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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2018-2019)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES)**

"Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture- An Analysis"

{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/

**Recommendations contained in the Fifty-Third Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the
Standing Committee on Agriculture (2017-2018)}**

SIXTY THIRD REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

January, 2019 /Pausha,1940 (Saka)

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2018-2019)
(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES)

"Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture- An Analysis"

{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/

**Recommendations contained in the Fifty-Third Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the
Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-2016)}**

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

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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(Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture
(2017-2018).

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2018-19)

Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav - Chairperson

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LOK SABHA

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28. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
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30. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav
31. Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav

(iii)

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Arun K. Kaushik | - | Director |
| 2. | Smt. Juby Amar | - | Additional Director |
| 3. | Ms. Divya Rai | - | Executive Assistant |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture (2018-19), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixty-Third Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty-Third Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2017-18) on the Subject "Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture- An Analysis" pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries).

2. The Fifty-Third Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2017-18) on the Subject "Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture- An Analysis" pertaining to Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 25.07.2018. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 11.10.2018.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 28.12.2018.

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

**NEW DELHI;
02 January , 2019
12 Pausha, 1940(Saka)**

**HUKMDEV NARAYAN YADAV
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture**

CHAPTER-I REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty-third Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2017-2018) on the Subject "Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture- An Analysis" of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 25 July, 2018.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all 21 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These replies have been categorized as under :-

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

Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
and 21

Total 17
Chapter - II

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

Recommendation No. Nil

Total 00
Chapter - III

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

Recommendation Nos. 8, 11 and 14

Total 03
Chapter - IV

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

Recommendation No. 20

Total 01
Chapter - V

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations / Recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases where it is not possible for the Department to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Notes on the Observations / Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Final Action Taken Replies to the Observations / Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.

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

MERGER OF THE CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES (CSS) UNDER BLUE REVOLUTION

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 2)

1.5 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

"The Committee appreciate the vision of the Department in creating an enabling environment for integrated and holistic development of the fisheries sector with the merger of the earlier centrally sponsored schemes under the 59 umbrella of Blue Revolution. This holds a special relevance for the sector of inland fisheries and aquaculture, for its true potential still remains unexplored. Besides calling for optimal resource utilization and sustainable intensification of fish production, this also requires consistent efforts for filling critical gaps between the existing production and actual potential of the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector, while also ensuring that this merger provides for an equal participation and involvement of all stakeholders, right from the basic to the top-most level. The Committee, while sounding a word of caution, would like the Department to ensure that the ideas and plans laid out under this merger are well implemented

and do not meet the same fate as the scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, which, since its inception in 1973-74 was mired with under achievement of targets due to tardy implementation. This resulted in our inland fisheries sector witnessing a stunted growth and development even after a lapse of four decades. Keeping in view the existent ground situation and the aims and ideals of the Blue Revolution, the Committee strongly recommend that the Department not just come up with a foolproof mechanism to ensure participation and involvement of individual States/UTs and stakeholders in harnessing the actual potential of inland fisheries and aquaculture, but also lay due emphasis on the aspect of implementation, so as to enhance fish production and productivity of the fisheries in general and of the inland fisheries and aquaculture in particular. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made by the Department in this regard."

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

"India has vast and varied inland fisheries resources such as rivers, streams lakes, reservoirs, tanks, ponds, irrigation canals, multipurpose dams, and paddy fields, which provides an immense scope for the propagation and production of fishes. These large numbers of water resources are utilized for fishing directly from the river systems, large lakes and reservoirs and also cultured fishing is resorted to by employing artificial and scientific techniques in smaller inland areas like ponds, tanks, paddy fields etc. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries financial assistance is extended to the beneficiaries for both captured and cultured Inland fisheries. Development of Reservoirs fisheries is one of the major components under the CSS. Under the CSS the financial assistance are extended for stocking of fish seed in reservoirs, for purchasing crafts and gear and feed based fish culture in pens and cages in reservoirs & financial assistance is also extended for shrimp farming in inland saline water under the CSS.

Besides financial assistance, the Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries has given focussed attention to harness the potential of inland fisheries

resources and enhance the production and productivity of water bodies through formulation of state specific action plans based on the resources available in the respective states. The following action plans have been formulated and shared with States/UTs for implementation by States/UTs:

1. Mission Fingerling (For production of quality fish seeds & hatcheries).
2. Integrated Development of Reservoirs.
3. Re-circulatory Aquaculture System.
4. Cold Water Fisheries.
5. Brackish water/Saline Aquaculture.
6. Cold chain of Post-Harvest.
7. Cage Culture.
8. Ornamental Fisheries.

Apart from these action plans, States/UTs are also being encouraged to undertake state specific activities within the budgetary allocations. Significant Achievements in inland Fisheries during the financial year 2015-16 to 2017-18 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries are:

- 13,671.58 ha area brought under Fresh water aquaculture.
- 1,866.70 ha area brought under Brackish/saline water aquaculture
- 384 Fish/ prawn seed hatcheries established.
- 1,247.41 Fish Seed Rearing Units established.
- 2,535.15 ha area brought under stocking of fish fingerlings in beels/wetland.
- 6,138 Cages/pens installed in reservoirs (Additional 20,898 tonnes fish production estimated).
- 28 project approved for integrated development of fisheries in Reservoirs.

- 325 ha area brought under development of Waterlogged Areas.
- 2,068 Nos. of craft and gear have been provided to inland fishers.
- 93 fish feed mills/plants have been established.
- 73 inland fish landing centers constructed.
- 199 Re-circulatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS) have been installed.
- 9 Brood bank facilities have been established.

1.7 While appreciating the vision of the Department in creating an enabling environment for sustainable and holistic development of the fisheries sector with the merger of the centrally sponsored schemes under Blue Revolution, the Committee had recommended that the Department come up with a fool-proof mechanism to ensure participation and involvement of individual States/UTs and stakeholders in harnessing the potential of inland fisheries and aquaculture sector besides also laying special emphasis on proper implementation of schemes. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has informed about the formation of State specific action plans based on available resources in respective States and UTs along with state specific activities under budgetary allocations. The Committee desire the Department to direct the States and UTs to indentify the beneficiaries and other stakeholders under the Scheme within their respective States/UTs so as to have a focused approach and judicious distribution of allocated resources. The Committee would also like to be informed about the steps taken by the Department to ensure participation and involvement of individual States/UTs and stakeholders and also about the details of mechanisms adopted by the Department to ascertain proper implementation of

the Schemes. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard.

**FUNDING PATTERN OF THE SCHEME UNDER BLUE REVOLUTION
(RECOMMENDATION NO. 3)**

1.8 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that the funding pattern of the scheme after its subsumption under Blue Revolution is divided between the Centre and States in the ratio 80:20 for North East & Hill states and 50:50 in the case of other States and UTs. While central funding is taken care of by the Centre, balance funding is done by the State/UT concerned or borne by the beneficiary, as may be the discretion of the respective State/UT. The Committee feel that the States need to come up with their matching share of funds allocated for the said schemes well in time, as this will allow timely release of central funds for the same. There needs to be a mechanism to ensure that the intended funds reach deserving beneficiaries on time and that beneficiaries identified under the scheme are able to reap benefits well within the intended timeframe and do not suffer for want of State funds. The Committee therefore, recommend that the Department impress upon the States/UTs to come up with their matching share of funds under this scheme, so as to allow the beneficiaries / State machinery an unhindered access to central funds for the growth and development of inland fisheries in their respective States."

