutes, why Horticulture, Education and Agricultural Engineering. took 18 to 21 days more time to do the same.

The Committee strongly deplore the tendency of the Department to give confusing and misleading information/statements and later on cover up/polish their delays in action while replying to the points raised by the Committee and advise the Department to concentrate on improving their financial and administrative skills, as the Department took about 15 days time to formally convey the RE 2006-07 to its various SMDs located within the same building and SMDs in turn took about 18 to 21 more days to convey the same to their respective Institutes/NRCs/PDs, etc.

The Committee unanimously urge the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and the Department to seriously look into their procedural working in order to improve the entire tardy budgetary process to ensure that the RE/BE etc. are conveyed to the end-users, i.e., actual Institutes etc. of the Department, in the month of December itself or a little earlier for optimal utilization of scarce public money.”.

1.12 The Government, in their Action Taken reply have stated as follows:-

“The above observations and recommendation have been forwarded to Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. All the Subject Matter Divisions of the Department have been acquainted with these constructive observations of the Committee for expeditious compliance. The Department would be utmost careful in future in adhering to the concerns of the Committee.”.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.13 The Committee note that the Department has forwarded the Recommendation No. 6 of the 28th Report of the Committee (2006-07) for revamping the slow Budgetary

Process to the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. But the reply does not indicate the response(s) of both of these parties involved in the budgetary process, namely, Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. The Committee also note that all the Subject Matter Divisions of the Department have been acquainted with these constructive observations of the Committee for expeditious compliance and the Department would be utmost careful in future in adhering to the concerns of the Committee.

The Committee are dismayed to point out that in spite of such assurances given by the Department through their action taken replies since 2004-05, practically, no care has been taken/reflected in their actual and factual deeds in this regard. However, the Committee are sanguinely awaiting the positive outcome in the revamping of the tardy budgetary process this year onwards and would like to be apprised of the actual reform taken in this regard.

Concern over Hormone-injected Milk Production and its effect on Human and Animal Health
(Recommendation No.11)

1.14 Regarding Hormone-injected milk production and its effect on human and animal health, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee are aware that the practice of injecting hormone for enhancing milk production is prevalent among livestock farmers of almost all regions of the country, especially in Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, etc. The material used for the purpose is a crude preparation of Oxytocin, a peptide hormone that has the basic function of facilitating secretion of milk from the udder and expulsion of fetus/placenta during parturition. The farmers use the preparation of this hormone for salvaging complete milk retained in the udder. However, repeated use of the hormone on the animal can have a bad effect on the health of the animal especially on udder health.

The Committee express their concern over the issue and are astonished as to why the ICAR has not initiated any work on this issue even when they (ICAR) are very well aware of the fact that repeated use of the hormone on the animal can have some bad effect on the health of the animal. The Committee are not satisfied with the reasoning of the Department for not initiating any work on the whole issue as according

to them, no hormone is secreted in the milk as it does not stimulate milk synthesis as such and hence no risk for the consumers.

In the opinion of the Committee, this is a serious matter which directly involves animal's health and field experiences tell that it reduces animal's lactation years and also affects human health. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to initiate research on this issue afresh on both the aspects, viz., animal as well as human health from every angle and make the livestock farmers and consumers aware about their research findings on the bad/ill effects of injecting hormone repeatedly in the animal out of greed to gain more milk and money, through their network of KVKs, scientists-farmers interactive session and through media advertisements.”.

1.15 The Government, in their Action Taken reply have stated as follows:-

“At NDRI, Karnal work has been conducted on oxytocin administration on cows and buffaloes and gist of various studies carried out is given below:

- Administration of oxytocin in the doses of 10 IU(International Unit) for a period of 10 days did not affect milk production of crossbred cows. The production of fat and protein in cows of control group as well as the experimental group was similar. It was concluded that administration of synthetic oxytocin for milk let down does not adversely affect the production of milk fats and proteins.
- The effect of different doses (1 IU to 10 IU) of oxytocin on milking behaviour and composition of milk in 20 Murrah buffaloes in mid lactation and yielding an average of 9.1 kg milk per day was studied. One IU of oxytocin injected intra-muscular was very effective in milk let down without affecting the composition of milk.
- 2.5 IU and 5 IU of oxytocin when injected intra-muscular influenced milking time.
- Administration of oxytocin @2.5 IU indicated that its administration results in significant changes in milk yield. There is no effect of oxytocin on milk composition, pH, Erythrocyte Count and Non Essential Fatty Acids concentration.
- Study conducted on 18 lactating Murrah buffaloes to find out the effect of exogenous oxytocin on cisternal, alveolar and total milk yield, milk composition of cisternal, alveolar and total milk and permeability of mammary tight junctions showed no significant change. No effect on reproductive parameters was observed. The incidence of estrous symptom was similar and normal in control

and experimental groups of buffaloes and the ovarian status was normal. In view of this outcome of the study, it is evident that experimental studies undertaken at the institute did not reveal any adverse effect on milk composition or otherwise.

The Department had also sought the views / necessary action from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, which responded as under:

‘Oxytocin is used in veterinary practice as a drug to induce rhythmic contractions during dystokia – difficult parturition, removal of retained placenta and in some cases letting down of milk in case of withdrawal symptoms after delivery.

It is a schedule ‘H’ Drug that can be sold only on prescription. Recently, after seizure of such illegal injections of Oxytocin from Uttar Pradesh during 2004, letters were again issued to all the Secretaries of Animal Husbandry Department and copy to all Directors of States / Union Territories regarding initiating the campaign in collaboration with the State Drug Controller to check the menace of indiscriminate use of Oxytocin in animals in the States and an awareness campaign amongst the farmers and the dairy owners to be taken up’.”

