



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(2023-24)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS)**

**Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the
Committee contained in their Forty-First Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on
'Demands for Grants (2023-2024)' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
(Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals)**

FIFTY-FIRST REPORT



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

February, 2024/ Magha, 1945 (Saka)

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Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty-First Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-2024)' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 08th February, 2024

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 08th February, 2024



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2024/ Magha, 1945 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(2023-24)**

Dr. Shashi Tharoor - Chairperson

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Dibyendu Adhikari
3. Maulana Badruddin Ajmal
4. Shri C.N. Annadurai
5. Shri Deepak Baij
6. Shri Ramakant Bhargava
7. Shri Prataprao Patil Chikhalikar
8. Shri Rajeshbhai Naranbhai Chudasama
9. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
10. Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi
11. Shri Kripanath Mallah
12. Shri Satyadev Pachauri
13. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
14. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar
15. Shri Muniyan Selvaraj
16. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singari
17. Shri Atul Kumar Singh
18. Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh
19. Shri Indra Hang Subba
20. Shri Parbhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava
21. Vacant*

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri G. C. Chandrashekhar
23. Dr. Anil Jain
24. Shri Arun Singh
25. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
26. Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar
27. Vacant
28. Vacant
29. Vacant
30. Vacant
31. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Shri Chander Mohan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Smt. Geeta Parmar | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Kulvinder Singh | - | Deputy Secretary |

* Vacant vice [Shri Uday Pratap](#) Singh, MP(LS) who resigned his seat in LS w.e.f. 06.12.2023. [Lok Sabha Secretariat Notification No. 21/1(1)/2023/T(B) dated 6th December, 2023]

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2023-24) having been authorized by the Committee, do present on their behalf this Fifty-First Report on Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty-First Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

2. The Forty-First Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 2023. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers furnished their replies on 20th July, 2023 indicating Action Taken on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-First Report. The Committee considered and adopted the Draft Report at their sitting held on 07th February, 2024.

3. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty-First Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix-II**.

4. For ease of reference, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

New Delhi;
07 February, 2024
18 Magha, 1945 (Saka)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR
CHAIRPERSON,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS.

CHAPTER – I

REPORT

This Report deals with action taken by the Government on observations/recommendations of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers contained in their Forty-First Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

1.2 The Forty-First Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 2023. It contained 18 Observations/Recommendations. The Replies of the Government in respect of all the Recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:

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

Rec. Para No. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18

Chapter- II
Total-16

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

Rec. Para No. Nil

Chapter - III
Total - NIL

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

Rec. Para .No. 1 & 2

Chapter- IV
Total – 2

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

Rec. Para No. Nil

Chapter - V
Total - NIL

1.3 The Committee desire that Action Taken Notes in respect of Observations/ Recommendations contained in Chapter-I be furnished to them within three months of the presentation of this Report.

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

(Recommendation No. 1)

Proposed and approved allocation for the year 2023-24

1.5 The Committee had noted in their Report on DFG(2023-24) of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) that the Department had projected an outlay of Rs. 200.95 crore for its various schemes/programmes and other requirements during 2023-24. However, the Ministry of Finance reduced the same to Rs. 173.45 crore. The reduction was made in respect of (i) PLI scheme for CPC, (ii) CPDS, where only an amount of Rs.3.00 crore was allocated (which has been merged with NSP scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2023) (iii) CIPET where Rs.92.88 crore were allocated against Rs. 106.20 crore and (iv) New Schemes of Petrochemicals (NSP), where a reduced amount of Rs. 22.00 crore (including CPDS fund of Rs.3.00 crore) was allocated. Considering that the downward revision of the financial targets would adversely affect the performance of the Department during the year and result in retarded growth of the chemical and petrochemical industry on the whole, the Committee had recommended that the DCPC should get the funds of the required level of Rs. 200.95 crore at the RE, 2023-24.