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

"Funding pattern for the beneficiary oriented project proposals under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries are:

- (i) For any proposal, the total admissible Government subsidy (Central + State) will be limited to 40% of the project cost for general category

beneficiaries and 60% of the project cost for weaker sections like Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), women and their co-operatives.

(ii) Of the admissible subsidy at (i) above, the Central: State share shall be as follows:

(a) North East & Hilly States: 90% Central share and 10% State share

(b) Union Territories: 100% Central share

(c) Other States: 60% Central share and 40% State share.

The scheme also envisages extending assistance to State Governments/UTs for creating fishery infrastructure like fishing harbours (FHs) and fish landing centres (FLCs), fish markets, national brood banks, State fish farms etc; where, individual beneficiaries are not identifiable as the benefits of such projects are obtained by all fishers/stakeholders in a particular geographical region. In view of the specific nature of the activity, central assistance is 50% for General States, 80% NE-Hilly States and 100% for UTs of the project cost. The balance 50% & 20% shall be met by the concerned General State & NE-Hilly State Governments respectively for implementation."

1.10 The Committee, while noting the division of funding pattern of the scheme between Center and States recommended that States come up with their matching share of funds in a timely manner so as to allow prompt release of central funds. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has informed about the Central: State share of funds and about the assistance extended to States/UTs for infrastructure creation and beneficiary funding. The Department however, has not provided details of mechanisms used to ensure timely release of funds to beneficiaries. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge the Department to impress upon the States/UTs to come up with their matching share of funds under this scheme, so as to allow the beneficiaries /

State machinery an unhindered access to central funds for the growth and development of inland fisheries in their respective States. The Committee would like to be apprised of the details of mechanisms adopted for this purpose and other steps being taken in this regard.

FUNDING PATTERN OF THE SCHEME UNDER BLUE REVOLUTION

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 4)

1.11 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

"Of the approved central outlay of Rs. 3000 crores allocated to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) under Blue Revolution for 5 years, the approved outlay for the year 2017-18 was Rs. 598 crore. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that out of this approved outlay, only Rs. 400.73 crore has actually been allocated to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes under Blue Revolution for the year 2017-18. The Committee are of the considered opinion that this is too meagre an amount, given the fact that only a portion of this would be allocated to the component of Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, which itself has 61 numerous sub-components to be funded. Keeping in view the pivotal nature of this component, the Committee recommend that the Department take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level since Blue Revolution, being a flagship scheme of the Department should not be starved of funds and allocations for the scheme should be made in accordance with the funds earmarked for it. The Committee would like to be apprised about the steps taken by the Department in this direction."

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

"The total outlay of Rs. 3000 crores allocated to the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries for the five years. However, budget of only Rs.1836.26 crore (61.2%) has been allocated in the last four years (2015-16 to 2018-19). Besides,

Department has been making efforts for market borrowing/external aided funding through World Bank, etc. As a result of such effort, the Hon'ble Finance Minister had announced in the Union Budget 2018-19, to set aside a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore for setting up of a Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for fisheries sector and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) for financing infrastructure requirement of Animal Husbandry sector. The scheme is now at final stages of formulation."

1.13 The Committee were concerned to note that out of the approved outlay of Rs. 3000 crore for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, only a meagre amount of Rs. 400.73 crores was allocated for the year 2017-18. The Committee were apprehensive about this sum being too paltry to be able to adequately fund numerous sub components of the component of Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture and had thus recommended that the Department pursue with the Ministry of Finance to allocate funds in keeping with what was earmarked for the scheme. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has informed about 61.2% of the approved outlay being allocated during the last four financial years. The Department also made it known that it was making efforts for market borrowings or external aided funding besides being promised a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crores in the Union Budget 2018-19 for infrastructure development under the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) components. While lauding this initiative, the Committee feel that this will set an encouraging trend for adequate allocation of funds in the future as well. However, optimal utilization of funds also forms a basis of future allocations and the Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department come up with a reliable plan to appropriately utilize such funds

for infrastructure development and other areas within the component. The Committee would like to be apprised of the plan layout with regard to the corpus funds for infrastructure development along with steps taken by the Department in this direction.

ESTABLISHMENT OF HATCHERIES AND FISH FEED MILLS AND THEIR QUALITY STANDARDS

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 8)

1.14 The Committee had observed / recommended as under :-

"While observing the steps taken by the Department, such as 'Mission Fingerling Programme', for establishing hatcheries and feed mills throughout the country, the Committee also note with concern that when asked about the viability of such feed mills in non-fishing areas of the country, the Department has yet again provided a hackneyed reply stating that it has requested States / UTs to submit proposals for the same. The Department has failed to apprise the Committee about the viability of establishing feed mills in non-fishing areas and repercussions of the same. Deprecating such an attitude of the Department, the Committee recommend that the Department, while providing replies to questions raised by the Committee, furnish the desired information about the issues raised by them. The Committee further recommend that the Department undertake adequate measures to come up with and to effectively implement certification initiatives regarding fish and fish products, both under the import and export category. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this regard."

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

"Action Plan on Mission Fingerling has been formulated and 384 Fish/ prawn seed hatcheries established during the financial year 2016-17 to 2017-18."

1.16 The Committee, while asking about the viability of establishing feed mills in non-fishing areas of the country had pointed out that time and again the

Department has refrained from apprising the Committee about the same. The Committee had thus recommended that the Department furnish desired information to the Committee about the issues raised by them. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has informed that Action Plan on Mission Fingerling has been formulated and 384 Fish/ prawn seed hatcheries established during the financial year 2016-17 to 2017-18. The Committee are vexed to note that this time too, the Department has not provided them with the desired information. The Committee deplore this casual attitude of the Department and strongly reiterate their earlier recommendation that viability of fish feed mills and hatcheries established in non-fishing areas be made known to the Committee and that the Department undertake adequate measures to come up with and to effectively implement certification initiatives regarding fish and fish products, both under the import and export category. They would like to be informed about the measures adopted by the Department in this regard.

RE-CIRCULATORY AQUACULTURE SYSTEM (RAS) AND RUNNING WATER FISHING

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 9)

1.17 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

"While taking note of the fact that about 80% of the share of inland fish catch is obtained from aquaculture activities, the Committee appreciate the schemes of the Department in encouraging traditional fish farmers to take up aquaculture activities with scientific techniques. Further, the assistance provided to fishers in establishing hatcheries and promoting aquaculture practices with a special focus on North East States, are welcome steps in the direction of creating an enabling environment for fish farmers to take up scientific fish farming in aquaculture. The

Committee also welcome the efforts of the Department regarding the idea of Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) and feel that it is a scientific and sustainable method of fish farming and if implemented properly, has the potential to increase fish production exponentially. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department come up with a working mechanism to encourage fish farmers to take up RAS practices and also ensure easy availability of required funds and infrastructure to fish farmers taking up such practices. Besides, while taking note of the issues cropping up while practicing fish farming in running water around towns and cities, the Committee also recommend that the Department take adequate measures to make running water suitable for fishing in areas where there are vast stretches of the same."

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

"As per the recommendation of the Committee, this department has already prepared the National Action Plan (Re-circulatory Aquaculture System) to encourage farmers to take up Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) and 198 units have been sanctioned to the States during the first year of implementation in 2017-18."