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1.16 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Department. The reply does not mention anything or any action taken/proposed to be taken on the fresh research to be conducted by the Department on the issue of Hormone-injected milk and its effect on human beings. Moreover, the Committee feel that the study conducted by NDRI, Karnal on Animal Health is only for a limited period, say, 10 days or so, (as has been mentioned in the reply); but out of greed, the owner of animals uses this Hormone injection on regular basis, and the reply is silent about the same as no research seems to have been conducted on the effects of prolonged use of Hormone (Oxytocin) on Animal health, lactation years and composition of milk. The Committee desire that an elaborate study should also be conducted to know the effects of prolonged use of this injection. Further, the Committee would like to be apprised of the facts with regard to paradoxical contradiction in the reply of the Department as on the one hand the Department is

claiming to have found that there is no ill-effect/side-effect on milk as well as on animal health owing to using Oxytocin Hormone-injection, on the other hand, Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries whose views/plan of action on the issue were sought by the DARE, are calling it a menace and has re-issued the letters to all the Secretaries of Animal Husbandry Department regarding initiating the campaign in collaboration with the State Drug-Controller to check the menace of indiscriminate use of Oxytocin in animals in the States.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Decline in DARE/ICAR proposed/demanded allocation for XIth Plan

(Recommendation No. 2)

2.1 Regarding decline in DARE/ICAR allocation for Xith Plan, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee observe that Ninth Plan Working Group constituted by the Planning Commission for DARE/ICAR had recommended that DARE should be provided at least one per cent of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AGDP) initially, with a gradual increase upto two per cent of AGDP in subsequent years. Similarly, Xth Plan Working Group for DARE had also recommended at least one per cent of AGDP share which amounted to about Rs.25,000 crore at that time. The XIth Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research and Education has also recommended that at least a sum of Rs.31,672 crore should be provided for various sectors and State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), in addition to the funding of the Externally Aided Projects(EAPs)/World Bank Aided Projects as per their approved programmes.

To the sheer astonishment of the Committee, DARE has proposed/demanded an allocation of Rs.12176.40 crore for the XIth Plan which happens to be Rs.3823.60 crore less than the outlay proposed/demanded by them for Xth Plan which was Rs.16000.00 crore (including Rs.1000.00 crore as one-time catch up Grant for replacing/renovating the age-old/obsolete infrastructure/equipments, etc.)

The Committee have always been very strongly recommending year after year to the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for providing at least one per cent of AGDP to DARE/ICAR for fulfilling their mandate, but have failed to understand the attitude of the Department that has belittled the Department's own pleadings before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture for seeking enhanced funding every year.

The Committee would like to be informed of the reasons as to why the DARE has failed to propose more outlay for XIth Plan which was expected to be greater than the Xth Plan Projections of Rs.16000.00 crore, which was repeatedly endorsed by the Committee through their various recommendations.”.

2.2 The Government, in their Action Taken reply, have stated as follows:

“The Department was constrained to project the XI Plan Outlay at Rs. 12176 crore in the background of the instructions received from Planning Commission in November 2006 while inviting the Department’s Plan proposals for the XI Plan period and Annual Plan 2007–08 wherein the Department was asked to submit with a maximum limit of an increase of 15% p.a. (at current prices). Going by this criterion as suggested by Planning Commission, the XI Plan outlay works out to Rs. 10467 crore whereas the Department had projected a higher figure of Rs. 12176 crore. However, the XI Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research & Education had recommended Rs. 31672 crore – against which a communication is yet to be received from Planning Commission. Further, in pursuance of the decisions taken by the NDC sub-committee on Agriculture and related issues a sub-group on Adoption and Generation of Relevant Technologies and their Dissemination to the Farmers was set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, which has recommended to the Planning Commission Rs. 36,000 crore during the XI Plan.”.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

2.3 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.7 of Chapter-I of the Report.

Need to develop more High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) and improved management practices for existing HYVs of Wheat & Rice

(Recommendation No. 7)

2.4 Regarding Need to develop more High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) and improved management practices for existing HYVs of Wheat & Rice, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that it has been generally experienced that there is exhaustion of yield potential of new high yielding varieties (HYVs) of wheat and rice. Though the Department claims that in fact, there still exist a high yield potential which is yet to be harnessed with improvement in management practices and it may not be appropriate to say that yield potential of HYVs of wheat and paddy is exhausted, yet the Committee feel that the ICAR has done precious little in this direction and it must increase its research and monitoring activities to find out the truth in what majority of the

farmers and stakeholders are experiencing that there is exhaustion of yield potential of new HYVs of wheat and paddy as this fact has also been reported in Government's own Economic Surveys.

The Committee, therefore, expect the ICAR to put in more vigorous research efforts to develop more HYVs and improved management practices to remove all the barriers coming in the way to harness the untapped high yield potential of new HYVs and popularise those improved management practices and HYVs among the farmers through their extension and education network”.

2.5 The Government, in their Action Taken reply, have stated as follows:

“ICAR has developed large number of high yielding varieties in wheat and rice for different agro climatic conditions. New varieties and hybrids are introduced in the production system on continuous basis with built in resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses. Development and adoption of improved varieties of wheat and rice possessing high yield, resistance to important diseases and pests and other desirable traits have played a major role in enhancing wheat and rice production and productivity.

In rice 768 high yielding varieties have been developed for different ecologies since 1966. Twenty nine rice hybrids have also been released since 1994. Yield advantage of 1 to 1.5 t / ha has been obtained with the cultivation of rice hybrids over the varieties. Integrated nutrient management technology using organic and inorganic nutrients, nitrogen and water saving methods have been developed and popularized. New effective and environmentally safe chemicals for control of weeds, insect pests and diseases have been identified and recommended. Integrated pest management tools have been developed and popularized.

In wheat, 334 high yielding varieties have been developed for different ecologies since 1966. Short term and long term strategies have also been devised to boost the wheat production. Under short term strategy more emphasis is being given for effective transfer of available technology to the farmers. The long term strategies address the issue of breaking yield barriers through developing wheat hybrids, superior wheat as well as broadening of genetic base of varieties; sustaining rice-wheat system through resource conservation technologies, diversification/intensification, water and nutrient use efficiency, residue management; improving soil health by increasing carbon content, correction of micro-nutrient deficiencies/ toxicity, balanced use of fertilizers; integrated pest management; combating rusts through durable resistance; wheat quality

improvement by developing product specific varieties, increasing protein content, sedimentation value and grain hardness to match international standards, improving beta carotene and protein content and semolina recovery in durums and biofortification.

Steps being taken for breaking yield barriers

- Exploitation of heterosis for developing hybrids based on cytoplasmic male sterile system
- Broadening of genetic base of varieties
- Biotechnological interventions such as gene pyramiding, marker aided selection for biotic, abiotic and quality traits and Structural and functional genomics

Apart from high yielding varieties, the Department has developed a number of technologies on site specific integrated nutrient management; amelioration of acid, saline and sodic soils; cid, participatory water management including water harvesting; micro irrigation/ fertigation, diversified farming, composting/ vermi-composting, biofertilizers production, resource conserving technologies further to make them location-specific and cost-effective. The technologies have potential to increase yields by 40-100 percent.

The Frontline Demonstrations data indicate that yield can be enhanced up to 1.5 ton/ha. In order to streamline this practice at the level of stakeholders, the specific recommendation of the Committee in this regard has been forwarded to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for disseminating the wheat production technologies to the farmers of different states”.

