

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

(2021-22)

27

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES)**

*[Action taken on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Third Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)
on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources)']*

TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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(2021-2022)
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

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(DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES)**

[Action taken on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Third Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources)']

Presented to Lok Sabha on 03.08.2022

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 03.08.2022



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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* Not Attached

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
PANCHAYATI RAJ
(2021-2022)**

Shri Prataprao Jadhav -- Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Sisir Kumar Adhikari
3. Shri C. N. Annadurai
4. Shri A.K.P Chinraj
5. Shri Rajveer Diler
6. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
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Rajya Sabha

22. Shri Dineshchandra Jemalbai Anavadiya
23. Smt. Shanta Chhetri
24. –vacant–
25. Shri Iranna Kadadi
26. Dr. Wanweiroy Kharlukhi
27. Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa
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30. Shri Ajay Pratap Singh
31. Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla

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- | | | | |
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| 1. | Shri D. R. Shekhar | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Dr. Yumnam Arun Kumar | - | Additional Director |
| 3. | Shri Atul Singh | - | Assistant Executive Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (2021-2022) having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present the 27th Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources)'.

2. The Twenty-Third Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 16.03.2022 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same date. Replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 17.06.2022.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 28.07.2022.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Third Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix-II**.

NEW DELHI;
28 July, 2022
06 Shravana, 1944(Saka)

PRATAPRAO JADHAV
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

REPORT
CHAPTER I

This Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (2021-22) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Twenty-Third Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources).

2. The Twenty-Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 16.03.2022 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same date. The Report contained 10 Observations/Recommendations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Government. These have been examined and categorised as follows: -

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------|
| (i) | Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:
Serial Nos. 3,4,5,6,8 and 9. | Total:06
Chapter-II |
| (ii) | Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government:
Serial No. Nil. | Total: Nil
Chapter-III |
| (iii) | Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:
Serial Nos. 1,2. 7 and 10. | Total: 04
Chapter-IV |
| (iv) | Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:
Serial Nos. Nil. | Total: Nil
Chapter-V |

4. The Committee trust that utmost importance will be given to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Government. In case where it is not possible for any reasons to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit, the matter shall be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that Recommendations contained in Chapter-I of this Report may be furnished to the Committee expeditiously.

5. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations that require reiteration or merit comments.

- I. Reduction of Budget at Revised Estimates Stage and its cascading impact on prominent Watershed Development Component – Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) and Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) deployed

(Recommendations Sl.Nos.1 & 2)

6. With regard to the Lowering of Budget at Revised Estimates, the Committee had recommended as under:-

“The Budget of Department of Land Resources is devoted mainly for two prominent schemes of Watershed Development Component – Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) and Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) that are broadly intended to bring prosperity in rural areas through watershed development and reduce land related disputes that are common place in present day. In the context, the Committee note that year after year, there is reduction in the budget of DOLR at RE stage which reflects faulty budgetary planning. From the Demands for Grants, it may be seen that, as against the BE (2019-20), (2020-21) and (2021-2022); Rs. 2227.24 crore, Rs.2251.25 crore and Rs.2170.42 crore respectively, the RE of the corresponding year was reduced to Rs.1900.00 core, Rs.1252.15 crore and 1484.5 crore respectively. The committee are of the firm view that huge reduction of budgeted amount at RE stage does not augur well on the part of Ministry of Finance particularly when both WDC-PMKSY and DILRMP programme are people oriented, development focused and intended to bring transparency in land records. The committee recommended that DoLR should convey the concern of the Committee to Ministry of Finance not to cut the amount at RE level particularly when both these programmes have started yielding results in defined areas. Rather the Committee strongly recommended that proposed BE for the year 2022-23 for an amount of Rs. 2,259.34 crore may be utilized effectively to yield desired results and if required budgetary amount may be increased at RE stage under this Head.”

7. With regard to the cascading impact of reduction of funds on prominent WDC-PMKSY and DILRMP, the Committee had recommended as under:-

“The committee are seriously concerned to observe that reduction of budget amount of DOLR has badly hit the two WDC-PMKSY and DILRMP programmes during the last three

years. In respect of WDC-PMKSY, as against the proposed amount of BE Rs.2,066 crore, Rs.2,000 crore and Rs.2,000 crore during the year (2019-20), (2020-21) and (2021-22) respectively, a provision of reduced amount of Rs.1732.00 crore, Rs.1000.00 crore and Rs.1216.00 crore were provided in the corresponding years. Similarly, under DILRMP, as against the BE of Rs.250 crore and Rs.150 crore for 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively, the same was reduced at the RE stage to as low as Rs.145 crore and Rs.50 crore. However, as an exception, the committee find that during 2021-22 under DILRMP, budgetary amount could be utilized significantly. The Committee deplore the Ministry of Finance for downsizing of Budget estimates under each of the two WDC-PMKSY and DILRMP programmes and notice that late approval of funds for 2021-22 has led to reduced level of expenditure. The Committee, therefore, recommend DOLR to take efficacious steps to utilize available funds well within time under each of the two programmes so that proposed BE under the head, allocated during the year 2022-23 may not have same fate as experienced during the previous years."