1.6 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as under:

“Against a projection of Rs. 29.93 crore for the New Scheme of Petrochemicals (NSP) and Rs. 6.00 crore for CPDS, an amount of Rs. 22.00 crore (including CPDS) has been approved in the Budget for 2023-24. Department is also in progress for development of Chemical and Petrochemical Data Management System (CPDMS) portal for which approximately Rs.5.00 crore will be utilized under NSP scheme. A proposal has received from Bhopal Welfare Commissioner office for renovation of Old District Court Building and shifting of O/o WC, Bhopal from Rajendar Prasad Bhawan to Old District Court Building for which approximately an amount of Rs.2.45 crore will be demanded in RE 2023-24. There is also shortage of funds under various object heads of “Secretariat”, therefore more funds will be demanded at RE 2023-24 stage. Based on the demands of funds from various programme divisions, a higher RE will be projected by DCPC.”

1.7 The Committee note that the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) requires an amount of Rs 5.00 crore for development of Chemical and Petrochemicals Data Management System (CPDMS) and Rs 2.45 crore for

renovation of old district court building and shifting of O/o Bhopal Welfare Commissioner office from Rajendar Prasad Bhawan to Old District Court Building and will demand the same in RE 2023-24. As there is shortage of funds under various object heads of “Secretariat” and also based on the demands of funds from various programme divisions, the DCPC will project a higher RE during the year. The Committee in their earlier Report had noted a similar concern of the Department and recommended the required level of Rs. 200.95 crore to DCPC at RE, 2023-24. However, the Committee are not satisfied with the submission of the Department in its action taken notes that based on the demands of funds from various programme divisions, a higher RE will be projected by DCPC. Instead, the Committee would desire that the DCPC should chalk out a concrete plan to closely monitor the functioning/performance of all of its programme divisions for optimum utilization of the allocated funds to justify the requirement of higher allocation of funds in future.

(Recommendation No.2)

1.8 The Committee had observed that the Ministry of Finance made the reduction in proposed allocation of funds to the DCPC due to slow pace of expenditure by various Plastic Parks and Center of Excellences (CoEs) under NSP scheme and huge unspent balance remaining in the account of CIPET, etc. It was informed that keeping in view the slow progress of expenditure in NSP schemes & by CIPET for Plastic Parks, CoEs & CIPET centres, follow up with State Governments was going on to expedite the process relating to establishment of different Plastic Parks, CoEs and CIPET centres. The Committee had desired that the Department should intensify its efforts to resolve the related issues with the concerned State Governments to get the desired results in order to avoid further delays in implementation of their projects/schemes. As the Department had submitted that it would ensure full utilization of funds allocated during the first quarter of the financial year by timely accessing and processing of financial proposals by various programme divisions, the Committee had hoped that the Department would project its requirement of funds at RE, 2023-24, in a more convincing manner and allocations would be suitably stepped up.

1.9 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as under :

“Against a projection of Rs. 29.93 crore for the New Scheme of Petrochemicals (NSP) and Rs. 6.00 crore for CPDS, an amount of Rs. 22.00 crore (including CPDS) has been approved in the Budget for 2023-24. Hence, so far as NSP is concerned, there is a shortfall. In this regard, it is mentioned that the Department reviewed the progress of Plastic Parks and has requested the implementing agencies to convene regular meetings with the State and Local Level Industrial Associations and other plastic industries in order to attract investments so as to ensure the implementation of the ongoing projects under the NSP. This would help in timely implementation as well as utilization of funds. The Department has also been consistently reviewing the progress of the approved Centres of Excellence (CoEs) to ensure that they achieve their intended objectives. CIPET has requested a reduced RE allocation during FY 2022-23 due to pendency of identification of land at Srinagar or Jammu for establishment of CIPET centre and no allocation of funds has been proposed for CIPET centre at Nashik & Bihta (Patna) due to slow response from respective State Governments.

Further, the Department would project the requirement of funds at RE 2023-24 in a more convincing manner and as per demands from the implementing agencies.”