Need to augment dedicated Research, Educational and Extension Activities of ICAR for accelerating Agricultural Growth Rate

(Recommendation No.8)

2.6 Regarding Need to augment dedicated Research, Educational and Extension Activities of ICAR for accelerating Agricultural Growth Rate, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that imbalanced use of fertilizer, low seeds replacement rate, low post harvest value addition, etc., are among the reasons manifested in the lackluster agricultural growth which stands at a moderate annual average growth of three per cent in the first six years of the new millennium starting 2001-02.

The Committee are of the considered view that DARE/ICAR, being the apex body for agrarian research & education, is directly responsible as per their mandate which includes (i) finding out cost effective technologies for preparing various health and organic composts; (ii) developing new effective biofertiliser strains tolerant to different biotic and abiotic stresses; and (iii) scientific management of proposed 1000 advanced soil testing laboratories and helping in maintenance of soil health cards containing appropriately recommended fertilizer to be used by the farmers. Similarly, one of the main reasons for low seed replacement rate is said to be “lack of awareness about yield advantages of use of quality seed”, also demands ICAR’s attention.

The Committee, therefore, urge the DARE/ICAR to look into these issues seriously and find out practical solutions/remedies to all these problems coming in the way of achieving high growth rate of agriculture, through their dedicated research, educational and extension activities in a time bound manner”.

2.7 The Government, in their Action Taken reply, have stated as follows:

“There is no denying the fact that the imbalanced fertilizer use, as evidenced by wider nutrient consumption ratios in some of the agriculturally important states is causing decline in soil health and stagnation in crop productivity. The Department has devised integrated nutrient management packages for important soils and cropping systems of the country to correct soil nutrients disorders and realize sustained crop yields. The packages envisage conjunctive use of chemical fertilizer, organic manure/ compost/vermi-compost/ bio-fertilizers and green manures. The eco-friendly and cost-effective technology for production of compost/vermi-composts out of rural and urban waste has been developed. The work is continuing on finding effective composting bio-cultures, improved compost plant designs and more efficient ways of handling and processing of bio-degradable waste in collaboration with other departments to reduce production cost of city composts. To have new bio-fertilizers strains suited to hot-arid/ saline/ alkaline/ acidic soil environments and novel strains/ PGPRs (Plant growth promoting Rhizobacteria), the Department has initiated a Network Project on Bio Fertilizer with 12 cooperating centres in the country established in the year 2002. The proposed advance soil testing laboratories will be managed scientifically to provide analyses and recommendations in terms of secondary and micro-nutrients besides primary nutrients. The laboratories would help maintain soil health by making entries regularly for nutrients status and fertilizer prescriptions in the soil health cards.

In order to cope with the problem of existing low seed replacement rate, during X Plan the Department has initiated a project entitled “Seed Production in Agricultural Crops and Fisheries” involving ICAR institutes, SAUs and conventional universities to have adequate production of quality seed of crops and fisheries as well as planting material. The project has started paying dividends in the shape of enhanced quantity of quality seed.

The above recommendation of the Committee has also been forwarded to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for initiating necessary steps in order to address the concerns raised by the Committee”.

Need to find real and practical remedies for abiotic and biotic stresses by ICAR causing heavy damages to the crops every year

(Recommendation No.9)

2.8 Regarding Need to find real and practical remedies for abiotic and biotic stresses by ICAR causing heavy damages to the crops every year, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that the production of nine oilseeds at 23.6 million tonnes in 2006-07 (2nd Advance Estimates) is estimated to decline by 15.7 per cent compared to their production in 2005-06. The reasons for decline in production of oilseed crops during 2006-07 are reported to be (i) largely due to late and deficit rainfall causing loss to groundnut crop in Andhra Pradesh; (ii) continuous and heavy rains in Gujarat resulted in decline of productivity; (iii) necrosis disease in sunflower also added to total decline of production, etc.

The Committee observe that basically abiotic and biotic stresses are the main reasons for decline in productivity and production of oilseeds as well as for other major foodcrops almost every year and these are in the knowledge of ICAR which in spite of high claims in doing the needful to fight the challenges of abiotic and biotic stresses for more than five decades, has failed to provide practical solutions to these perennial problems Indian Agriculture System is facing continuously.

As crores of rupees of the public money have been spent to find solutions/remedies to these stresses during the last more than fifty years, the Committee, therefore, recommend that ICAR should provide real and practical solutions/remedies in a time bound manner to fight with abiotic and biotic stress faced by

the Indian farmers and the Committee should also be informed of the reasons of failure to provide viable solutions for such a long time and the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard”.

2.9 The Government, in their Action Taken reply, have stated as follows:

“Oil seed production is mainly taken up in rainfed areas. The aberrations in rainfall pattern do affect the crop productivity. The Department has developed a number of varieties in groundnut that escape terminal drought. With particular reference to Groundnut, in Andhra Pradesh due to aberrations in rainfall, the crop varieties that were sown suffered due to lack of adequate moisture and the yield was affected. The unpredictability of local rainfall pattern caused this predicament. At the time of *Kharif 2006* meeting, the ICAR suggested that the concerned States should take up risk averting measures so as to minimize damage to crop and consequent loss to farmers. Flash floods due to cloud-burst inducing heavy rains were recurrent in Gujarat and adjoining States causing severe crop loss including that to groundnut.

Due to intense research efforts, some biotic stress-tolerant groundnut varieties are released for cultivation in the country, which are: (1.) GG-16- Tolerant to bud necrosis, root rot diseases and thrips; (2.) TCF-38 Highly tolerant to stem rot; (3.) GPBD-4 resistant to LLS and rust; and (4.) Short duration Groundnut varieties are JL-24 & GG-2.

Sunflower necrosis disease is managed by seed treatment with systemic insecticides that could reduce the insect vector population and prevent the disease transmission. Sunflower seeds are generally made available to growers by private seed industry and have all their stocks treated with recommended insecticides and fungicides to reduce crop loss due to seed-born pathogens as well as reduce early season insects such as thrips.