8. The Department in their action taken reply to recommendation Nos. 1 and 2 have stated as under:-

"With regard to Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, it is submitted that reduction in budget allocation at RE stage happens mostly due to lower release of Central funds to States/UTs by September/October. The release of Central funds to States/UTs is low due to non-receipt of complete release proposals from them. As observed by the Committee, the reduction in release of Central funds to States/UTs during the last three years has been on account of no fresh sanction of new projects. As per the decision taken by the Government, the already sanctioned projects under WDC-PMKSY were supposed to be completed. Therefore, with tapering of ongoing projects, the releases also got gradually reduced year after year. As regards reduction in budget for FY 2021-22 is concerned, it may be noted that life span of WDC-PMKSY ongoing projects were closed on 31.03.2021. However, on the request of various States/UTs and with due approval of the competent authority, the lifespan of Batch IV (2012-13) and Batch V (2013-14) projects was extended till March, 2022 for their completion without any release of central funds; only utilization of the available unspent funds was permitted. New generation of WDC-PMKSY projects were not approved by the Government at the time of RE meeting held by D/o Expenditure on 09.11.2021. The Department presented the financial requirement before D/o Expenditure keeping in view of the sanctioning of new projects under WDC-PMKSY. The Department received reasonable annual allocation of funds to the tune of Rs 1200 crore at RE stage for WDC-PMKSY. Government approved the continuation of WDC-PMKSY as 'WDC-PMKSY 2.0' on 15.12.2021 which left the Department with only 3.5 months time to release the Central funds to States/UTs. Within a short span of time during 2021-22, the Department made earnest efforts to sanction all new projects to States/UTs and managed to utilize fully the allocated RE budget. As observed by the Committee, the Department is making all out efforts for effective utilization of the allocated budget for schemes for FY 2022-23. Review of the progress of physical and financial target in respect of the schemes is held at the meetings of the Senior Officers of the Ministry chaired by Secretary (LR). The concerned Additional Secretary/Joint Secretaries also regularly monitor the implementation of schemes under their charge. Secretary (LR) and AS&FA also meet various scheme officers and apart from their urgent day to day issues discuss the constraints in spending the allocated outlays. Along with these, field visits are made by senior officers of the Department to States/UTs to review the progress. Accordingly, various midcourse corrections are

suggested to ensure that effective utilization of funds. These steps along with close monitoring are expected to ensure improvement in utilization of allocated resources during 2022-23. Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development also reviews the progress of works on regular basis."

Regarding Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme, the Department stated as under :

"The budget allocation 2019-20 (BE) for DILAMP scheme was Rs. 150 crore, which was reduced to Rs. 50 crore at RE level. During FY 2019-20, the funding pattern for release of funds to State/UTs was on 'reimbursement basis' as per Ministry of Finance guidelines. Due to change in funding pattern and non budgetary support from State resources, States have shown inability to spend funds from their resources and then submit the proposal for reimbursement. The funding pattern was changed to 'Advance basis' w.e.f 03.01.2020 in the last quarter of FY2019-20 which resulted in less proposals from the States/UTs during 2019-20."

9. Taking into cognizance regarding the reduction in the budget of DoLR for Watershed Development Component – Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) and Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) at RE stage year after year, the Committee had recommended that Ministry of Finance should be requested not to cut the amount at RE stage and advised the DoLR to utilize the budgeted amount for the FY 2022-23 to the fullest so as to achieve desired results and if required the budget may be increased at the RE stage. Further the Committee had recommended that DoLR to take efficacious steps to utilize available funds well within time under each of the two programmes so that proposed BE under the head, allocated during the year 2022-23 may not have same fate as experienced during the previous years. In response, DoLR have cited that the reduction in budget allocation at RE stage happens mostly due to lower release of Central funds to States/UTs as late as September/October due to non-receipt of complete release proposals from States / UTs. The Committee find the reply of DoLR recitative year after year and are not tenable. They are of the opinion that adequate measures should have been put in place with collaborative efforts with the States/UTs to overcome the problem as the reduction of budget at RE stage has happened time and again over the years. Though the Committee appreciate that some initiatives have been taken by the Department on the behest of the Committee to address the issue, nonetheless, they would like to be apprised of the outcome of such initiatives.

II. Huge unspent balances under Watershed Development Component – Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) criticised and urged DoLR to liquidate the same for success of the programme

(Recommendation Sl. No.3)

10. With regard to the huge unspent balances under WDC-PMKSY, the Committee had recommended as under:-

“The Committee are dismayed to note that prominent programme of WDC-PMKSY 1.0 that aims to improve livelihood in rural areas by development of degraded land or rainfed land through watershed activities with complete shift in approach in WDC-PMKSY 2.0 is beset with huge unspent balances (constituting both Centre and State share etc.) to the tune of Rs.2254.73 crore in 2019-20, Rs.1832.85 crore in 2020-21 and Rs.1324.88 crore in 2021-22 (as on 31.12.2021) respectively. In the context, the Committee are constrained to note that total State-wise funds of Rs.1200.02 crore are lying unspent as on 08.02.2022 with major states like Maharashtra (Rs.399.10 crore), Jharkhand (Rs.117.47 crore), Gujarat (Rs.88.22 crore), Andhra Pradesh (Rs.69.70 crore), Uttar Pradesh (Rs.6.83 crore) and so on. The Committee note that COVID - 19 pandemic and delay in release of matching amount in some States/UTs and heavy rains in June-September, 2021 etc., have been cited as reasons for unspent amount. The Committee find that since WDC-PMKSY-2.0 has been started with shift in approach, it calls for greater use of funds both by Central and States for making it people programme in a phased manner. The Committee feel that its success is very essential; particularly when the DoLR has been able to cover only 29 million hectares of land out of which 97 million hectares of rainfed/degraded land. Furthermore, a target to cover another 20 million hectare of degraded land will be achieved during the years i.e. 2021-22 to 2026-27.”

11. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under:-

“The primary reasons for year after year unspent balance as noted by the Committee under WDC-PMKSY could be ascribed to the fact that States/UTs are indeed slow in implementation of programme in the field. Another issue causing tardy progress under the scheme is the delayed transfer of Central funds to State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNAs) in States/UTs notwithstanding the fact that the sanctioned funds, as per the norm, should reach to the SLNAs within 21 days of the date of sanctions. However, most of States/UTs do not observe the provisions religiously. So much so, many States linger the release inordinately. The Department is consistently monitoring the progress with senior officers in States/UTs. The State of Maharashtra, as noted by the Committee, has got their own scheme namely, Jalyukt Shivar which gets preference over the WDC-PMKSY for the State Government. However, the benefits from WDC-PMKSY far outweigh the benefits accrued from the Jalyukt Shivar. Many States do not have proper institutional arrangements in place for which the Department has been requesting them to do needful. It may also be mentioned that Ministry of Finance in their recent communication has asked all States/UTs to return their unspent balances w.e.f 31.3.2022. As of now, most States/UTs have returned their unspent funds. Moreover, the Ministry of Finance has made PFMS compulsory for release and utilization of Government funds. Therefore, the Department is closely monitoring the progress of implementation of scheme with all States/UTs. The Department takes note of the recommendations of the Committee that the role of WDC-PMKSY is very significant and therefore, efforts should be made to implement the scheme more sincerely. It may be noted that the WDC-PMKSY 2.0 has been approved by the Government with a central financial allocation of Rs 8134 crore which permits approximately 4.95 million ha of rainfed/degraded land to be treated in place of 20 million ha for which the Department had initiated the EFC note.”

12. While noting that DoLR has been able to cover only 29 million hectares of land out of 97 million hectares of rainfed / degraded land and existence of huge unspent balances under WDC-PMKSY, the Committee had urged for greater use of funds both by Central and States for making it people programme in a phased manner. DoLR in their reply have accepted this as a problem and has apprised that that States / UTs are slow in implementation of program in the field. In addition, there is always a delay in transfer of Central funds to State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNAs) as against the norm for fund transfer to SLNAs within 21 days. Although the Committee takes cognizance of attribution of such issues, however, they would like to know the specific reasons for tardy implementation of WDC - PMKSY program on the ground by the States/ UTs that has led to accumulation of huge unspent balances and ultimately resulting in surrendering it without utilising for the purpose with which it was sanctioned resulting in defeating the set objectives of the program. The Committee feel that mere consistent monitoring of the scheme is not enough and the DoLR should have been more proactive to make the States/ UTs effective in implementing the scheme for fuller and faster intended benefits to the rural populace with visible better outcomes.

III. **Expeditious completion of WDC-PMKSY 1.0 projects within timeline across the county recommended.**

(Recommendation Sl. No.4)

13 With regard to the Expeditious completion of WDC - PMKSY 1.0 projects within timeline across the county, the Committee had recommended as under:-

“The Committee constrained to note that even after the time line of PMKSY 1.0 getting over on 31 March, 2021, out of 6382 projects being funded by DoLR, only 4392 projects (75.09%) have been completed, 409 projects are in consolidation Phase (6.41%) and 1181 projects are at work phase. The Committee are, therefore, constrained note that the data submitted by DOLR regarding examination of Demands for Grants (2022-23) as on 31 January, 2022 reflects that hardly any significant change is shown in progress details of 5243 number of projects (82.15%) completed, 245 projects (3.84%) in consolidation and 894 (14%) in work phase. During the course of evidence, the Secretary, DoLR was optimistic before the Committee to complete 880-890 projects by 31st March, 2022. The Committee express its deep dissatisfaction over the fact that conclude that pendency of large number of projects after expiry of WDC-PMKSY time line does not speak well on over all monitoring by DOLR. The Committee thus impress upon DoLR to complete these projects on war footing within extended time line.”

14. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under:-

“As on date, under WDC PMKSY 1.0, out of 6382 projects being funded by DoLR, 5549 (86.95%) have been completed and completion for remaining projects are expected soon. States/UTs are in the process of concluding their projects and furnishing the completion as well as End line Evaluation reports. All States/UTs have been requested to submit the pending completion as well as their End line Evaluation reports immediately.”

15. **Expressing their concern on large number of incomplete projects even after expiry of WDC-PMKSY 1.0 on 31 March 2021, the Committee had urged DoLR to complete the projects on war footing within the extended timeline. From the reply of the Department, Committee acknowledge the completion of 5549 (86.95%) projects and remaining projects are expected be completed soon. Nonetheless, the Committee would like to know the definite timeline by when the DoLR will achieve 100 percent completion. The Committee urge the Department to actively pursue the States/ UTs to finish the pending projects at the earliest along with their End Line Evaluation reports and the Committee be informed accordingly.**

IV. Digital India Land Record Modernisation Program

Recommendation (Serial No.7)

16. With regard to Higher allocation of Funds for Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP), the Committee had recommended as under:

"The Committee are constrained to note that the prominent Central Sector Scheme of DILRMP with an operation period spanning over ten years from 1 April, 2016 to March, 2026 is getting very low level of funds from Rs.100 crore in 2017-18 to Rs. 250.00 crore in 2022-23. These funds are utilised in working on various areas like digitalizing land records for common man's benefits for easy access to common man, reducing land disputes that constitute as high as 60% - 70% of total Court disputes, preventing fraudulent and benami transactions, integrating land records at National level for six different areas like Property Registration, Bank loan, Fertilizers subsidy, FCI procurement, Crop insurance, Disaster relief, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and Income Tax, integrating with various agencies under Union Ministries of Government of India, Banks, Tehsils and Courts. The Committee find that though some of the features such as Special Initiatives of (i) Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIM), Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) and National General Document Registration System (NGDRS) and 'New Components' of Computerisation of Revenue Courts and their integration with land records and consent based integration of Aadhaar Number with land data base have been added very recently, thus enhancing the need for more funds, the Committee feel that in the light of objective of DILRMP, the present level of funds should be suitably enhanced substantially, commensurating the volume of work in hand by chalking out roadmap for achieving these in a time bound manner so that the work in hand is achieved much before the given time line of 1st April, 2026."

17. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under:-

"Under DILRMP, BE allocation for the FY 2022-23 is Rs. 239.25 crore as compared to BE & RE of Rs.150.00 cr. & Rs.250 cr. for 2021-22 respectively. An amount of Rs.250 crore provided in RE has been utilized during 2021-22 under DILRMP. The Department agrees with the recommendation for enhancement of fund for DILRMP. The Department aims to complete the basic digitization work i.e. Computerization of RoR, Digitization of Maps and Integration of record of rights (textual) and cadastral maps (spatial) by March, 2023. The Department has requested States to complete the same and send proposals including new components viz. (i) Computerisation of Revenue Courts and their integration with land records and (ii) Consent based integration of Aadhaar Number with land data base and completion of remaining all components by March, 2026 vide letter dated 31.05.2022. They have further been requested to expedite completion of basic digitization work by March, 2023 vide DO letter dated 03.06.2022"

18. **Taking into account the significance of Digital India Land Record Modernisation Program (DILRMP) and its long time benefits to the citizens, various new initiatives have been added to it, to meet the larger objectives under the auspices of Digital India theme of the Government. While appreciating these initiatives, the Committee in their Report had recommended the present level of funds for DILRMP be suitably enhanced substantially to commensurate with the volume of work in hand and the stipulated target of the program is achieved much before the extended time line of 1st April 2026. However, the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) in their reply has only indicated their agreement with the recommendation without spelling out the concrete steps that have been taken to fructify enhancement of budgetary allocation for DILRMP as desired by the Committee. The Department have simply delineated as how the set physical targets could be achieved by just requesting States to expeditiously complete the basic digitization work by March, 2023. The Committee are disheartened to note that despite acknowledging the recommendation, DoLR has not been able to update the efforts made and the mechanism that has been put in place to complete the Program within the extended deadline of March, 2026. The Committee, therefore reiterate their desire for enhancement of funds for DILRMP and at same time DoLR apprise them about the well edged out roadmap for achieving the objectives of DILRMP and completion of the work in hand as per the set time line.**

V. Issues related to ban on sale of land upto 2 acres after independence and deprivation of basic amenities in forest land (Van-Gram) owing to stringent laws governing forest areas

(Recommendation Sl. No. 10)

19. With regard to lifting of ban on sale of land measuring upto 2 acres and deprivation of basic amenities in forest land owing to stringent laws governing forest areas, the Committee had recommended as under :-

“Two prominent issues, firstly, ban on sale of land upto 2 acres after Independence have led to a situation particularly in Punjab wherein the ownership of land varies from single to multiple over a long period of time as a result the owners are unable to sell their lands for their genuine requirement. Secondly, villages in Forest land (Van-Gram) are unable to get basic amenities like roads, schools, toilets, playgrounds etc. in their vicinity owing to stringent laws governing forest areas and necessary permission from Forest officials are not at all easy to obtain. During the course of evidence, the Committee were assured by Secretary (DoLR) to examine these issues and thereafter do needful by issuing necessary advisories. The Committee, therefore, recommend that these issues be solved expeditiously by devising a nation-wide solution for the redressal of grievance of the affected citizens”

20. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under:-

"In this regard, a letter has already been issued by the Department on 27.05.2022 to all States/UTs and requested to submit Action Taken Report at the earliest."

21. **While taking note of the problems faced by the people in different States specially in Punjab where there is a ban on sale of the land measuring up to 2 acres after independence and also in villages located in Forest land (Van Grams) where there have been deprivation of basic amenities owing to stringent laws governing forest areas, the Committee had recommended that these issues be solved expeditiously by devising a nation-wide solution for the redressal of grievance of the affected citizens. The Committee are dismayed with the way DoLR has addressed the concern of the Committee whereby they have just sent a letter to all States/ UTs requesting to submit Action Taken Report at the earliest. The Committee strongly reiterate their recommendation as the matter relates to life and livelihood of thousands of villagers. Steps taken to address the long pending demands of the affected citizens should have been updated to the Committee. The Committee, therefore again emphasise that DoLR in consultation with all stakeholders, should devise a nation-wide solution in a fast track mode.**

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 3)

The Committee are dismayed to note that prominent programme of WDC-PMKSY 1.0 that aims to improve livelihood in rural areas by development of degraded land or rainfed land through watershed activities with complete shift in approach in WDC-PMKSY 2.0 is beset with huge unspent balances (constituting both Centre and State share etc.) to the tune of Rs.2254.73 crore in 2019-20, Rs.1832.85 crore in 2020-21 and Rs.1324.88 crore in 2021-22 (as on 31.12.2021) respectively. In the context, the Committee are constrained to note that total State-wise funds of Rs.1200.02 crore are lying unspent as on 08.02.2022 with major states like Maharashtra (Rs.399.10 crore), Jharkhand (Rs.117.47 crore), Gujarat (Rs.88.22 crore), Andhra Pradesh (Rs.69.70 crore), Uttar Pradesh (Rs.6.83 crore) and so on. The Committee note that Covid 19 pandemic and delay in release of matching amount in some States/UTs and heavy rains in June-September, 2021 etc., have been cited as reasons for unspent amount. The Committee find that since WDC-PMKSY-2.0 has been started with shift in approach, it calls for greater use of funds both by Central and States for making it people programme in a phased manner. The Committee feel that its success is very essential; particularly when the DOLR has been able to cover only 29 million hectares of land out of which 97 million hectares of rainfed/degraded land. Furthermore, a target to cover another 20 million hectare of degraded land will be achieved during the years i.e. 2021-22 to 2026-27.

Reply of the Government

The primary reasons for year after year unspent balance as noted by the Committee under WDC-PMKSY could be ascribed to the fact that States/UTs are indeed slow in implementation of programme in the field. Another issue causing tardy progress under the scheme is the delayed transfer of central funds to State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNAs) in States/UTs notwithstanding the fact that the sanctioned funds, as per the norm, should reach to the SLNAs within 21 days of the date of sanctions. However, most of States/UTs do not observe the provisions religiously. So much so, many states linger the release inordinately. The Department is consistently monitoring the progress with senior officers in States/UTs.