1.10 The Committee have been informed that the DCPC has reviewed the progress of Plastic Parks and requested the implementing agencies to convene regular meetings with the State and Local Level Industrial Associations and other plastic industries, in order to attract investments and ensure timely implementation of the ongoing projects under the New Scheme of Petrochemicals (NSP) as well as utilization of funds. Besides, the progress of the approved Centres of Excellence (CoEs) has consistently been reviewed by the Department to facilitate the achievement of their intended objectives. CIPET has, however, requested a reduced RE allocation during FY 2022-23 due to pendency of identification of land at Srinagar or Jammu for establishment of CIPET centre and no allocation of funds has been proposed for CIPET centre at Nashik & Bihta (Patna) due to slow response from respective State Governments.

The Committee are not satisfied with sluggish implementation of the ongoing projects under the NSP, approved Centres of Excellence (CoEs) and proposed establishment of CIPET Centres at Srinagar/Jammu, Nashik and Bihta (Patna). In this context, the Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of the reviews done by the Department with regard to the progress of the projects. The Committee would like to be informed of the utilization of allocated funds and also status of these ongoing projects up to December, 2023 i.e. during first three quarters of the financial year 2023-24. In case, the situation has not improved, the Committee earnestly desire the DCPC to intervene in the matter

and act as a mediator between the implementing agencies and the State/local level Industrial Associations and other plastic industries. The DCPC need to take proactive measures to ensure compliance by the State Governments/ implementing agencies for setting up of Plastic Parks, CoEs and CIPET Centres within the timelines so that the proposed projects meet their logical ends and start offering services to the nation at the earliest.

(Recommendation No. 5)

1.11 The Committee had noted in their Report that under the Plastic Park Scheme, Government of India provided grant funding up to 50% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40.00 crore per project for development of physical infrastructure which included facilities like roads, water supply, drainage, electricity supply etc. along with buildings to support services like administrative buildings, crèche /canteen /hostel facilities and facilities for labour, marketing support system etc. The remaining contribution in the project would be done by the State Government or the State industrial Development Corporation or similar agencies of State Government, beneficiary industries and loan from financial institutions. Out of the ten(10) approved Plastic Parks, the Government had allocated the maximum grant of Rs. 40.00 crore to four(4)Parks and the rest six(6) Parks, based on their total project cost were allocated an approved grant which is 50% of the total project cost and was less than Rs. 40.00 crore. While noting with displeasure the inordinate delays in setting up of Plastic Parks for reasons like low interest from the investors and the industry owing to various factors, restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic etc. and also various measures taken by the Department to accelerate the pace of setting up of the Plastic Parks, the Committee had desired that the Department should continue to make concerted efforts until the desired results are achieved.

1.12 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as under :

“The Department has reviewed the progress of Plastic Parks and is regularly following up with the State Government authorities/ implementing agencies to adhere to the timelines prescribed in the guidelines for completing and populating the Plastic Parks at the earliest. The Department has also requested the implementing agencies to convene regular meetings with the State and Local Level Industrial Associations and other plastic industries in order to attract investments so as to ensure the implementation of the ongoing projects under the NSP. ”

1.13 The Committee take note of the inordinate delays in implementation of the scheme of Plastic Parks which has kept the Plastic Industry deprived of its benefits. Taking cognisance of the measures taken by the Department in this regard like review of the progress of Plastic Parks, regular follow up with the

State Government authorities/implementing agencies to adhere to the prescribed timelines and that the implementing agencies have been requested to convene regular meetings with the State and Local Level Industrial Associations and other plastic industries in order to attract investments, the Committee would like to impress upon the Department to make continuous efforts and come out with some tangible solution for time bound development of the plastic parks. The Committee would like to be updated with regard to the status of their Ten(10) approved Plastic Parks from time to time.