Biotic stress-tolerant sunflower varieties are:

TAG-24 tolerant to leaf spots, Bud Necrosis Disease

LS-II tolerant to downy mildew

Dstt-1 Resistant to downy mildew

PAC –36 – tolerant to downy mildew

DRSH-1- tolerant to downy mildew hybrid

Amongst biotic stress-tolerant Mustard varieties are:

YRN-6 suitable for late sown condition

Maya- resistant to white rust

CS614-4-1-4 (CS(54) suitable for salt affected soil

JM –1 and 2, NDR –1 & Geeta are White rust tolerant

RGN –13, Urvasi & Pusa Agrani are high temperature tolerant

Amongst biotic stress-tolerant Soybean varieties are:

Pant Soybean 1241- Resistant to Yellow Mosaic Virus disease, fungal complex & tolerant to rhizochnia

CO 3- Resistant to Yellow Mosaic Virus disease

SL 525 – Resistant to YMV, tolerant to stem blight & root knot nematode

Indira Soya –9 resistant to rust and stem fly

Short duration Sesame varieties are: RT-46 & RT-125

Amongst Pulse crops, the wilt tolerant Chickpea varieties, viz., Pusa Kabuli, BGD 72, JG–11, SAKI 9516, Phule G 95311, JGK -1 are widely cultivated.

The Pigeonpea Varieties that have multiple resistance to Sterility Mosaic Disease, tolerant to wilt & phytophthora blight are: Narendra Arhar 1 – MAL –13, GAUT OO1E, GTH – 1 (Hybrid) and NDA 99-6.

Mungbean variety, TARM 18 is resistant to Downey Midlew, Pant Mung - 4, HUM - 1 and Pusa Bold –1 are resistant to Yellow Mosaic Virus disease. Short duration varieties of Mungbean are K-851 & RMG-62)

Urdbean varieties resistant to Yellow Mosaic Virus disease are KU –300, NDU 99-2 and KU 96-3 while KBSH 44- is tolerant to moisture stress and resistant to major insect pests. Short duration varieties Urdbean varieties are T-9 & RBU-38.

Food crops:

The major effort to breed varieties tolerant to abiotic and biotic stresses culminated in the release of the following crop varieties.

Wheat:

Abiotic Stresses: Sodic Soils: KRL 19 & Raj 3077, Heat Stress: Raj 3765 & Halna, NW 104

Biotic stresses: Karnal Bunt: PDW 215, PD 233, WH 896 (*Triticum. durum*) & PBW 502 (*T. aestivum*)

Rice:

Abiotic Stresses: Upland varieties, viz., Tulsi, Aditya, Rani, Prasanna, Vandana; Saline Sodic: CSR-10, Narendra Ussar 2, Lunishree & Usar Dhan 2

Biotic stresses: Blast: VL Dhan 62, VL Dhan 8, Rice Tungro Virus endemic areas: Vikramarya & Nidhi, Gall Midge: Suraksha & Vikramarya.

Short duration Rice varieties like Vandana, Anjali, GR-8, Utpala, DRRH-2, RH-204, Vivek dhan 82 and Pant Dhan –16 are recommended.

In addition, the following recommended short duration varieties of food crops are:
Pearl millet:

Short duration Pearl millet hybrids and varieties are:

Maharashtra: Hybrid: ICMH 356, Nandi 35, Saburi, PAC 903; Variety: PPC 6, HC 20, JBV 2, ICTP 8203;

Tamil Nadu: Hybrid: GHB 558, CoHCu 8, X7; Variety: CO 7, ICMV 221, ICMV 155;

Andhra Pradesh: Hybrid: PB 106, GHB 558; Variety: AIMP 92901, APS-1;

Rajasthan: Hybrid: HHB 67, RHB 121, GHB 538, PB 180; Variety: CZP 9802, Raj 171;

Gujarat: Hybrid: GHB 577, GHB 526, PB 172, PB 112; Variety: JBV 2, HC 20;

Karnataka: Hybrid: PB 106, GHB 558; Variety: ICMV 221, ICMV 155

Sorghum:

Varieties recommended to manage scanty rain situation are: Maharashtra: Hybrids: CSH 9, CSH 13, CSH 14(Light soil areas) CSH 16, CSH 18, CSH 21 (Medium to heavy soils)

Varieties: CSV 13, CSV 15, CSV 17, PVK 400, SPV 699 (Medium to heavy soils);

Madhya Pradesh: Hybrids: CSH 9, CSH 10, CSH 13, CSH 16, CSH 17, CSH 18, CSH 23 varieties: CSV 10, CSV 11, CSV 13, CSV 15, SPV 235, JJ 741, JJ 938, JJ 1041;

South Gujarat: Hybrids: CSH 9, CSH 11, CSH 16, CSH 17, CSH 18, CSH 23; Varieties: CSV 10, CSV 13, CSV 15, CSV 17, GJ 35, GJ 36, GJ 38, GJ 40;

North Gujarat & Saurashtra: Hybrids: CSH 17, CSH 13, CSH 16, CSH 18; Varieties: CSV 10, CSV 15, GJ 37, GJ 38, GJ 39, GJ 40, GJ 41 ;

Rajasthan: Hybrids: CSV 10, CSV 13, CSV 15, SPV 96 , CSV 17; Varieties:(Medium to heavy soils)CSH 14,CSH 23 (Semi arid & transitional zones) CSH 9, CSH 10, CSH 11, CSH 13, CSH 16, CSH 18.

Maize:

Suitable varieties of Maize are:

Gujarat: Guj Makki1, Guj Makki 2, Prakash, Pusa Hyb 1, Pusa Hyb 2, Gaurav, Shakti, Guj.Makki-3, Guj Makki 4, Guj Makki 6;

Andhra Pradesh: Harsha, Deccan 103, Deccan 109, Deccan 107, MMH 133, Prakash, Pro 311, Bio 9681.Deccan 115.

Southern parts of Rajasthan short duration varieties: Mahi Kanchan, PEHM-2 & Navjot

Sorghum: CSH-14, CSH-9 & CSV-15

Millets:

Foxtail Millet is one of the choice for the regions having scanty rainfall (Maharashtra, A.P., Karnataka). In Western Rajasthan Foxtail millet (knagni) is a well-known drought hardy crop and can give reasonable harvest in areas where annual rainfall is less than 400 mm. Varieties of fox-tails millets, viz. SR 11 (Gauri) and SR 16 (Meera) are suitable for delayed planting and mature in 80 days. SR 16 has stay green character and gives higher fodder yield also. Application of 10-20 kg N/ha as basal dose is beneficial in withstanding drought and giving higher yield.