The State of Maharashtra, as noted by the Committee, has got their own scheme namely, Jalyukt Shivar which gets preference over the WDC-PMKSY for the State Government. However, the benefits from WDC-PMKSY far outweigh the benefits accrued

from the Jalyukt Shivar. Many States do not have proper institutional arrangements in place for which the Department has been requesting them to do needful. It may also be mentioned that Ministry of Finance in their recent communication has asked all States/UTs to return their unspent balances w.e.f 31.3.2022. As of now, most States/UTs have returned their unspent funds. Moreover, the Ministry of Finance has made PFMS compulsory for release and utilization of Government funds. Therefore, the Department is closely monitoring the progress of implementation of scheme with all States/UTs.

The Department takes note of the recommendations of the Committee that the role of WDC-PMKSY is very significant and therefore, efforts should be made to implement the scheme more sincerely. It may be noted that the WDC-PMKSY 2.0 has been approved by the Government with a central financial allocation of Rs 8134 crore which permits approximately 4.95 million ha of rainfed/degraded land to be treated in place of 20 million ha for which the Department had initiated the EFC note.

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted for further guidance.

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 12 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 4)

The Committee constrained to note that even after the time line of PMKSY 1.0 getting over on 31 March, 2021, out of 6382 projects being funded by DOLR, only 4392 projects (75.09%) have been completed, 409 projects are in consolidation Phase (6.41%) and 1181 projects are at work phase. The Committee are, therefore, constrained note that the data submitted by DOLR regarding examination of Demands for Grants (2022-23) as on 31 January,2022 reflects that hardly any significant change is shown in progress details of 5243 number of projects(82.15%) completed, 245 projects (3.84%) in consolidation and 894 (14%) in work phase. During the course of evidence, the Secretary, DOLR was optimistic before the Committee to complete 880-890 projects by 31st March, 2022. The Committee express its deep dissatisfaction over the fact that conclude that pendency of large number of projects after expiry of WDC-PMKSY time line does not speak well on over all monitoring by DOLR. The Committee thus impress upon DOLR to complete these projects on war footing within extended time line.

Reply of the Government

As on date, under WDC PMKSY 1.0, out of 6382 projects being funded by DoLR, 5549 (86.95%) have been completed and completion for remaining projects are expected soon. States/UTs are in the process of concluding their projects and furnishing the completion as well as End line Evaluation reports. All States/UTs have been requested to submit the pending completion as well as their End line Evaluation reports immediately.

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 15 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 5)

The Committee welcome the shift in WDC-PMKSY 2.0 based on the NITI Aayog evaluation on six parameters of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Impact and Equity after studying End-line Evaluation done in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu and Kerala for covering 20 million hectares of degraded/rainfed in coming five years time from 2021-22 to 2025-26. This is to be done with a Central outlay of Rs.8134 crore, Government of India approved on 15th December, 2021 by undergoing a shift in approach in WDC-PMKSY 2 with emphasis on ecology, economy, moving to biological measures from engineering treatment of land, diversification of watershed by Integrated Farming System (IFS) with horticulture, fisheries etc., linking it with agriculture institutions like Farmers Produce Organizations (FPOs) etc. The Committee welcome that activities like spring-shed are being undertaken for reviving 50% of water bodies that have dried in Himalayan and Eastern/ Western Ghats Regions. The Committee recommended that roadmap be rolled out by DOLR to take up WDC-PMKSY 2.0 with the concerned States/UTs to work resolutely so as to achieve defines objectives of the WDC-PMKSY ensuring that the scheme does not remain on paper only.

Reply of the Government

The continuation of WDC-PMKSY has been approved by Government of India on 15.12.2021 as 'WDC-PMKSY 2.0' for the project period of 2021-2026 with a physical target of 4.95 million ha and indicative central financial outlay of Rs. 8,134 crore. The unit cost of projects has been revised upward from Rs 12,000/ha to Rs 22,000/ha for plain areas, and Rs 15,000/ha to Rs 28,000/ha for the difficult areas and LWE/IAP areas. The States/UTs have been asked to use GIS and Remote Sensing techniques for better planning of projects. The States/UTs have also been suggested to map activities from other schemes / sectors which could be taken up within the project areas for better convergence in a saturation mode. The project period has been reduced from existing 4 -

7 years to 3 - 5 years. On the recommendations of NITI Aayog, rejuvenation of Springshed has been incorporated as a new activity in the WDC-PMKSY 2.0 within the approved cost.

As on 20.05.2022, DoLR has sanctioned 1099 projects to States/UTs covering an area of 49.21 lakh hectare under the WDC-PMKSY 2.0 and an amount of Rs. 1165.17 crore has been released to States / UTs as central funds.

WDC 2.0 is being implemented by DoLR with firm determination to complete all sanctioned projects within prescribed project period. Department is timely sensitizing State level functionaries by assuring total support. To build up capacities of all States/UTs for taking up new approach envisaged under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, the department has already arranged training sessions of GIS and Springshed development at National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad. The Department has already earmarked the senior officers to visit the project areas for better implementation of schemes. Wherever, States/UTs are reluctant to release the central funds, to SLNAs, the department officers are making extra efforts to get the funds released to SLNAs. In the recent context of slowing down of COVID pandemic, the department has had a physical review meeting with senior officers from States on WDC-PMKY. The progress of scheme is being monitored through filed visits and video conferencing as well. Recently a series of Regional Review Conferences is being organized under the chairmanship of Hon'ble MRD.

Therefore, it may be seen, the department is making all out efforts to monitor the progress of WDC-PMKSY 2.0 so that the outcomes are ensured for the people.