(Recommendation No. 14)

Implementation of PCPIR Policy

1.14 The Committee had noted that that the Government had formulated the PCPIR Policy in April 2007 to give a boost to the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical sectors. The Policy was notified to attract investment and for generation of employment in the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs). The concept of PCPIRs is based on cluster approach to promote these sectors in an integrated and environment-friendly manner on a large scale. So far, 4 PCPIRs had been notified viz. (i) Gujarat (Dahej) notified in the year 2009, (ii) Andhra Pradesh (Vishakhapatnam) in 2009, (iii) Odisha (Paradeep) in 2010 and (iv) Tamil Nadu (Cuddalore and Nagapattinam). The Committee were disappointed to note that DCPC could commission PCPIR Dahej, Gujarat only in March 2017. PCPIR, Andhra Pradesh (Vishakhapatnam) and Odisha (Paradeep) were pending for want of environmental clearances due to procedural delays. As the PCPIRs were notified long back in the years 2009 and 2010, the Committee had desired that the Ministry/DCPC should make serious efforts for energising and strengthening their executive and monitoring wings. There should be closer and more intense interaction with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the concerned State Governments at the highest level for obtaining the environmental clearances in respect of PCPIRs Andhra Pradesh (Vishakhapatnam) and Odisha (Paradeep) so that both the PCPIRs are commissioned at the earliest and the intended objectives of PCPIR Policy to attract investment and for generation of employment in the PCPIRs could be achieved.

1.15 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as under:

“Noted for compliance. However, it is pertinent to mention that earlier a Committee of State Industry Secretaries of the existing PCPIR states under the Chairmanship of Spl. Chief Secretary (Industries), Government of A.P. was formed by the Department on 26.11.2019 to reflect on the experiences of implementation of PCPIRs and recommend modifications in the policy. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, draft CCEA note for review of PCPIR Policy was circulated on 24.08.2020 for inter-ministerial consultation.

However Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Expenditure and Department of Revenue also have not supported the draft CCEA note. Accordingly, the draft CCEA note was withdrawn with the approval of Hon'ble Minister(C&F).”

1.16 The Committee have been informed that the draft CCEA note for review of the PCPIR Policy was circulated on 24.08.2020 for inter-ministerial consultation. However, the same was not supported by the Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Expenditure and Department of Revenue. The draft CCEA note was, then, withdrawn with the approval of Hon'ble Minister (C&F). In view of the foregoing, the Committee would like to be apprised of the further plan of the action of the DCPC regarding PCPIRs and the existing PCPIR Policy.

(Recommendation No. 15)

1.17 With respect to PCPIR notified for Tamilnadu (Cuddalore and Nagapattinam), the Committee were informed that an area of about 23,000 hectares of land covered in 45 villages in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam districts were declared as "Local Planning Area" for the proposed PCPIR, vide Govt. G.O. (Ms) No.108, H&UDD, Dated 20.06.2017. However, later on, the Government of Tamil Nadu cancelled the declaration of "local Planning Area" vide Govt. G.O. (Ms) No 36, H&UDD, dated 21.02.2020 and the same was published in Tamilnadu Govt. Gazette. In view of the foregoing, the Committee had desired to be apprised of the further plan of action of the DCPC with regard to setting up of PCPIR, Tamil Nadu.

1.18 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as under :

“The Tamilnadu Government has informed that implementation of PCPIR project in the identified 45 Villages of Cuddalore and Nagapattinam District is not possible.”

1.19 The Committee note with concern that the State Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that it is not feasible to implement PCPIR project in the identified 45 Villages of Cuddalore and Nagapattinam Districts of Tamil Nadu. The Committee would desire to know how the Department plans to proceed with regard to setting up of notified PCPIR in Tamil Nadu.