1.19 While appreciating the efforts of the Department in encouraging traditional fish farmers to take up aquaculture practices with scientific techniques, the Committee had stated that assistance provided to fishers in carrying out modern fishing practices such as Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) are welcome and enabling steps in the direction of spreading and encouraging scientific fish farming techniques. The Committee had also noted that issues were cropping up while practicing running water fishing around towns and cities and had thus recommended that adequate measures be taken to make running water suitable for fishing. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has informed that it has prepared a National Action Plan (Re-circulatory Aquaculture System) to encourage farmers to take up Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) and 198

units have been sanctioned to the States during the first year of implementation in 2017-18. The Committee are content to note that the Department is working in this direction, however, nothing has been stated by the Department regarding running water fishing. The Committee feel that more needs to be done to encourage fish farmers to take up running water fishing and to make this practice viable in the urban landscape. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Department come up with a working mechanism to encourage fish farmers to take up RAS and running water fishing and also take measures to make running water suitable for fishing in areas where there are vast stretches of the same. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this regard.

ASSESSMENT & HARNESSING OF RESOURCE POTENTIAL AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN FISHING

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 11)

1.20 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

"While appreciating the efforts of the Department in mapping of water bodies through schemes such as 'Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System (GIS) of the Fisheries Sector', the Committee also take note the idea of integrated development of reservoirs through integration of various insitu fishing activities. The Committee have also been informed about practices such as cage culture being promoted to help fishers adopt new technology in inland fishing. The Committee recommend that the Department come up with 66 adequate measures to put these ideas to practice so as to increase the production from the inland fisheries sector. The Committee would like to be informed about the steps being taken in this direction."

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

"The sub-component of Mapping of Smaller Water Bodies of the component Strengthening of Database and GIS of the Fisheries Sector under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development & Management of Fisheries were implemented in West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. It is submitted that no funds were released during the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and till date of the Fy 2018-19 under the above mentioned sub-component of the scheme."

1.22 The Committee while appreciating the efforts of the Department in mapping of water bodies through schemes such as 'Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System (GIS) of the Fisheries Sector' recommended that the Department come up with adequate measures to implement the idea of integrated development of reservoirs through integration of in-situ fishing techniques. The Department in its Action Taken Reply informed that the sub-component of Mapping of Smaller Water Bodies of the component Strengthening of Database and GIS of the Fisheries Sector were implemented in West Bengal and Chhattisgarh and also that no funds were released during the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and till date of the Financial Year 2018-19 under the above mentioned sub-component of the scheme. The Committee are perturbed to note that while mapping of smaller water bodies was only carried out in the two States, no funds were released for the sub-component of Mapping of Smaller Water Bodies during the last three financial years. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Department ensure that adequate funds are not only allocated for the said sub-component but also released in a timely manner and that mapping of smaller water bodies is carried out in each State and UT of the country so as to enable proper planning and achievement of the objective of

integrated development of reservoirs through in-situ fishing. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this direction.

ASSESSMENT & HARNESSING OF RESOURCE POTENTIAL AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN FISHING

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 12)

1.23 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

"The Committee are aggrieved over the issue of indiscriminate use of resources and unsustainable farming practices leading to environmental damage and loss of indigenous fish breeds. The Committee are also unhappy with the fact that despite the scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture being in place for more than four decades, the Department has failed to undertake any evaluation to assess the actual number of ponds where fish cultivation is possible. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department undertake an assessment of the number of water bodies available for fish cultivation, besides ensuring that resources are utilized sustainably and the rehabilitation of wetlands is taken up with a mission mode approach."

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

"Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries always promotes sustainable and eco-friendly farming system in both culture and capture fisheries. This Department has framed guidelines and National Policy on Marine Fisheries to maintain sustainability in marine capture fisheries. The draft of National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy has also been submitted by the committee, which is under consideration. Inland water bodies like wetlands and reservoirs areas utilized for sustainable management of fisheries. Destructive fishing activities are banned by the Department. Fish seed stocking, and cage culture are the activities promoted in reservoirs and wetlands. However, the wetlands and reservoirs are getting polluted due to pesticides and other chemicals as runoff from catchment area and agricultural lands.

Towards mapping of the ponds and other water bodies more than 0.5 ha, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) has done the digital GIS mapping of inland water bodies for 19 states of India and found 3,73,940 water bodies out of which 99 % (out of sampling information) water bodies are being utilized for fisheries purpose. The information of mapped water bodies has been shared to all the concerned states for better utilisation in fisheries."

1.25 The Committee while showing concern regarding indiscriminate use of resources and unsustainable fish farming practices recommended the Department to undertake an assessment of the number of water bodies available for fish cultivation besides ensuring rehabilitation of wetlands and sustainable use of resources. The Department in its Action Taken Reply submitted that digital GIS Mapping of inland water bodies has been carried out for 19 States and that a National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy is underway. The Department also informed that pollution of wetlands and reservoirs is mainly due to agricultural runoff of pesticides and other chemicals. The Committee, while noting the progress made by the Department in these areas further recommend that the Department should take up the issue of pollution of wetlands and reservoirs due to agricultural pesticides and chemicals, at the highest level and work towards finding a solution of this problem as such an issue can have adverse and lasting impacts not just on wetlands and other water bodies but also on the health of the surrounding ecosystem. The Committee also recommend that the Department work on incorporating such concerns within the National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and strive to bring out the policy at the earliest. The Committee would like to be apprised of the development made by the Department in this regard.

LEASING OUT OF WATER BODIES AND STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE AQUACULTURE

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 14)

1.26 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that the Department has formulated a National Integrated Fisheries Action Plan (NIFAP) to double fish production and encouraging States and UTs to come up with promotional measures for helping adopt inland fisheries and aquaculture practices. However, while noting that the policies regarding leasing and utilization of water bodies fall under the States, the Committee are desirous to know about the State-specific challenges faced by individual States and UTs in leasing out water bodies. Besides, the Committee are dissatisfied with the fact that the Department provided no concrete reply to the Committee on being queried about the availability of credit facilities to fish farmers. The Committee recommend that the Department pursue the cause of fisheries being treated at par with the agriculture with the Government at the highest level so as to provide the fish farmers an easier access to institutional credit."

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

"This Department has formulated a draft namely National Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy, 2018 (NIFAP, 2018) to address the issues of leasing out of water bodies through transferring the Management rights of all water bodies with State/UT Fishery Department. Besides, various states during the current financial year has sought assistance to utilise MNREGA ponds for pisciculture under CSS-Blue Revolution: Integrated Development & Management of Fisheries."

1.28 While noting that policies regarding leasing and utilization of water bodies fall under the States, the Committee were dissatisfied with the fact that the Department provided no concrete reply to the Committee on being queried about the availability of credit facilities to fish farmers. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has again stated that its National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture

Policy, 2018 (NIFAP, 2018) is underway, besides informing that various States have sought assistance to utilize MGNREGA ponds for pisciculture. The Committee are, however, displeased to note that credit facility or institutional credit to fish farmers has found no mention in the reply of the Department and also that it has failed to take stock of the recommendation of the Committee that the cause of fisheries being treated at par with agriculture be taken up with the Government at the highest level. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Department come up with a tangible plan regarding extension of institutional credit to fish farmers by pursuing the cause of fisheries being treated at par with agriculture. The Committee would like to be apprised of the actions taken by the Department in this direction.