The ICAR has been devising appropriate *in-situ* moisture conservation practices increasing more infiltration of water into soil and less run off water harvesting measures to ensure life saving/ supplemental irrigations, micro-irrigation for conserving scarce water by applying in the root zone and use of amendments like gypsum and lime in sodic and acid soils, respectively for managing abiotic stresses to crops arising from drought and soil nutrients deficiencies and toxicities. The efforts are underway to refine these technologies further to make them location specific and cost effective. The ICAR has proposed full fledged Institutes of abiotic and biotic stress management during XI Plan for comprehensive treatment to problems of stress management of crops.

For horticulture crops also the Department has reoriented the research programmes with major emphasis for management of biotic and abiotic stresses through developing resistant cultivars/ varieties/ root stocks, integrated insect pest and disease management, use of bio-control agents like *Trichoderma*, *pseudomonas*, *Verticillium* (*Pollionia*) species, botanicals, predators, parasites, pheromone technology and improving soil health using soil amendments, organic manures including Vermicompost etc.

Salinity and drought tolerant grape root stocks like Dogridge has been used on commercial scale. *Aonla* and *ber* can be successfully cultivated on commercial scale in salt affected areas.

Vegetable varieties resistant to diseases in tomato (bacterial wilt, nematodes), brinjal (bacterial wilt), pea (powdery mildew), okra (yellow vein mosaic virus) were developed. In spices resistant varieties in black pepper (*Phytophthora* foot rot, nematodes) cardamom (rhizome rot, katee) were developed and are being commercially cultivated.

Need to improve the functional status/shortage of staff in KVKs

(Recommendation No.10)

2.10 Regarding Need to improve the functional status/shortage of staff in KVKs, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that the ICAR has sanctioned 546 KVKs in the country out of which 3 are non-functional due to financial and administrative problems. Out of the remaining 543 KVKs, 223 were sanctioned during 2004-05 to 2006-07. These KVKs are said to be in various stages of development. The ICAR claims that the remaining 320 are developed KVKs.

The Committee also note that the explanation extended by the ICAR for prevailing shortage of staff in KVKs that ‘Overall 64% post are filled. However, it is worth mentioning that 261 KVKs were sanctioned during last 28 years, as against 101 during the last two year. The codal formalities for filling up the posts take time. The matter was also discussed in the VCs’ Conference held on 21-22 February, 2007 for filling of the posts on priority’. However, the Committee observe that the explanation given by the Government speaks volumes of the lack of organisational and management skills and lackadaisical approach of the DARE/ICAR in filling up the 36 per cent overall pending posts in KVKs. The Committee are dismayed at finding the ground reality different from the rosy picture the Department gives about the fully functional status of 320 KVKs. The Committee are aware that many of the KVKs which ICAR claims to be fully and satisfactorily functional are only semi or partially functional in spite of the fact that these were sanctioned more than 5, 8 or even 10 years ago.

The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to look into the problems/barriers which are coming into the way of making all the KVKs fully rather optimally functional and remove the shortage of all categories of staff in KVKs during 2007-08 itself.

The Committee further recommend that the Department should develop a regular mechanism with immediate effect through which the Department should not only always inform and apprise the local Members of Parliament about the major events/activities of KVKs of their areas but also invite them to actively involve/participate in the activities of the KVKs”.

2.11 The Government, in their Action Taken Reply, have stated as follows:

“The issue of shortage of staff in the KVKs was discussed in the Vice Chancellors’ Conference held during 21-22 February, 2007 for filling up the posts on priority. The Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture in his letters dated 10-14 May, 2007 requested the Chief Ministers of all the concerned States to issue necessary instructions for filling up the positions which are essentially needed in order to achieve desired science-led growth particularly important in the present context of Indian Agriculture. As a follow-up, the Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) has requested the Vice-Chancellors of the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) enclosing the letter of Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture addressed to Hon’ble Chief Ministers and has requested for filling-up the vacant posts in the KVKs immediately.

For developing a mechanism through which the Department should not only always inform and apprise the local Members of Parliament about the major events/ activities of KVKs of their areas but also invite them to actively involve/ participate in the activities of the KVKs; there is a provision of a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for each KVK including the representatives from the SAU, ICAR Institute, Line Departments, Lead Bank, and Farmers’ Representatives where the action plan for the KVK is discussed. In the backdrop of Government of India decision to assign overseeing responsibilities to the Directors of Extension Education of SAU/ Central Agricultural University (CAU) in their jurisdiction and in consonance with the recommendation of the Committee, the ICAR is sending advice to the SAUs/ CAU for inviting the local Hon’ble Members of Parliament in important functions of the KVK”.

CHAPTER III

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

NIL

CHAPTER IV

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

Concern over Hormone -injected Milk Production and its effect on Human and Animal Health

(Recommendation No. 11)

4.1 Regarding Hormone-injected milk production and its effect on human and animal health, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee are aware that the practice of injecting hormone for enhancing milk production is prevalent among livestock farmers of almost all regions of the country, especially in Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, etc. The material used for the purpose is a crude preparation of Oxytocin, a peptide hormone that has the basic function of facilitating secretion of milk from the udder and expulsion of fetus/placenta during parturition. The farmers use the preparation of this hormone for salvaging complete milk retained in the udder. However, repeated use of the hormone on the animal can have a bad effect on the health of the animal especially on udder health.

The Committee express their concern over the issue and are astonished as to why the ICAR has not initiated any work on this issue even when they (ICAR) are very well aware of the fact that repeated use of the hormone on the animal can have some bad effect on the health of the animal. The Committee are not satisfied with the reasoning of the Department for not initiating any work on the whole issue as according to them, no hormone is secreted in the milk as it does not stimulate milk synthesis as such and hence no risk for the consumers.

In the opinion of the Committee, this is a serious matter which directly involves animal's health and field experiences tell that it reduces animal's lactation years and also affects human health. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to initiate research on this issue afresh on both the aspects, viz., animal as well as human health from every angle and make the livestock farmers and consumers aware about their research findings on the bad/ill effects of injecting hormone repeatedly in the animal out of greed to gain more milk and money, through their network of KVKs, scientists-farmers interactive session and through media advertisements.”.