(Recommendation No. 16)

1.20 While examination of Demands for Grants(2023-24) of the DCPC, a representative of DCPC admitted that the main reasons for poor performance in respect

of PCPIR Policy was non-availability of the required 'land'. Earlier the Department had notified area of about 250 square kilometers and as land is a scarce commodity, therefore, acquiring it and notifying it for industrial purposes became a challenge. Further, after consultation with important stakeholders, particularly the State Governments, it came to notice that instead of 250 square kilometer area of land with common infrastructure facilities, the Department could go for 5000 acres of land with common infrastructure facilities. Hence, the Department had decided to shift their focus on smaller area and proceeded further in the matter. As PCPIR Policy was envisaged in the year 2007 and only one PCPIR could be commissioned so far, the Committee had urged the Government to take faster action in this regard and bring a revised PCPIR Policy at the earliest.

1.21 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as under :

“Department is in the process of reviewing PCPIR policy, for which stakeholder consultation is being conducted.

1.22 The Committee note with satisfaction that in view of the poor performance in respect of the PCPIR Policy, the DCPC is in the process of reviewing PCPIR policy and consultations are being conducted with stakeholders in this regard. The Committee desire that the process of reviewing of the PCPIR Policy should be expedited to bring a revised Policy at the earliest to fulfill the aim of attracting investment and for generation of employment in the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs) so that the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical sectors get a boost in the country.

CHAPTER – II

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation No. 3)

Allocation and utilization of funds during the last three years.

2.1 The Committee are concerned to note the declining trend in allocation of funds to DCPC during the last three years. Allocation of Rs 295.70 crore, Rs. 209.00 crore and Rs 150.68 crore had been made at RE, 2020-21, RE, 2021-22 and RE, 2022-23, respectively. The Committee further find a declining trend in expenditure as the Department could spent Rs. 293.04 crore, Rs. 208.29 crore and Rs. 129.48 crore (as on 31.12.2022) during 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 (up to 31.12.2022), respectively. Also, there was a drastic reduction in allocation of funds to DCPC from BE, 2022-23 of Rs. 209.00 crore to 150.68 at RE, 2022-23. While observing that the Department has miserably failed to achieve the financial targets in the previous years, the Committee would like the Department to ensure that the assessment of requirement of funds under various heads of the Grant are made on realistic anticipations to make the budgetary exercise more meaningful and accurate.

2.2 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“The variations in the RE and Actual expenditure of the Department against the budgetary allocation for the last three years i.e. 2020-21; 2021-22 and 2022-23 are as given below:-

<i>(Rs. In Crore)</i>				
Year	BE	RE	Actuals	Reasons for variations in RE over BE
2020-21	218.34	295.70	293.04	Some variation between BE, RE and Actual Expenditure also occurred under NSP as the releases could not be made because of negligible progress in Plastic Parks and CoEs due to various restrictive measures of COVID-19. With regard to BGLD, the funds could not be utilized due to complete lockdown imposed in the city for Covid-19 pandemic. Similarly, under CPDS, due to Covid-19, adequate proposals were not received.
2021-22	233.14	209.00	208.29	RE has been reduced in NSP, BGLD and CIPET

				due to slow pace of expenditure mainly due to COVID-19 Pandemic. RE has also been reduced under Secretariat due to non-filling up of vacant posts. However, in CPDS, Rs.60 lakh have been augmented to meet the emergent requirements on account of some additional activities viz. National Awards, etc. However, DCPC has spent Rs.208.29 crores against an RE allocation of Rs.209.00 crore which is 99.66% percent.
2022-23	209.00	150.68	143.98 (95.55%)	RE has been reduced in NSP & CIPET due to slow pace of expenditure of NSP schemes and unspent balances lying in CIPET. Under Capital Head RE 2022-23 and BE 2023-24 of HFL has also been reduced to Rs.0 as all the closure related liabilities has been settled. An amount of Rs.143.98 crore (95.55%) was spent against RE of Rs.150.68 crore Further, an amount of Rs.4.77 crore was surrendered. The reason is that DoE has issued guidelines for revised procedure for flow of funds the receiving agencies of divisions under the NSP did not completed the requisite formalities for grants under the new CNA system. Therefore, division was unable to release any grants after July, 2022. Also an amount of Rs.1.2757 crore was surrendered under Ex-Gratia (other charges), BGLD due to PFMS technical errors.