ROLE OF FISH COOPERATIVES IN INLAND FISHERIES

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 17)

1.29 The Committee had observed / recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that as per the database maintained by the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Ltd. (FISHCOPFED) up to 2014 there are a total of 18,550 fish cooperatives functioning in the country. These fish cooperatives are guided and supported by the States/UTs which are responsible for their registration, monitoring and functioning support while the FISHCOPFED provides overall guidance to State, District and primary level cooperatives to utilize their potential for development of fisheries. The Committee, however, are disappointed to note that when specifically asked about the measures adopted by the Department to ensure that the fishing cooperatives perform their functions of leasing out water bodies, providing credit facilities, inputs etc. properly; the mechanisms put in place to ensure that these cooperatives function optimally and to hold them accountable for the work allocated to them, the Department

failed to provide any concrete reply. Besides, the Department also failed to apprise the Committee of any mechanism to ensure that the States/UTs ascertain better management practices of inland fisheries within their territories as also following fair practices while leasing out water bodies and reservoirs to fishing cooperatives within the State. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to direct the States and UTs to come up with a mechanism to measure the performance of the fish cooperatives and to ensure their accountability. Despising the fact that no set procedure is followed while leasing out water bodies and reservoirs to 70 cooperatives, the Committee recommend that the Department direct the States and UTs to formulate proper guidelines for leasing out and maintenance of State resources to the fish cooperatives. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this direction."

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

"State Government have been appraised vide D.O. letter dated 17th September, 2018 to ensure that the fishery cooperatives perform their functions of leasing out water bodies, providing credit facilities, input etc. properly."

1.31 The Committee were concerned to note that the Department did not provide a reply on being asked about the measures taken by the Department to ensure proper functioning and accountability of fish cooperatives operational within States/UTs and also about fair practices being adopted while leasing out water bodies to such cooperatives. The Committee had recommended that the States and UTs be directed to hold fish cooperatives accountable for their performances while also formulating guidelines for leasing out water bodies to fish cooperatives. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has informed that State Governments have been appraised vide D.O. letter dated 17th September, 2018 to ensure that the fishery cooperatives perform their functions of leasing out water bodies, providing credit facilities, input etc. properly. The Committee are,

however, concerned to note that no mechanism, as such, has been explained as to how the Department aims at ensuring accountability of States/UTs regarding performance of fishery cooperatives and judicious allocation and sustainable use of resources. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department work towards putting in place a mechanism to make certain that States/UTs work towards adopting fair policies for leasing out water bodies to fishery cooperatives while also ensuring their accountability regarding performances and sustainable utilization of resources, thus avoiding any monopolizing tendency among cooperatives regarding resource allocation and utilization. The Committee would like to be apprised about the progress made by the Department in this regard.

CHAPTER - II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 1)

The Committee note that the scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture was started with the objectives of enhancing inland fish production and productivity, popularizing modern fish farming, creating employment opportunities, diversifying aquaculture practices and training fish farmers through specialized agencies etc. However, most of these objectives are yet to be achieved, as a majority of our fishermen are still to learn the use of modern and scientific fish farming techniques. Despite being the second largest fish producing nation with a production of 107.61 lakh tonnes (2015-16) and as many 1.5 crore fishers/farmers and small entrepreneurs engaged in fishing, the actual potential of our inland fisheries sector has still not been realized. The historical scenario of Indian fisheries reveals a paradigm shift from marine dominated to inland fisheries, wherein the latter has emerged as a major contributor to the overall fish production in the country. Moreover, with the current lack of technology and technical know-how in the deep sea fishing sector, inland fisheries sector remains the only area which can contribute significantly to overall fish production, if exploited with a systematic and sustainable approach. Inland fisheries sector requires laser sharp focus and attention as its potential has still not been completely harnessed. The Committee note that although inland fisheries have grown in absolute terms, the rate of growth in terms of its potential is yet to reach the desired level. 58 Furthermore, it has been observed that inland fishery is dominated mainly by freshwater fishery, thus necessitating the need for diversification of fish production with practices such as intensive aquaculture in different water bodies. The Committee feel that the Reservoir Fisheries Development as a thrust area of the Department needs to be taken further so as to enhance the productivity of reservoirs. There is a need to provide quality inputs in terms of seed, feed, health management and marketing support to areas of freshwater fish farming, cold water fishing, coastal aquaculture and brackish water fishing, as also on ornamental fish farming which holds immense potential in terms of providing foreign

exchange earnings and additional livelihood opportunities. The Committee also observe that commercial shrimp farming in inland saline water bodies is another area that the Department needs to lay emphasis on. Therefore, the Department need to follow the approach of democratic decentralization and allow States the freedom to take up the scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at the basic level while also ensuring transparency and accountability of the States and UTs. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department make full fledged attempts in the aforesaid areas and come up with a mechanism to sustainably harness the actual potential of the inland fisheries sector. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this direction.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

India has vast and varied inland fisheries resources such as rivers, streams lakes, reservoirs, tanks, ponds, irrigation canals, multipurpose dams, and paddy fields, which provides an immense scope for the propagation and production of fishes. These large numbers of water resources are utilized for fishing directly from the river systems, large lakes and reservoirs and also cultured fishing is resorted to by employing artificial and scientific techniques in smaller inland areas like ponds, tanks, paddy fields etc. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries financial assistance is extended to the beneficiaries for both captured and cultured Inland fisheries. Development of Reservoirs fisheries is one of the major components under the CSS. Under the CSS the financial assistance are extended for stocking of fish seed in reservoirs, for purchasing crafts and gear and feed based fish culture in pens and cages in reservoirs & financial assistance is also extended for shrimp farming in inland saline water under the CSS.

Besides financial assistance, the Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries has given focussed attention to harness the potential of inland fisheries resources and enhance the production and productivity of water bodies through formulation of state specific action plans based on the resources available in the respective states. The following action plans have been formulated and shared with States/UTs for implementation by States/UTs:

1. Mission Fingerling (For production of quality fish seeds & hatcheries).
2. Integrated Development of Reservoirs.
3. Re-circulatory Aquaculture System.
4. Cold Water Fisheries.
5. Brackish water/Saline Aquaculture.
6. Cold chain of Post-Harvest.
7. Cage Culture.
8. Ornamental Fisheries.

Apart from these action plans, States/UTs are also being encouraged to undertake state specific activities within the budgetary allocations. Significant Achievements in inland Fisheries during the financial year 2015-16 to 2017-18 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries are:

- 13,671.58 ha area brought under Fresh water aquaculture.
- 1,866.70 ha area brought under Brackish/saline water aquaculture
- 384 Fish/ prawn seed hatcheries established.
- 1,247.41 Fish Seed Rearing Units established.
- 2,535.15 ha area brought under stocking of fish fingerlings in beels/wetland.
- 6,138 Cages/pens installed in reservoirs (Additional 20,898 tonnes fish production estimated).
- 28 project approved for integrated development of fisheries in Reservoirs.
- 325 ha area brought under development of Waterlogged Areas.
- 2,068 Nos. of craft and gear have been provided to inland fishers.
- 93 fish feed mills/plants have been established.
- 73 inland fish landing centers constructed.
- 199 Re-circulatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS) have been installed.

- 9 Brood bank facilities have been established.