4.2 The Government, in their Action Taken reply have stated as follows:-

“At NDRI, Karnal work has been conducted on oxytocin administration on cows and buffaloes and gist of various studies carried out is given below:

- Administration of oxytocin in the doses of 10 IU(International Unit) for a period of 10 days did not affect milk production of crossbred cows. The production of fat and protein in cows of control group as well as the experimental group was similar. It was concluded that administration of synthetic oxytocin for milk let down does not adversely affect the production of milk fats and proteins.
- The effect of different doses (1 IU to 10 IU) of oxytocin on milking behaviour and composition of milk in 20 Murrah buffaloes in mid lactation and yielding an average of 9.1 kg milk per day was studied. One IU of oxytocin injected intra-muscular was very effective in milk let down without affecting the composition of milk.
- 2.5 IU and 5 IU of oxytocin when injected intra-muscular influenced milking time.
- Administration of oxytocin @2.5 IU indicated that its administration results in significant changes in milk yield. There is no effect of oxytocin on milk composition, pH, Erythrocyte Count and Non Essential Fatty Acids concentration.
- Study conducted on 18 lactating Murrah buffaloes to find out the effect of exogenous oxytocin on cisternal, alveolar and total milk yield, milk composition of cisternal, alveolar and total milk and permeability of mammary tight junctions showed no significant change. No effect on reproductive parameters was observed. The incidence of estrous symptom was similar and normal in control and experimental groups of buffaloes and the ovarian status was normal. In view of this outcome of the study, it is evident that experimental studies undertaken at the institute did not reveal any adverse effect on milk composition or otherwise.

The Department had also sought the views / necessary action from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, which responded as under:

‘Oxytocin is used in veterinary practice as a drug to induce rhythmic contractions during dystokia – difficult parturition, removal of retained placenta and in some cases letting down of milk in case of withdrawal symptoms after delivery.

It is a schedule 'H' Drug that can be sold only on prescription. Recently, after seizure of such illegal injections of Oxytocin from Uttar Pradesh during 2004, letters were again issued to all the Secretaries of Animal Husbandry Department and copy to all Directors of States / Union Territories regarding initiating the campaign in collaboration with the State Drug Controller to check the menace of indiscriminate use of Oxytocin in animals in the States and an awareness campaign amongst the farmers and the dairy owners to be taken up'."

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

4.3 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.16 of Chapter-I of the Report.

CHAPTER V

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

Need for allocating DARE/ICAR outlay to a minimum of one per cent of AGDP for the XIth Plan

(Recommendation No. 1)

5.1 Regarding **need for allocating DARE/ICAR outlay to a minimum of one per cent of AGDP for the XIth Plan**, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee has noted that the Department of Agricultural Research & Education has proposed an outlay of Rs.12176.40 crore for carrying out all their sectoral activities including funding to State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) like, National Agricultural Innovative Project (NAIP) and Indo-US Knowledge Initiative and also include the requirement of critical repairs and maintenance during the XIth Plan as per the recent instructions of the appraisal agencies.

The Committee note that Brazil spends about 1.81 per cent of AGDP on Agricultural Research while countries like Japan and USA spend about 3.62% and 2.65% of their AGDP on agrarian research. Astonishingly, in comparison to the average of all leading industrialized countries whose spending on agrarian research is about 2.36% of their respective AGDP, India's spending on agricultural research ranged between 0.31% to 0.35% during 2002 to 2007 which is even less than all the developing countries average of 0.53% for the year 2000.

The Committee are dismayed and unable to comprehend the constraints of the Planning Commission as to why they should not earmark adequate funds for DARE/ICAR, even after the elected representatives of the people, i.e. members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, unanimously and strongly recommending in favour of at least 1% of AGDP share to DARE/ICAR as well as Planning Commission's own Working Group on DARE recommending the same percentage for DARE during the IXth, Xth Plan and XIth Plan periods. In the instant case, the XIth Plan Working Group has recommended Rs.31,672.00 crore for agrarian research and education.

In view of the above, the Committee strongly urge the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance to have a positive and broad-minded approach towards the greater national need of the hour to enhance public funding for agrarian research and

education upto the desired level of 1% to 2% of AGDP for the XIth Plan so that the ever growing population of the nation can have food and fodder security”.

5.2 The Government, in their Action Taken Reply, have stated as follows:

“The above recommendation of the Committee has been forwarded to Planning Commission / Ministry of Finance. The XI Plan outlay in respect of DARE / ICAR is yet to be communicated by Planning Commission. However, the Planning Commission has intimated that the XI Plan outlay of the Department will be decided also keeping in view the large number of competing demands from other sectors / ministries / departments and that it would support the DARE / ICAR’s priority projects and may provide adequate funds for the same”.

Inadequate allocation to DARE/ICAR in the first year of the XIth Plan (2007-08)

(Recommendation No. 3)

5.3 Regarding Inadequate allocation to DARE/ICAR in the first year of the XIth Plan (2007-08), the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee observe that the DARE proposed an Annual Plan (2007-08) Outlay of Rs.1945.50 crore. Against their proposed requirement, they were allocated Rs.1620.00 crore. That means, the Department got Rs.325.50 crore less than the projected outlay which will obviously hamper the desired/targeted growth functioning of the DARE/ICAR, especially, in their vital research & development and educational activities.

The Committee further observe that this BEs (2007-08) of Rs.1620.00 crore which includes Rs.290.00 crore exclusively meant for Externally Aided Project (EAPs), namely, (NAIP-Rs.285.00 crore and Indo-US Knowledge Initiative-Rs.5.00 crore-i.e., Rs.1620.00 crore minus Rs.290.00 crore = Rs.1330.00 crore as Domestic Budgetary Support (DBS). Moreover, this Annual Plan Outlay also includes critical repairs and maintenance component upto 15% of the total Annual Plan. If the above figures are compared with the RE(2006-07) which was Rs.1430.00 crore and the EAPs component was Rs.16.50 crore at RE stage, it is evident that the net Domestic Budgetary Support for the year 2007-08 is Rs.1330.00 crore which happens to be Rs.83.50 crore less than

the DBS of Rs.1413.50 crore for 2006-07 at RE stage. Therefore, it is more than evident that virtually for all practical purposes, the DARE/ICAR has got less DBS for 2007-08 than what they got in 2006-07(RE) to carry out all their planned research and educational activities.

The Committee, therefore, strongly deplore the tendency of the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance/Government wherein they practically give less money to the Department but theoretically propagate that they have taken good care of the agrarian research and education which is the foundation for providing not only food security to the entire population of the nation at present and in future but also has the power to decide the course of agriculture of India on which 70% of the population is dependent for their livelihood.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance should adequately increase the funding of DARE/ICAR, at least upto their proposed outlay of Rs.1945.50 crore during 2007-08, so that they can do the needful more enthusiastically to usher the Second Green Revolution into India”.

5.4 The Government, in their Action Taken Reply, have stated as follows:

“The above recommendation of the Committee has been forwarded to Planning Commission / Ministry of Finance; however, no further increase in Plan budget 2007 – 08 has yet been communicated to the Department. However, the Planning Commission has intimated that it was aware of the fact and if, necessity arises; it would be supported at RE stage. Accordingly, this Department will pursue with the Ministry of Finance for additionality of the fund at the RE 2007 – 08”.