(Recommendation No. 4)

Setting up of Plastic Parks

2.3 The Committee learn that the DCPC formulated a Scheme for setting up of Plastic Parks as far back as in the year 2013 to provide quality infrastructure and give a boost to the Plastic Sector. Plastic Parks would support the requisite state of the art infrastructure, enabling common facilities through cluster development approach to consolidate the capacities of the domestic downstream plastic processing industry. The Department has so far approved ten(10) Plastic Parks. The Committee note that the target date for setting up of a Plastic Park has been kept as Three(3) years from the date of approval of a Plastic Park. Out of 10 parks approved so far, two (2) Plastic Parks were approved in the year 2013, one(1) in 2014, two(2) in 2018, one(1) in 2019, one(1) in 2020, one(1) in 2021 and two(2) in 2022. If target dates for setting up of

Plastic Parks are taken into account, the Committee find that six(6) Plastic Parks should have been set up as on date. However, the Committee are deeply concerned to note that so far only one Plastic Park at Tamot, Madhya Pradesh has been set up and that too after a delay of around 4 years. It has further been brought to the notice of the Committee that all the Ten (10) Plastic Parks are likely to be functional by March, 2026. The Committee are at loss to find any justification for Plastic Parks which were approved way back in 2013 or 2014 to be made functional in March, 2026 along with those approved in 2022. In the opinion of the Committee, it is imperative that all the Plastic Parks are set up within the fixed timelines and are made functional without registering any delays. Keeping in mind the objectives of Plastic Parks Scheme, the Committee would earnestly desire that the plastic processing industry in the country should not be further deprived of the benefits of the Scheme. The Committee would like to be kept informed of the progress made in this regard periodically.

2.4 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“The Department is regularly following up with the State Government authorities/ implementing agencies to adhere to the timelines prescribed in the guidelines for completing and populating the Plastic Parks at the earliest. The Department will apprise the Committee about the progress made in this regard.”

(Recommendation No. 5)

2.5 The Committee note that under the Plastic Park Scheme, Government of India provides grant funding up to 50% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40.00 crore per project for development of physical infrastructure which includes facilities like roads, water supply, drainage, electricity supply etc. along with buildings to support services like administrative buildings, crèche /canteen /hostel/ facilities and facilities for labour, marketing support system etc. The remaining contribution in the project is made by the State Government or the State industrial Development Corporation or similar agencies of State Government, beneficiary industries and loan from financial institutions. Out of the ten(10) approved Plastic Parks, the Government have allocated the maximum grant of Rs. 40.00 crore to four(4)Parks and the rest six(6) Parks, based on their total project cost have been allocated an approved grant which is 50% of the total project cost and is less than Rs. 40.00 crore. The Committee note with displeasure that though Government funding is up to 50% of the project cost (subject to a ceiling of a whopping amount of Rs. 40.00 crore, there are inordinate delays in setting up of Plastic Parks for various reasons.

The delay in setting up of the Plastics Parks Scheme is attributed to low interest from the investors and the industry owing to various factors, like presence of multi model and multi usage Industrial Zones/parks near the Plastic Parks in some cases, restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic etc. The Committee also take note

of the measures taken by the Department to accelerate the pace of setting up of the Plastic Parks like monitoring of the progress of the parks through meetings at various levels has been increased, meetings are taken up with Industry Associations so as to sensitize the industry about the potential of the Scheme and the Parks, the implementing agencies have been requested on multiple occasions to advertise the Parks during various events, conferences, road shows etc. Besides, revision of the scheme guidelines has been done in November, 2020 to make it more attractive and effective. The Committee trust that the Department would continue to make concerted efforts until they get the desired results. The Committee further hope that the DCPC and the respective State Governments/agencies involved would act in proper coordination and with unity of purpose to make the Scheme successful to the benefit of the Plastic processing industry and the entire country, failing which the entire scheme would be reviewed.