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MERGER OF THE CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES (CSS) UNDER BLUE REVOLUTION

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 2)

The Committee appreciate the vision of the Department in creating an enabling environment for integrated and holistic development of the fisheries sector with the merger of the earlier centrally sponsored schemes under the 59 umbrella of Blue Revolution. This holds a special relevance for the sector of inland fisheries and aquaculture, for its true potential still remains unexplored. Besides calling for optimal resource utilization and sustainable intensification of fish production, this also requires consistent efforts for filling critical gaps between the existing production and actual potential of the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector, while also ensuring that this merger provides for an equal participation and involvement of all stakeholders, right from the basic to the top-most level. The Committee, while sounding a word of caution, would like the Department to ensure that the ideas and plans laid out under this merger are well implemented and do not meet the same fate as the scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, which, since its inception in 1973-74 was mired with under achievement of targets due to tardy implementation. This resulted in our inland fisheries sector witnessing a stunted growth and development even after a lapse of four decades. Keeping in view the existent ground situation and the aims and ideals of the Blue Revolution, the Committee strongly recommend that the Department not just come up with a foolproof mechanism to ensure participation and involvement of individual States/UTs and stakeholders in harnessing the actual potential of inland fisheries and aquaculture, but also lay due emphasis on the aspect of implementation, so as to enhance fish production and productivity of the fisheries in general and of the inland fisheries and aquaculture in particular. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made by the Department in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

India has vast and varied inland fisheries resources such as rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, tanks, ponds, irrigation canals, multipurpose dams, and paddy fields, which provides an immense scope for the propagation and production of fishes. These large numbers of water resources are utilized for fishing directly from the river systems, large lakes and reservoirs and also cultured fishing is resorted to by employing artificial and scientific techniques in smaller inland areas like ponds, tanks, paddy fields etc. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries financial assistance is extended to the beneficiaries for both captured and cultured Inland fisheries. Development of Reservoirs fisheries is one of the major components under the CSS. Under the CSS the financial assistance are extended for stocking of fish seed in reservoirs, for purchasing crafts and gear and feed based fish culture in pens and cages in reservoirs & financial assistance is also extended for shrimp farming in inland saline water under the CSS.

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Comments of the Committee

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

FUNDING PATTERN OF THE SCHEME UNDER BLUE REVOLUTION

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 3)

The Committee note that the funding pattern of the scheme after its subsumption under Blue Revolution is divided between the Centre and States in the ratio 80:20 for North East & Hill states and 50:50 in the case of other States and UTs. While central funding is taken care of by the Centre, balance funding is done by the State/UT concerned or borne by the beneficiary, as may be the discretion of the respective State/UT. The Committee feel that the States need to come up with their matching share of funds allocated for the said schemes well in time, as this will allow timely release of central funds for the same. There needs to be a mechanism to ensure that the intended funds reach deserving beneficiaries on time and that beneficiaries identified under the scheme are able to reap benefits well within the intended timeframe and do not suffer for want of State funds. The Committee therefore, recommend that the Department impress upon the States/UTs to come up with their matching share of funds under this scheme, so as to allow the beneficiaries / State machinery an unhindered access to central funds for the growth and development of inland fisheries in their respective States.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Funding pattern for the beneficiary oriented project proposals under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries are:

- (i) For any proposal, the total admissible Government subsidy (Central + State) will be limited to 40% of the project cost for general category beneficiaries and 60% of the project cost for weaker sections like Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), women and their co-operatives.
- (ii) Of the admissible subsidy at (i) above, the Central: State share shall be as follows:
 - (a) North East & Hilly States: 90% Central share and 10% State share
 - (b) Union Territories: 100% Central share

(c) Other States: 60% Central share and 40% State share.

The scheme also envisages extending assistance to State Governments/UTs for creating fishery infrastructure like fishing harbours (FHs) and fish landing centres (FLCs), fish markets, national brood banks, State fish farms etc; where, individual beneficiaries are not identifiable as the benefits of such projects are obtained by all fishers/stakeholders in a particular geographical region. In view of the specific nature of the activity, central assistance is 50% for General States, 80% NE-Hilly States and 100% for UTs of the project cost. The balance 50% & 20% shall be met by the concerned General State & NE-Hilly State Governments respectively for implementation.

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Comments of the Committee

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

FUNDING PATTERN OF THE SCHEME UNDER BLUE REVOLUTION

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 4)

Of the approved central outlay of Rs. 3000 crores allocated to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) under Blue Revolution for 5 years, the approved outlay for the year 2017-18 was Rs. 598 crore. The Committee are, however, concerned to note that out of this approved outlay, only Rs. 400.73 crore has actually been allocated to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes under Blue Revolution for the year 2017-18. The Committee are of the considered opinion that this is too meagre an amount, given the fact that only a portion of this would be allocated to the component of Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, which itself has 61 numerous sub-components to be funded. Keeping in view the pivotal nature of this component, the Committee recommend that the Department take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance at the highest level since Blue Revolution, being a flagship scheme of the Department should

not be starved of funds and allocations for the scheme should be made in accordance with the funds earmarked for it. The Committee would like to be apprised about the steps taken by the Department in this direction.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The total outlay of Rs. 3000 crores allocated to the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries for the five years. However, budget of only Rs.1836.26 crore (61.2%) has been allocated in the last four years (2015-16 to 2018-19). Besides, Department has been making efforts for market borrowing/external aided funding through World Bank, etc. As a result of such effort, the Hon'ble Finance Minister had announced in the Union Budget 2018-19, to set aside a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore for setting up of a Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for fisheries sector and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) for financing infrastructure requirement of Animal Husbandry sector. The scheme is now at final stages of formulation.

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Comments of the Committee

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

PHYSICAL TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 5)

While lauding the achievement of the Department in bringing an area of 2336 hectare under aquaculture, against a target of 1980 hectares, the Committee also note that during the period from 2013-14 to 2015-16 the Department failed to bring the targeted area under aquaculture, the reason for which has been attributed to non-receipt of timely proposals from States and UTs and budgetary cut at RE stage, along with diversification of funds by them for purposes other than that of aquaculture. Moreover, a constant decline in the number of beneficiaries in 2014-15 and 2015-16 as compared to 2013-14 has also been associated with non-receipt of proposals from

States and UTs. Not being satisfied with this stereotypical reply of the Department, the Committee recommend that stringent measures be adopted to ensure that States and UTs furnish self contained proposals to the Department in a timely manner and also that execution of schemes and achievements of set targets are not delayed due to such reasons in future. The Committee also recommend that the Department lay special emphasis on the implementation aspect of the schemes and programmes formulated under the Blue Revolution and strive to achieve the set physical targets.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Department will take up the issue for non-submission of proposal from the State/UTs and request all States/UTs to send proposals in timely manner. Department will also impress upon the States/UTs to achieve the set physical target without much delay.

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(RECOMMENDATION NO. 6)

Taking note of the efforts made by the Department in augmenting production from aquaculture through programs such as Mission Fingerling and development of cage culture and cold water fisheries, the Committee also observe that focus has been laid on mariculture and coastal fishery resources through various programs conceptualized under the Blue Revolution. Moreover, the setting up of a National Fresh Water Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB) to aid Brood Stock Multiplication and provide genetically improved seeds is also a welcome step in the direction of ensuring availability of quality seeds to fish farmers. The Committee desire that the Department ensures that steps taken to augment fish production actually see the light of the day and achieve desired results. They further urge the Department to ascertain that schemes to provide training to fish farmers, those aimed at promoting skill development and capacity building and other welfare oriented schemes reach the desired beneficiaries in a timely manner.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

NFDB has been distributed genetically improved quality seeds from National Fresh Water Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB) located at Bhubaneswar, every year to the desirous states on first come first basis to augment fish production. Besides, NFDB has been extending financial assistance to various State Governments including North Eastern States, Central Fisheries Institutes, Fisheries Universities for conducting Skill Development training programmes to fishers, fish farmers, fisher-women, entrepreneurs to improve their skills for increasing fish production and productivity so as to double their income levels. A target of 24,000 fishers/fish farmers is set for imparting training during 2018-19. Against this target, NFDB has so far released financial assistance to a tune of Rs. 385.41 lakh to train 11806 beneficiaries.