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

Recommendation (Serial No. 6)

The Committee are glad to note that NITI Aayog in interim Report on impact of WDC-PMKSY has come out with prominent findings related with WDC-PMKSY scheme, these inter alia include giving importance to rain water harvesting to country's economy, generation of employment through WDC-PMKSY projects and their monitoring by Remote Sensing through Srishti and Drishti Apps and Bhuvan Portal etc. These findings also suggest that the cost norms be enhanced from level of Rs.22000 to Rs.25000 for plain areas and Rs.28000 to Rs.30000 per hectares of land for hilly areas, Integration with FPOs, need for convergence with MGNREGA, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) etc. Hence, the Committee unequivocally resonate with the findings of NITI Aayog and urge DOLR to utilize them for betterment of the scheme. Besides this, the Committee recommend the role of local MPs be ensured in WDC-PMKSY projects at planning and implementation stage so that their valuable suggestions are incorporated in the DPRs that

are prepared at grassroots level and their monitoring is ensured in periodic DISHA meetings.

Reply of the Government

The Government has approved the continuation of programme as WDC-PMKSY 2.0 for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with physical target of 4.95 million ha and indicative financial outlay of Rs. 8,134 crore, as the Central share. Under WDC 2.0, a total of 1099 projects have been appraised and sanctioned in 28 States and UT of J & K. During 2021-22 Central share of Rs. 1165.17 crore has been released to States /UTs. WDC-2.0 shall be implemented according to the Guidelines for New Generation Watershed Projects. The main features and the major improvements envisaged in the new guidelines inter alia include the following:

- The cost norm of Rs. 28,000/- per ha for hilly & difficult areas, and upto Rs. 28,000 per ha for watershed projects in Integrated Action Plan (IAP) Districts and Rs.22,000/- per ha for plain areas;
- DPRs of projects to be based on actual requirement. Per unit cost would be as available from WDC-PMKSY 2.0, and over & above this cost, States/UTs will ensure from convergence or from their own budget.
- Geo-tagging of all planned activities before implementation, Outcome and impact-oriented and user-focused monitoring (before & after).
- Project period reduced from 4 - 7 years to 3-5 years.
- Introduction of Farmers Producers Organizations (FPO) right from planning stage of the project.
- Focused efforts on climate change issues.
- Spring-shed development: Introduced as new activity under watershed projects.
- Introduced building Land Resource Inventory (LRI) at least for 10% of the sanctioned projects.
- Introduced: Participatory Water Budgeting to be carried out one each in pre-and post-rainy seasons.
- Evaluation of following Indicators / parameters for meaningful projects monitoring:
 - i. Extent of area developed
 - ii. No. of water harvesting structures created/rejuvenated
 - iii. Increase in cropping intensity
 - iv. Increase in crop productivity
 - v. Increase in income of farmers and landless labourers
 - vi. Increase in ground water table
 - vii. No. of springsheds rejuvenated
 - viii. Area brought under protective irrigation
 - ix. No. of farmers benefitted
 - x. Employment generated
 - xi. Area brought under plantation
 - xii. Extent of wasteland developed
 - xiii. Increase in Soil Organic Carbon level

The scheme guidelines also envisage close involvement of Zilla Parishads, Taluk / Block Panchayats and Gram Panchayats in planning and implementation of watershed development projects. The District Planning Committee (DPC) having MLAs, MPs and

elected members of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as its members have an important role to play and are responsible for the overall development plan of the District and bring together all the developmental initiatives under different sectors in the District. It will be therefore, beneficial for the watershed projects with the District Plan to get the much needed convergence & coordination of relevant schemes.

The actual implementation of the projects at field level is done by the Watershed Committees (WCs) constituted by Gram Sabhas. Further, it is informed that The Department has already issued advisory to all SLNAs with a request to instruct district authorities associated with implementation of WDC-PMKSY to actively participate in the DISHA meetings being organized at district level and also requested to inform DoLR about action taken on suggestions /recommendations made about implementation of scheme in DISHA meeting.

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

Recommendation (Serial No. 8)

The Committee note with concern that the common man's scheme of DILRMP is experiencing huge unspent balance of the tune as high as Rs.398.54 crore in 2019-20, Rs.492.82 crore in 2020-21 and Rs.536.57 crore in 2021-22 and various reasons have been attributed like inability of States to contribute matching share due to fund release on reimbursement basis, fall out of Covid 19 pandemic etc. From the State-wise data of unspent balances upto 10.01.2022, the Committee are constrained to find that Telangana with as high as Rs.81.19 crore tops the list of States with unspent balances followed by Andhra Pradesh with Rs.68.90 crore, Odisha with Rs.55.28 crore, Himachal Pradesh with Rs.3354.72 crore, Maharashtra with Rs.30.91 crore and so on. The Committee do not subscribe to the views of DOLR that the issue is being taken up with Regional Review Meetings (RRMs) and Video Conferences (VCs) held from time to time. In this connection, various DILRMP challenges like implementation being complex, sensitive, time consuming etc., lack of resources with State Governments/UTs to meet States' share upto 31.03.2016, need for highly skilled manpower, non-revision of rates in some of the components etc. have been showcased before the Committee. In the light of importance of the DILRMP programme, the Committee recommend the DOLR to sensitise the State Governments/UTs and other stakeholders for expeditious liquidation of these unspent balances in a time bound manner so that desired results of the scheme could be achieved as conceived for the benefit of the 'Common Man'.