Need to provide additional funding for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and World Bank (WB) Aided Projects over and above the Budget Estimates of DARE/ICAR

(Recommendation No. 4)

5.5 Regarding Need to provide additional funding for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and World Bank (WB) Aided Projects over and above the Budget Estimates of DARE/ICAR , the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that the XIth Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research and Education has recommended that at least a sum of Rs.31,672 crore should be provided for the various sectors and SAUs, and in addition, the Externally Aided Project

(EAPs)/ World Bank Aided Projects (WBPs) also need to be funded as per their approved programmes.

The Committee observe that external aid is for certain purposes and objectives that are different from the regular on-going schemes of the DARE/ICAR and EAPs are strictly time bound programmes involving the Collaborating and Donor Agency for the very specific cause/purpose and as such at times, may not have a direct link with the on-going schemes/projects of the Department, being run with the Domestic Budgetary Support (DBS) provided to the Department.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance should do the needful in tune with the Committee's view towards excluding the EAPs/WBPs component from the Plan BEs of the DARE/ICAR by providing EAPs allocation separately over and above the BEs meant for the Department from 2007-08 itself and the Department should be provided Rs.290.00 crore for EAPs/WBPs over and above the BEs of Rs.1620.00 crore for 2007-08. Unless this is done and DARE gets Rs.290.00 crore additional funding for EAPs over and above Rs.1620.00 crore BEs(2007-08), all the claims/declaration of the Government to give priority enhanced funding to DARE/ICAR during 2007-08 will only be an eye-wash as is evident from the facts and figures that if Rs.290.00 crore are subtracted from the BE(2007-08) of Rs.1620.00 crore, Rs.1330.00 crore are left for on-going 71 main Plan Schemes with 108 sub-schemes of DARE/ICAR as DBS, which is even Rs.83.50 crore less than Rs.1413.50 crore DBS of RE 2006-07".

5.6 The Government, in their Action Taken Reply, have stated as follows:

"The above recommendation of the Committee has been forwarded to Planning Commission / Ministry of Finance, but no further increase in Plan budget 2007 – 08 has been communicated to the Department. However, the Planning Commission has intimated that it was aware of the recommendations of the Working Group and that the final assessment of outlays for XI Plan is yet to be firmed-up. Besides this, it is also intimated that the Externally Aided Projects in critical support areas are favoured and funds provided accordingly".

One Time Catch up Grant should be provided separately

(Recommendation No. 5)

5.7 Regarding One Time Catch up Grant, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee observe that the DARE/ICAR has a number of institutions/laboratories, which are more than twenty years old. It was felt necessary that a one time catch-up grant may be sought from the Planning Commission, so that the requirement of renovation of old infrastructure and up-gradation/replacement of obsolete equipment could be met. The Ninth Plan Working Group recorded that one time catch-up grant was the critical need for upgrading laboratory equipment, pilot plants, farm and laboratory facilities, class rooms and audio visual facilities. In order to have excellent academic standards in State Agricultural Universities and to have globally competitive research working environment, the Eighth Plan, Ninth Plan & Tenth Plan Working Groups had recommended Rs.300 crore, Rs.500 crore & Rs.1000 crore respectively as one time catch-up grant.

The Committee have been strongly recommending and urging the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance year after year to provide the much needed one time catch up grant over and above the annual allocations in a phased manner to ICAR, given its track record of service to the nation and being privy to agricultural revolution in the country.

The Committee also note that in this regard, the Department had written a number of times to the Planning Commission but the Planning Commission had always taken a rigid stand that the very purpose for which this grant was sought and felt necessary, viz., critical repair/renovation/upgradation of research and education facilities, etc., had already been taken care of in the total Plan Budgetary Support. Maintaining their earlier stand again, the Planning Commission in their guidelines for formulation of XI Five Year Plan has indicated that in the Plan budget critical repair and maintenance upto 15% of the Plan budgetary support can be included.

The Committee are dismayed with the routine response of ignoring and rejecting the recommendation of the Committee by the Planning Commission and pessimistic attitude of the Department in giving up the efforts to procure the essentially required one time catch up grant. The Committee strongly deplore the attitude of the Planning Commission to give false promises since IXth Plan onwards.

Further, the plea of the Planning Commission that the requirement of one time catch up grant has been taken care of in the Xth Plan allocations and hence no separate funding was required, is baseless as the Annual Plan allocations are always much below the budget proposals of the Department and hardly enough to maintain the on-going schemes of the Department. The meagre funding provided to the Department has always been inadequate and has proved insufficient for changing/renovating the obsolete infrastructure/equipment as is evident from the nil response from all the ICAR Institutes and SAUs who were given instructions during the IXth Plan that 20 to 40% of their total Annual Plan grant every year was meant for the purpose of one time catch up grant, but not even a single Institute/SAU could do that and the conditions with regard to obsolete equipment, age old infrastructure including laboratories and other related research facilities remain the same which is why the Department had again proposed an amount of Rs.1,000 crore during the Tenth Five Year Plan but the Planning Commission had never made separate allocations specifically for catch up grant through Annual Plans.

So far as the latest guidelines/instructions of the Planning Commission for formulation of XIth Five Year Plan which indicated that in the Plan budget critical repair and maintenance upto 15% of the Plan budgetary support can be included, is concerned, it is more than evident from the financial budgetary figures of the Department for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 that although there seems to be some increase in BE (2007-08) i.e., Rs.1620.00 crore [Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) which includes DBS + EAPs] from the RE(2006-07) of Rs.1430.00 crore yet practically the actual Domestic Budgetary Support viz., Rs. 1620.00 crore(GBS) – Rs. 290.00 crore (EAP) = Rs.1330.00 crore is Rs.83.50 crore less than the DBS of RE (2006-07) which is Rs.1413.50 crore.

The Committee, after keeping in view the potential of agriculture in changing socio-economic condition of millions of Indians, urge the Planning Commission and the Government to seriously consider agricultural research & education as one of the central elements of the planning efforts in the XIth Five Year Plan. The Committee as well as the Government have widely accepted that concomitant with high growth rate in our economy, agriculture must grow at 4%, as the improvement in productivity is the most important option to raise production that can't be done without developing new varieties of seeds which needs a lot of investment.