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ISSUE OF PENDING UTILIZATION CERTIFICATES

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 7)

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Department has, time and again failed to effectively tackle the issue of pending utilization certificates with the States and UTs. The Committee express strong displeasure over the fact that utilization certificates amounting to Rs.289.90 crore have been pending as on 31st March, 2017. Needless to say, under-utilization of funds leads to the vicious cycle of lower allocations in subsequent years and concomitantly leads to downsizing of targets. The Committee, therefore, feel that the extant mechanism in place needs to be re-looked into and necessary corrective measures need to be undertaken for liquidation of outstanding UCs in a time bound manner ensuring unhindered release of Central funds for effective implementation of schemes, besides also ascertaining that the funds being provided to the States and UTs are being utilized for the same purpose for which they are provided. The Committee, therefore, recommend that corrective measures may be undertaken to address this vexed issue at the earliest. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action initiated in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Major part of funds has been released to the States/UTs at the fag end of the financial year 2016-17. The State Governments required time for finalising pre-project implementation activities to utilise the central funds released. Some of the issues attributed by States/UTs regarding less utilization of funds are (i) Non availability of head of account and state matching grant (ii) Non availability of required land to execute the scheme activity (iii) Delay of identification of beneficiary. Fisheries Division of the Department is actively monitoring the pending UCs with the States/UTs through by regular Video Conferences, Review Meetings and as a result the amount has reduced to 111.22 crore as on date. Regular follow-up has been carried out by the Division with the States having Major amounts of UCs pending to expedite the implementation of the scheme.

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RE-CIRCULATORY AQUACULTURE SYSTEM (RAS) AND RUNNING WATER FISHING

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 9)

While taking note of the fact that about 80% of the share of inland fish catch is obtained from aquaculture activities, the Committee appreciate the schemes of the Department in encouraging traditional fish farmers to take up aquaculture activities with scientific techniques. Further, the assistance provided to fishers in establishing hatcheries and promoting aquaculture practices with a special focus on North East States, are welcome steps in the direction of creating an enabling environment for fish farmers to take up scientific fish farming in aquaculture. The Committee also welcome the efforts of the Department regarding the idea of Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) and feel that it is a scientific and sustainable method of fish farming and if implemented properly, has the potential to increase fish production exponentially. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department come up with a working mechanism to encourage fish farmers to take up RAS practices and also ensure easy availability of required funds and infrastructure to fish farmers taking up such practices. Besides, while taking note of the issues cropping up while practicing fish farming in running water around towns and cities, the Committee also recommend that the

Department take adequate measures to make running water suitable for fishing in areas where there are vast stretches of the same.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

As per the recommendation of the Committee, this department has already prepared the National Action Plan (Re-circulatory Aquaculture System) to encourage farmers to take up Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) and 198 units have been sanctioned to the States during the first year of implementation in 2017-18.

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Comments of the Committee

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

TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 10)

The Committee have been informed that the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) conducts training and skill development programmes to train traditional fishermen in fisheries developmental activities such as fish culture, capture, post-harvest processing etc., beneficiaries for which are identified by respective state Governments. The Annual Action Plan for skill development in fisheries sector as operationalized by the NFDB calls for skilling various stakeholders in numerous scientific fishing practices. While appreciating the efforts of the Department on this front, the Committee feel that the Department needs to bring about inclusiveness in implementing such programmes, laying special emphasis on the North Eastern States and other hilly areas as non-percolation of knowledge and skill development programmes renders these areas backward and under-developed. The Committee, therefore recommend that the Department pay special attention to include fishermen and other stakeholders in these areas while conducting skill development programmes

and workshops, so as to bring them at par with fishermen of other areas. The Committee also recommend that the Department work towards imparting special training to progressive fishermen and enable them to act as Master Trainers who, in turn, will train fishers in order to have a better reception and retention of the skills and techniques provided to these fishers during training. The Committee may be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

NFDB has been extending financial assistance to various State Governments including North Eastern States, Central Fisheries Institutes, Fisheries Universities for conducting Skill Development training programmes to fishers, fish farmers, fisherwomen, entrepreneurs to improve their skills for increasing fish production and productivity so as to double their income levels. A target of 24,000 fishers/fish farmers is set for imparting training during 2018-19. Against this target, NFDB has so far released financial assistance to a tune of Rs. 385.41 lakh to train 11806 beneficiaries. The State-wise details of the 3-day Skill Development Programmes sanctioned exclusively for North Eastern States during 2018-19 are as under:

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of programmes	Number of beneficiaries
1	Sikkim	5	250
2	Manipur	4	200
3	Mizoram	2	100
4	Tripura	4	200
5	Assam	10	500
TOTAL		25	1250

In order to produce Master Trainers to train fishers/fish farmers in respective States, NFDB during 2018-19 has funded six ICAR Fisheries Institutes, Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI) for conducting 5-day Training of Trainer (ToT) programmes on different emerging technologies based on their expertise. A training calendar of Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes has been prepared and uploaded on NFDB website for information to all States and fishers/farmers in the country. Officials from State Fisheries Departments including North Eastern States, KVKs, Progressive

Fishers are being nominated for these ToT programs to make them Master Trainers in the respective fields.

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ASSESSMENT & HARNESSING OF RESOURCE POTENTIAL AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN FISHING

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 12)

The Committee are aggrieved over the issue of indiscriminate use of resources and unsustainable farming practices leading to environmental damage and loss of indigenous fish breeds. The Committee are also unhappy with the fact that despite the scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture being in place for more than four decades, the Department has failed to undertake any evaluation to assess the actual number of ponds where fish cultivation is possible. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department undertake an assessment of the number of water bodies available for fish cultivation, besides ensuring that resources are utilized sustainably and the rehabilitation of wetlands is taken up with a mission mode approach.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries always promotes sustainable and eco-friendly farming system in both culture and capture fisheries. This Department has framed guidelines and National Policy on Marine Fisheries to maintain sustainability in marine capture fisheries. The draft of National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy has also been submitted by the committee, which is under consideration. Inland water bodies like wetlands and reservoirs areas utilized for sustainable management of fisheries. Destructive fishing activities are banned by the Department. Fish seed stocking, and cage culture are the activities promoted in reservoirs and wetlands. However, the wetlands and reservoirs are getting polluted due to pesticides and other chemicals as runoff from catchment area and agricultural lands.

Towards mapping of the ponds and other water bodies more than 0.5 ha, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) has done the digital GIS mapping of inland water bodies for 19 states of India and found 3,73,940 water bodies out of which 99 % (out of sampling information) water bodies are being utilized for fisheries purpose. The information of mapped water bodies has been shared to all the concerned states for better utilisation in fisheries.

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Comments of the Committee

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

DEVELOPMENT OF WETLANDS & BEELS AND UTILIZING RIVER WATER

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 13)

The Committee express concern over the fact that though the Department is providing financial assistance for the development of wetlands like beels, chauras etc. for undertaking sustainable aquaculture, yet it has not undertaken any evaluation to assess the actual number of ponds, wetlands, water logged areas and other water bodies in the country, where fish cultivation is possible. Being of the firm opinion that an assessment of the available water resources with the potential for fish harvesting is an absolute necessity as it not only helps formulate better and State/UT-specific policies regarding harnessing the potential of local water bodies, but will also help in deriving accurate estimates regarding future production. The Committee strongly urge the Department to undertake an evaluation to assess the actual number of water bodies with fishing potential within each State and UT. Furthermore, the Department has provided information about an Action Plan for Wetland Development in 7 States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Manipur and Meghalaya based on their high potential areas for wetland development and water logged area development. The Committee, therefore, desire that such action plans be prepared for other States as well, so that water bodies can be utilised optimally and their potential explored fully. The Committee further recommend the Department that during

exploration of the true potential of water bodies and wetlands for inland fisheries, the natural habitat of other species dwelling within the wetlands and water bodies should not be lost sight of.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Under Mission Blue Revolution, Integrated National Fisheries Action Plan- 2016 (NFAP) the wetlands available particularly in the seven states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Manipur and Meghalaya have been documented. Policy papers on Inland open waters under Blue Revolution for various states have been documented and published by ICAR- CIFRI, Kolkata in 2017 for effective utilisation of these wetlands. The data pertaining to wetlands, ponds, tanks and other water bodies are furnished by the State Government. The State Governments mention these water bodies in hectares which has been accepted for formulation of database by this Department.