Reply of the Government

All the States/UTs have been requested vide letter dated 4.2.2022 to review the balance fund position and refund the amount immediately which is likely to remain unspent after 28.2.2022 so that the same can be allocated to other states who are in need of fund to run the DILRMP smoothly. The Department has planned to take up the matter of expeditious utilization of unspent balance through field visits of DoLR team of officers to various States having huge unspent balance. Further, as per Ministry of Finance OM. No.1(18)PFMS/FCD/2021 dated 9th March. 2022, revised procedure for flow of funds under Central Sector Schemes is being implemented which will help to reduce huge unspent balance and parking of funds with the States agencies or District agencies under DILRMP. Accordingly, all States/UTs have been requested to implement the above said procedure of fund flow vide letter dated 31.05.2022.

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

Recommendation (Serial No. 9)

The Committee are constrained to note that DILRMP work under its 4 components is showing varying degree of implementation even after five years of its operation. For instance, the Committee are constrained to note that under the computerisation of land records, the component of Records of Rights (RoRs) reflect 92.98%, completion while computerisations of Registration exhibits 93.51% completion whereas in Integration of Land Records (ILR) and Modern Record Rooms, the progress of completion is as low as 75.36% and 37.36% and delay on the part of State Governments in civil work for Modernisation of Record Rooms has been attributed reasons. Besides, need for skill manpower, non-revision of rates in some components have been shown other reasons. The Committee recommend that implementation of work on the components be accelerated by resolving the issues with concerned States Governments/ UTs within DOLR expeditiously.

Reply of the Government

All the States/UTs have been requested on 14.12.2021 to complete the following activities on highest priority in a time bound manner so as to enable the country to achieve the targets related to completion of basic digitization work by March, 2023.

- Computerization of Land Records
- Computerization of Registration
- Digitization of cadastral maps;
- Integration of record of rights (textual) and cadastral maps (spatial)

Matter of implementation of DILRMP in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya where the work is yet to start mainly due to community land ownership issue

has been taken up vide DO letters from Secretary, DoLR to Chief Secretaries of these States. The Department has planned field visit of officers to States/UTs to sensitize them to complete the work expeditiously..A review meeting with all the States/UTs has been scheduled on 24.06.2022 to discuss all the issues under DILRMP and other related activities.

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

CHAPTER III

**RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE
IN VIEW OF REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT**

NIL

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

CHAPTER IV**RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE****Recommendation (Serial No. 1)**

The Budget of Department of Land Resources is devoted mainly for two prominent schemes of Watershed Development Component – Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) and Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) that are broadly intended to bring prosperity in rural areas through watershed development and reduce land related disputes that are common place in present day. In the context, the Committee note that year after year, there is reduction in the budget of DOLR at RE stage which reflects faulty budgetary planning. From the Demands for Grants, it may be seen that, as against the BE (2019-20), (2020-21) and (2021-2022); Rs. 2227.24 crore, Rs.2251.25 crore and Rs.2170.42 crore respectively, the RE of the corresponding year was reduced to Rs.1900.00 core, Rs.1252.15 crore and 1484.5 crore respectively. The committee are of the firm view that huge reduction of budgeted amount at RE stage does not augur well on the part of Ministry of Finance particularly when both WDC-PMKSY and DILRMP programme are people oriented, development focused and intended to bring transparency in land records. The committee recommended that DoLR should convey the concern of the Committee to Ministry of Finance not to cut the amount at RE level particularly when both these programmes have started yielding results in defined areas. Rather the Committee strongly recommended that proposed BE for the year 2022-23 for an amount of Rs. 2,259.34 crore may be utilized effectively to yield desired results and if required budgetary amount may be increased at RE stage under this Head.

Recommendation (Serial No. 2)

The committee are seriously concerned to observe that reduction of budget amount of DOLR has badly hit the two WDC-PMKSY and DILRMP programmes during the last three years. In respect of WDC-PMKSY, as against the proposed amount of BE Rs.2,066 crore, Rs.2,000 crore and Rs.2,000 crore during the year (2019-20), (2020-21) and (2021-22) respectively, a provision of reduced amount of Rs.1732.00 crore, Rs.1000.00 crore and Rs.1216.00 crore were provided in the corresponding years. Similarly, under DILRMP, as against the BE of Rs.250 crore and Rs.150 crore for 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively,

the same was reduced at the RE stage to as low as Rs.145 crore and Rs.50 crore. However, as an exception, the committee find that during 2021-22 under DILRMP, budgetary amount could be utilized significantly. The Committee deplore the Ministry of Finance for downsizing of Budget estimates under each of the two WDC-PMKSY and DILRMP programmes and notice that late approval of funds for 2021-22 has led to reduced level of expenditure. The Committee, therefore, recommend DOLR to take efficacious steps to utilize available funds well within time under each of the two programmes so that proposed BE under the head, allocated during the year 2022-23 may not have same fate as experienced during the previous years.

Reply of the Government to Recommendation Nos. 1 & 2

Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY)

With regard to Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, it is submitted that reduction in budget allocation at RE stage happens mostly due to lower release of Central funds to States/UTs by September/October. The release of Central funds to States/UTs is low due to non-receipt of complete release proposals from them. As observed by the Committee, the reduction in release of Central funds to States/UTs during the last three years has been on account of no fresh sanction of new projects.

As per the decision taken by the Government, the already sanctioned projects under WDC-PMKSY were supposed to be completed. Therefore, with tapering of ongoing projects, the releases also got gradually reduced year after year. As regards reduction in budget for FY 2021-22 is concerned, it may be noted that life span of WDC-PMKSY ongoing projects were closed on 31.03.2021. However, on the request of various States/UTs and with due approval of the competent authority, the lifespan of Batch IV (2012-13) and Batch V (2013-14) projects was extended till March, 2022 for their completion without any release of central funds; only utilization of the available unspent funds was permitted. New generation of WDC-PMKSY projects were not approved by the Government at the time of RE meeting held by D/o Expenditure on 09.11.2021. The Department presented the financial requirement before D/o Expenditure keeping in view of the sanctioning of new projects under WDC-PMKSY. The Department received reasonable annual allocation of funds to the tune of Rs 1200 crore at RE stage for WDC-PMKSY. Government approved the continuation of WDC-PMKSY as 'WDC-PMKSY 2.0' on 15.12.2021 which left the Department with only 3.5 months time to release the Central funds to States/UTs. Within a short span of time during 2021-22, the Department made earnest efforts to sanction all new projects to States/UTs and managed to utilize fully the allocated RE budget.