The Committee, therefore, urge the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance to have interactive sessions with the Department to understand, assess and negotiate the requirement of one time catch up grant in the favour of the Department as per the latest requirement to be assessed by physical verification of the ICAR Institutes and SAUs rather than imposing their terms and conditions to do the major renovation/upgradation of infrastructure/laboratories from the meagre annual domestic budgetary support.”.

5.8 The Government in their Action Taken reply have stated as follows:-

“The above recommendation of the Committee has been forwarded to Planning Commission / Ministry of Finance. According to guidelines of Planning Commission the Department may also include upto 15% of Plan budget for critical repairs and maintenance. However, the Planning Commission has intimated that the proposals / initiatives in the form of SFC / EFC / CCEA would be considered favourably to provide need based allocation.”.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

5.9 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.13 of Chapter-I of the Report.

Slow Budgetary Process needs revamping for optimal utilization of public money

(Recommendation No. 6)

5.10 Regarding the Slow Budgetary Process, the Committee have recommended as under:-

“The Committee note that in spite of the positive assurance from the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and also by the Department during the examination of the last three DFGs of the DARE/ICAR regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee that RE/BE grants/funds should be made available to the Department and various Institutes under its jurisdiction sometime in the month of December or a little earlier, practically nothing positive has been done so far, as is evident from the factual information made available to the Committee by the Department.

The Committee observe that Ministry of Finance conveyed RE(2006-07) to the Department officially on 4.1.2007 and the Department also intimated sectoral

allocations to the Division(s) located in the Headquarters of the Department, on 18.1.2007. From the first written reply of the Department, it is clear that the exact date on which the Subject Matter Divisions (SMDs) actually communicated the RE(2006-07) to the concerned Institute/NRC/PD was : (i) Crop Science on 25.1.2007; (ii) NRM on 19.1.2007; (iii) Fisheries on 22.1.2007; (iv) Agricultural Extension on 31.1.2007; (v) Agricultural Engineering on 9.2.2007; (vi) Horticulture on 5.2.2007; (vii) Animal Science on 29.12.2006; and (viii) Education on 17.12.2006. When enquired further on a supplementary point as to how the Animal Science and Education SMDs were able to convey RE(2006-07) on 29.12.06 and 17.12.06 respectively, to various Institutes/NRCs/PDs under them, even when Ministry of Finance conveyed RE(2006-07) on 4.1.2007, the Committee were further informed that 'Animal Science and Education Divisions also took an advance action by communicating the tentative RE to its Institutes so as to keep them in a state of preparedness, although final RE 2006-07 was conveyed on 18.1.2007 and 5.2.2007 respectively.' The Department has stated that 'In the meeting held on 27.11.2006 Secretary(Expenditure), Ministry of Finance, while deciding the RE 2006-07 for DARE/ICAR through discussion with Financial Adviser, indicated the Plan RE as Rs 1430 crore. Initiating an advance action, the Department communicated tentative RE 2006-07 to all SMDs on 12.12.06 itself. The final RE 2006-07 of Rs 1430 crore was officially conveyed by MoF on 4.1.2007 and the Department also intimated sectoral allocations to Division on 18.1.07.'

The Committee feel that if Animal Science and Education Divisions could take an advance action by communicating the tentative RE to its Institutes on 29.12.2006 and 17.12.2006; respectively, then why the other six SMDs failed to take the same advance action in the month of December itself. Astonishingly, the Department has given belated action taken dates for their first six SMDs and advance action taken dates for the last two SMDs in the same reply. Moreover, the Department is admitting in their reply that the formal and actual RE(2006-07) was conveyed to the concerned Institutes etc. by their respective SMDs, as late as, for Horticulture & Education on 5.2.2007 and Agricultural Engineering on 9.2.2007 whereas Animal Science SMD is said to have conveyed on 18.1.2007 to its institutes, why Horticulture, Education and Agricultural Engineering. took 18 to 21 days more time to do the same.

The Committee strongly deplore the tendency of the Department to give confusing and misleading information/statements and later on cover up/polish their delays in action while replying to the points raised by the Committee and advise the

Department to concentrate on improving their financial and administrative skills, as the Department took about 15 days time to formally convey the RE 2006-07 to its various SMDs located within the same building and SMDs in turn took about 18 to 21 more days to convey the same to their respective Institutes/NRCs/PDs, etc.

The Committee unanimously urge the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and the Department to seriously look into their procedural working in order to improve the entire tardy budgetary process to ensure that the RE/BE etc. are conveyed to the end-users, i.e., actual Institutes etc. of the Department, in the month of December itself or a little earlier for optimal utilization of scarce public money.”

5.11 The Government, in their Action Taken reply have stated as follows:-

“The above observations and recommendation have been forwarded to Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. All the Subject Matter Divisions of the Department have been acquainted with these constructive observations of the Committee for expeditious compliance. The Department would be utmost careful in future in adhering to the concerns of the Committee.”

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

5.12 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.13 of Chapter-I of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
27 November, 2007
6 Agrahayana, 1929 (Saka)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture

APPENDIX- I

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 27TH NOVEMBER, 2007 AT 1500 HRS. IN COMMITTEE ROOM, 'B', GROUND FLOOR, PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1620 hrs.

PRESENT

Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Anil Basu
3. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta
4. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava
5. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
6. Shri Hari Rama Jogaiah
7. Shri Prabodh Panda
8. Shri K.J.S.P. Reddy
9. Shri M.P.Veerendra Kumar

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Harish Rawat
11. Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi
12. Prof. M.S.Swaminathan

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri A.K.Singh	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Raj Kumar	-	Deputy Secretary
3.	Shri N.S.Hooda	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Ms. Amita Walia	-	Under Secretary

At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairman, welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and requested them to take up the following Memoranda on draft Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants(2006-07) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food Processing Industries for consideration and adoption:-

- (1) Memorandum No. 2 regarding draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the 27th Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) in respect of Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture and Co-operation)
 - (2) Memorandum No. 3 regarding draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the 28th Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) in respect of Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agricultural Research and Education)
 - (3) Memorandum No. 4 regarding draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the 29th Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) in respect of Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries); and
 - (4) Memorandum No. 5 regarding draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the 30th Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) in respect of Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft action Taken Reports with minor modifications.
 3. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalize and present the above-mentioned Reports to both Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE TWENTY EIGHTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (14TH LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	11
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Serial Nos. 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10	
	Total	5
	Percentage	45. 5%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Serial No. NIL	
	Total	NIL
	Percentage	0%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Serial No. 11	
	Total	1
	Percentage	9%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Serial Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6	
	Total	5
	Percentage	45.5%