The Department is giving focused attention to conservation of indigenous species in natural waters by incorporating the conservation and awareness activity in Blue Revolution Schemes.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries)
F.No.J-23011/01/2018-Fy. (Coord) dated.11th October 2018

LEASING OUT OF WATER BODIES AND STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE AQUACULTURE

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 15)

While appreciating the efforts of the Department regarding entering an MoU with the Rural Development for convergence of MGNREGA for pond utilization and production enhancement, the Committee also desire the Department to ensure that smaller water bodies are not neglected and that individual States take adequate measures to use these through adoption of aquaculture, besides also ensuring that fishers are paid deserving prices for their catch. They further recommend that the Department take up with the States individually, the issue of policy formulation by States regarding leasing out of water bodies by the Panchayats. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this direction.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

This Department has formulated a draft namely National Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy, 2018 (NIFAP, 2018) to address the issues of leasing out of water bodies through transferring the Management rights of all water bodies with State/UT Fishery Department. Besides, various states during the current financial year has sought assistance to utilise MNREGA ponds for pisciculture under CSS-Blue Revolution: Integrated Development & Management of Fisheries.

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(Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries)
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INNOVATION IN INLAND FISHERIES, RESEARCH COLLABORATION AND INTEGRATION

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 16)

While noting the initiatives undertaken by the Department for innovation in inland fisheries through initiatives such as farming of Rainbow Trout in Sikkim and procurement of de-boning machines in Punjab, the Committee also observe that ideas related to allied activities, fish management & conservation as well as diversification of species have also been proposed. The Committee while appreciating the efforts of the Department in encouraging innovation in the inland fisheries sector, are however, concerned to note that there still exists a gap in coordination between the Department and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) regarding research on fishing in various sources like brackish water, freshwater, cold water etc. Besides, the Committee also feel that much work needs to be done in the area regarding fusion of traditional knowledge and wisdom with the modern and scientific techniques of fishing. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department ensure involvement of all stakeholders in the process of encouraging innovation in inland fisheries, besides also taking concrete action to integrate traditional ideas with present day methodology of modern and scientific fish farming along with motivating fish farmers to adopt innovation.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Department will strive to reduce the gap in coordination with ICAR on matters relating to research in fresh water, brackish water and cold water fisheries.

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ROLE OF FISH COOPERATIVES IN INLAND FISHERIES

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 17)

The Committee note that as per the database maintained by the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Ltd. (FISHCOPFED) up to 2014 there are a total of 18,550 fish cooperatives functioning in the country. These fish cooperatives are guided and supported by the States/UTs which are responsible for their registration, monitoring and functioning support while the FISHCOPFED provides overall guidance to State, District and primary level cooperatives to utilize their potential for development of fisheries. The Committee, however, are disappointed to note that when specifically asked about the measures adopted by the Department to ensure that the fishing cooperatives perform their functions of leasing out water bodies, providing credit facilities, inputs etc. properly; the mechanisms put in place to ensure that these cooperatives function optimally and to hold them accountable for the work allocated to them, the Department failed to provide any concrete reply. Besides, the Department also failed to apprise the Committee of any mechanism to ensure that the States/UTs ascertain better management practices of inland fisheries within their territories as also following fair practices while leasing out water bodies and reservoirs to fishing cooperatives within the State. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to direct the States and UTs to come up with a mechanism to measure the performance of the fish cooperatives and to ensure their accountability. Despising the fact that no set procedure is followed while leasing out water bodies and reservoirs to cooperatives, the Committee recommend that the Department direct the States and UTs to formulate proper guidelines for leasing out and maintenance of State resources to the fish cooperatives. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this direction.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

State Government have been appraised vide D.O. letter dated 17th September, 2018 to ensure that the fishery cooperatives perform their functions of leasing out water bodies, providing credit facilities, input etc. properly.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
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Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.31 of Chapter I of this Report.

ROLE OF FISH COOPERATIVES IN INLAND FISHERIES

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 18)

The Committee, while taking note of the fact that inland fisheries is a State subject, feel that the Department must, besides issuing advisories and guidelines to States regarding rules and regulations for inland fisheries, must also have in place a mechanism to ensure transparency in the process of leasing out water bodies by States to fishing cooperatives. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Department come up with clear cut measures to guard the interests of the fish cooperatives working towards developing inland fisheries and making it a profitable enterprise. The Committee also recommend that the Department encourage States and UTs to formulate policies to support and enhance the role of fishing cooperatives and to attract and involve youth and entrepreneurs in making inland fisheries a profitable enterprise. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this direction.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

State Government have been appraised vide D.O. letter dated 17th September, 2018 to ensure that the fishery cooperatives perform their functions of leasing out water bodies, providing credit facilities, input etc. properly.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
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FISH PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 19)

The Committee are aware that various components under the umbrella of Blue Revolution are being implemented to augment fish production and productivity, however, advanced technologies like cage culture, culture of diversified fish species, Re-circulatory Aquaculture systems (RAS) better management practices etc. are yet to percolate down to the basic level. The Committee are of the opinion that these technologies, unless made affordable and accessible to the traditional fisherman may not yield desired results in term of increasing fish production. The ideal of having a National Fisheries Action Plan (NFAP) and State/UT specific action plans has the potential of dramatically magnifying fish production and multiplying the productivity of the inland fisheries sector, provided this is implemented with the involvement of individual States, UTs and various other stakeholders. The Committee are also concerned to note that issues such as non-availability or restricted availability of quality fish seed and feed for aquaculture; non-proliferation of scientific techniques such as aquaculture, culture-based capture fisheries; sub-optimal resource utilization, as is the case with ponds, reservoirs, wetlands beels etc., non-observance of ban period in reservoirs to allow auto stocking; unsustainable intensification of fish production and poor management practices are some of the serious impediments that the Department needs to tackle before the inland fisheries sector can be made sustainably productive. These obstacles are preventing in tapping the true potential of the inland fisheries and thus need to be intercepted with utmost caution. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department take into consideration these issues while formulating plans and program for augmenting fish productivity and productivity of the inland fisheries &

aquaculture sector. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this direction.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation of the committee relating to fish products and production has been noted and would be taken into consideration while formulation of plans and programs for augmenting fish productivity.