As observed by the Committee, the Department is making all out efforts for effective utilization of the allocated budget for schemes for FY 2022-23. Review of the progress of physical and financial target in respect of the schemes is held at the meetings of the Senior Officers of the Ministry chaired by Secretary (LR). The

concerned Additional Secretary/Joint Secretaries also regularly monitor the implementation of schemes under their charge. Secretary (LR) and AS&FA also meet various scheme officers and apart from their urgent day to day issues discuss the constraints in spending the allocated outlays. Along with these, field visits are made by senior officers of the Department to States/UTs to review the progress. Accordingly, various midcourse corrections are suggested to ensure that effective utilization of funds. These steps along with close monitoring are expected to ensure improvement in utilization of allocated resources during 2022-23. Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development also reviews the progress of works on regular basis.

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

The budget allocation 2019-20 (BE) for DILAMP scheme was Rs. 150 crore, which was reduced to Rs. 50 crore at RE level. During FY 2019-20, the funding pattern for release of funds to State/UTs was on 'reimbursement basis' as per Ministry of Finance guidelines. Due to change in funding pattern and non budgetary support from State resources, States have shown inability to spend funds from their resources and then submit the proposal for reimbursement. The funding pattern was changed to 'Advance basis' w.e.f 03.01.2020 in the last quarter of FY2019-20 which resulted in less proposals from the States/UTs during 2019-20.

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 9 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 7)

The Committee are constrained to note that the prominent Central Sector Scheme of DILRMP with an operation period spanning over ten years from 1 April, 2016 to March, 2026 is getting very low level of funds from Rs.100 crore in 2017-18 to Rs. 250.00 crore in 2022-23. These funds are utilised in working on various areas like digitalizing land records for common man's benefits for easy access to common man, reducing land disputes that constitute as high as 60% - 70% of total Court disputes, preventing fraudulent and benami transactions, integrating land records at National level for six different areas like Property Registration, Bank loan, Fertilizers subsidy, FCI procurement, Crop insurance, Disaster relief, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and Income Tax, integrating with various agencies under Union Ministries of Government of India, Banks, Tehsils and Courts. The Committee find that though some of the features such as Special Initiatives of (i) Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIM), Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) and National General Document Registration System (NGDRS) and 'New Components' of Computerisation of Revenue Courts and their integration with land records

and consent based integration of Aadhaar Number with land data base have been added very recently, thus enhancing the need for more funds, the Committee feel that in the light of objective of DILRMP, the present level of funds should be suitably enhanced substantially, commensurating the volume of work in hand by chalking out roadmap for achieving these in a time bound manner so that the work in hand is achieved much before the given time line of 1st April, 2026.

Reply of the Government

Under DILRMP, BE allocation for the FY 2022-23 is Rs. 239.25 crore as compared to BE & RE of Rs.150.00 cr. & Rs.250 cr. for 2021-22 respectively. An amount of Rs.250 crore provided in RE has been utilized during 2021-22 under DILRMP. The Department agrees with the recommendation for enhancement of fund for DILRMP. The Department aims to complete the basic digitization work i.e. Computerization of RoR, Digitization of Maps and Integration of record of rights (textual) and cadastral maps (spatial) by March, 2023. The Department has requested States to complete the same and send proposals including new components viz. (i) Computerisation of Revenue Courts and their integration with land records and (ii) Consent based integration of Aadhaar Number with land data base and completion of remaining all components by March, 2026 vide letter dated 31.05.2022. They have further been requested to expedite completion of basic digitization work by March, 2023 vide DO letter dated 03.06.2022.

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 18 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 10)

Two prominent issues, firstly, ban on sale of land upto 2 acres after Independence have led to a situation particularly in Punjab wherein the ownership of land varies from single to multiple over a long period of time as a result the owners are unable to sell their lands for their genuine requirement. Secondly, villages in Forest land (Van-Gram) are unable to get basic amenities like roads, schools, toilets, playgrounds etc. in their vicinity owing to stringent laws governing forest areas and necessary permission from Forest officials are not at all easy to obtain. During the course of evidence, the Committee were assured by Secretary (DOLR) to examine these issues and thereafter do needful by issuing necessary advisories. The Committee, therefore, recommend that these issues be solved expeditiously by devising a nation-wide solution for the redressal of grievance of the affected citizens.

Reply of the Government

In this regard, a letter has already been issued by the Department on 27.05.2022 to all States/UTs and requested to submit Action Taken Report at the earliest.

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 21 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER V

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

NIL

(DoRD O.M. No. H-11011/1/2022-GC dated 17/06/2022)

**NEW DELHI;
28 July, 2022
06 Shravana, 1944(Saka)**

**PRATAPRAO JADHAV
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj**

APPENDIX - II

[Vide para 4 of Introduction of Report]

**ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWENTY-THIRD REPORT (17TH LOK SABHA) OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ**

- | | | |
|------|---|------------------|
| I. | Total number of recommendations: | 10 |
| II. | Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: | |
| | Serial Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9. | |
| | | Total: 06 |
| | | Percentage:- 60% |
| III. | Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government: | |
| | Serial No. NIL | |
| | | Total: NIL |
| | | Percentage:- 0% |
| IV. | Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee: | |
| | Serial No. 1, 2, 7 and 10 | |
| | | Total: 04 |
| | | Percentage:-40% |
| V. | Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited: | |
| | Serial No. NIL | |
| | | Total: NIL |
| | | Percentage:- 0% |