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(Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries)
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HARNESSING TRUE POTENTIAL OF THE INLAND FISHERIES SECTOR

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 21)

The Committee are aggrieved to note that fish farming as an activity has no coverage under any insurance provided by the Government and neither is there any exclusive scheme or policy to provide relief to fish farmers during natural calamities. Moreover, despite contributing a great deal to the GDP and to the food basket, the fisheries sector is not treated at par with agriculture. The Committee strongly desire that the Department take up this issue at the highest level and put in place a mechanism, commensurate with the needs of the fisher community, to provide an insurance cover to fish farming as an activity and an insurance risk cover to fish farmers against natural calamities such as tsunamis, cyclones etc., to provide adequate opportunities for training and extension services to the fishermen as also to improve the condition of the facilities already being given out to the fishermen and their families. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this direction.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Under the draft National Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy, 2018 (NIFAP, 2018) matter has been incorporated stating that while disaster risk reduction is a national priority and within the domain of the National and State Disaster Management Authorities, fisheries and aquaculture specific sub-plans are to be integrated in state disaster management plans in a collaborative cross sectoral mode. Under National

Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen, an element of Group Accident Insurance to Active Fishermen is implemented in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) to provide insurance coverage to active fishermen registered with the State Government and Union Territories. The insurance coverage under the scheme includes (i) Rs.2.00 lakh against death or permanent total disability, (ii) Rs.1.00 lakh for partial permanent disability.

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CHAPTER - III

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

- N I L -

CHAPTER - IV

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

ESTABLISHMENT OF HATCHERIES AND FISH FEED MILLS AND THEIR QUALITY STANDARDS

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 8)

While observing the steps taken by the Department, such as 'Mission Fingerling Programme', for establishing hatcheries and feed mills throughout the country, the Committee also note with concern that when asked about the viability of such feed mills in non-fishing areas of the country, the Department has yet again provided a hackneyed reply stating that it has requested States / UTs to submit proposals for the same. The Department has failed to apprise the Committee about the viability of establishing feed mills in non-fishing areas and repercussions of the same. Deprecating such an attitude of the Department, the Committee recommend that the Department, while providing replies to questions raised by the Committee, furnish the desired information about the issues raised by them. The Committee further recommend that the Department undertake adequate measures to come up with and to effectively implement certification initiatives regarding fish and fish products, both under the import and export category. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Action Plan on Mission Fingerling has been formulated and 384 Fish/ prawn seed hatcheries established during the financial year 2016-17 to 2017-18.

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Comments of the Committee

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

ASSESSMENT & HARNESSING OF RESOURCE POTENTIAL AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN FISHING

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 11)

While appreciating the efforts of the Department in mapping of water bodies through schemes such as 'Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System (GIS) of the Fisheries Sector', the Committee also take note the idea of integrated development of reservoirs through integration of various in-situ fishing activities. The Committee have also been informed about practices such as cage culture being promoted to help fishers adopt new technology in inland fishing. The Committee recommend that the Department come up with adequate measures to put these ideas to practice so as to increase the production from the inland fisheries sector. The Committee would like to be informed about the steps being taken in this direction.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The sub-component of Mapping of Smaller Water Bodies of the component Strengthening of Database and GIS of the Fisheries Sector under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: integrated Development & Management of Fisheries were implemented in West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. It is submitted that no funds were released during the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and till date of the Fy 2018-19 under the above mentioned sub-component of the scheme.

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Comments of the Committee

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

LEASING OUT OF WATER BODIES AND STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE AQUACULTURE

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 14)

The Committee note that the Department has formulated a National Integrated Fisheries Action Plan (NIFAP) to double fish production and encouraging States and UTs to come up with promotional measures for helping adopt inland fisheries and aquaculture practices. However, while noting that the policies regarding leasing and utilization of water bodies fall under the States, the Committee are desirous to know about the State-specific challenges faced by individual States and UTs in leasing out water bodies. Besides, the Committee are dissatisfied with the fact that the Department provided no concrete reply to the Committee on being queried about the availability of credit facilities to fish farmers. The Committee recommend that the Department pursue the cause of fisheries being treated at par with the agriculture with the Government at the highest level so as to provide the fish farmers an easier access to institutional credit.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

This Department has formulated a draft namely National Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy, 2018 (NIFAP, 2018) to address the issues of leasing out of water bodies through transferring the Management rights of all water bodies with State/UT Fishery Department. Besides, various states during the current financial year has sought assistance to utilise MNREGA ponds for pisciculture under CSS-Blue Revolution: Integrated Development & Management of Fisheries.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries)
F.No.J-23011/01/2018-Fy. (Coord) dated.11th October 2018

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER - V

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

HARNESSING TRUE POTENTIAL OF THE INLAND FISHERIES SECTOR

(RECOMMENDATION NO. 20)

While appreciating the effort of the Department in formulating a National Fisheries Action Plan - 2020 (NFAP) to harness the potential of various fisheries resources such as ponds & tanks, wetlands, brackish & fresh water, cold water, marine sector, lakes & reservoirs, rivers & canals etc., the Committee are concerned to note that the Department has remained mute on the prospect of ensuring State Action Plan, on the lines of NFAP, specific to each State and UT. The Committee urge the Department to not just stop at issuing advisories to States and UTs, rather ensure that uniformity is maintained in such endeavors with each State and UT coming up with a need based model. Moreover, such action plans not only lead the way forward in terms of developing the particular sector but also provide scope for increasing entrepreneurial activities in the said sector. This is a way of ensuring that entrepreneurs willing to indulge in the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector are not deterred by policy paralysis or lack of infrastructure and opportunities, rather are encouraged to take up entrepreneurial ventures in this sector with the State providing a mechanism to facilitate the same. The Committee, therefore, while strongly advocating for the cause of State and UT specific development of inland fisheries and aquaculture sector, urge the Department to put in place a mechanism to ensure that individual States and UTs come up with State and UT specific Fisheries Action Plans for harnessing the true potential of the fisheries sector. The Committee also strongly recommend that the Department formulate a National Inland Fishery Policy for the development and upkeep of the Inland Fisheries Sector in the country.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The States/ UTs were requested by this Department during October, 2016 and the same were pursued time and again through Regional level meetings, National level meetings and Video Conferences, to submit their Action Plan in line with NFAP-2020. However, the states are sending Action Plans/ Proposals for one year only and the State of Himachal Pradesh has documented an Action Plan in line with NFAP. This Department has constituted a Committee to draft the National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP) in 2016 which is under finalisation.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries)
F.No.J-23011/01/2018-Fy. (Coord) dated 11th October 2018

NEW DELHI;
02 January, 2019
12 Pausha, 1940 (Saka)

HUKMDEV NARAYAN YADAV
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2018-19)**MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee sat on Friday, the 28th December, 2018 from 1000 hrs. to 1050 hrs. in the Chamber of the Hon'ble Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Room No. 138 (Third Floor), Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav – Chairperson

MEMBERS**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
3. Shri C. Mahendran
4. Dr. Tapas Mandal
5. Shri Janardan Mishra
6. Shri Praveen Kumar Nishad
7. Shri Devji Patel
8. Shri Mukesh Rajput

RAJYA SABHA

9. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa
10. Shri Kailash Soni
11. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
12. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
13. Shri R. Vaithilingam
14. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri V.K. Tripathi	–	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Arun K. Kaushik	–	Director
3.	Smt. Juby Amar	–	Additional Director
4.	Shri Sumesh Kumar	–	Under Secretary

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

* (i) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

(ii) Draft Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 53rd Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2017-18) on the Subject "Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture- An Analysis" of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries).

3. After some deliberation, the Committee adopted the draft Reports without any modification and authorized the Chairperson to finalize and present these Reports to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

***Matter not related to this Report.**

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON
THE FIFTY-THIRD REPORT (16th LOK SABHA) OF
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2017-18)
(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	21
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Rec. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 21	
	Total	17
	Percentage	80.95%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Rec. No. NIL	
	Total	00
	Percentage	0%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Rec. Nos. 8, 11 and 14	
	Total	03
	Percentage	14.28%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Rec. No. 20	
	Total	01
	Percentage	4.76%