2.6 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“The Department has reviewed the progress of Plastic Parks and is regularly following up with the State Government authorities/ implementing agencies to adhere to the timelines prescribed in the guidelines for completing and populating the Plastic Parks at the earliest. The Department has also requested the implementing agencies to convene regular meetings with the State and Local Level Industrial Associations and other plastic industries in order to attract investments so as to ensure the implementation of the ongoing projects under the NSP.”

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
(Please see Para No. 1.13 of Chapter – I of the Report)

(Recommendation No. 6)

Setting up of Centres of Excellence (CoEs)

2.7 The Committee note that DCPC has formulated a Scheme for setting up of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) which aims at improving the existing petrochemical technology and research in the country and to promote development of new applications of polymers and plastics. Out of the approved 13 CoEs, 5 CoEs approved in the period 2011 to 2013 are completed and as they have achieved the desired outcomes and the project period, the Department is not monitoring them currently, Six(6) CoEs approved in the period 2019 to 2020 are currently functional and the 2 new CoEs approved in 2022 are yet to start. The Department is stated to be making its best efforts to provide a platform for the Industry and the academia to interact on regular basis so that the two can cooperate as per the needs and requirements of the industry.

One such initiative was the “Industry connect with Centre of Excellence” organized by the Department in May, 2022. The Department plans to arrange many such events in the future. The Committee are constrained to observe that the Department had approved CoEs in the period 2011 to 2013 and then only in 2019 to 2020 after a gap of 6 years. Having regard to the fact that the research outcomes in the form of novel technologies, patents, research publications, skilled workforce coming out of the CoEs and the organization and their participation in national and international symposia/workshops etc. immensely contributes towards the growth of the Petrochemicals Industry, the Committee recommend that sufficient number of CoEs should be set up at regular intervals of time in existing educational and research institutions working in the field of polymers to fulfil the intended objectives. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress with regard to 2 new CoEs which were approved in 2022.

2.8 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“The progress of the CoEs is being monitored by progress reports as well as evaluation by the Project Monitoring Committee constituted by the Department. The CoEs are monitored in the regular review meetings held by the Department at various levels. The status of the two new CoEs (approved in 2022) is as under:

- a. Sustainable & Innovative Design and Manufacturing of Polymer-TOYS (SUNDAR - TOYS) being established by IIT, Guwahati: Final approval was accorded in February, 2022. To take the project further, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) is being executed between the Department and the IIT, Guwahati.
- b. Design and Development for Value added Toys of Rubber and Allied Finished Products being established by Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association (IRMRA), Thane: Final approval was accorded in February, 2022. To take the project further, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been executed between the Department and the IRMRA, Thane. IRMRA, Thane after signing of the MoA has opened an account in SBI for the CoE Scheme. Further, as per the Central Nodal Agencies (CNA) guidelines released by the Department of Expenditure, the Department has designated IRMRA, Thane as a CNA for implementing the Scheme. Subsequently, the CNA would have to open a Central Nodal Account to conduct business under the Scheme.”

(Recommendation No. 7)

Chemical Promotion and Development Scheme (CPDS)

2.9 The Committee note that the Department was running the Chemical Promotion and Development Scheme (CPDS) to provide incentives for meritorious innovations and inventions in various fields of Petrochemicals and downstream Plastic Processing industry. From the year 2010-11 to the year 2020-21, about 123 winners and 89 runners up have been awarded. The Committee have been apprised that the CPDS has been revised/reviewed and renamed as the Petrochemicals Research and Innovation Commendation Scheme on the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs. In the revised scheme, cash prize of Rs. 3 lakh each for winners and Rs 1 lakh each for runner ups has been withdrawn and instead a citation and Memento will be given. Moreover, category for lifetime achievement award for which a separate award of Rs. 5 lakh cash along with the memento and citation was given for the life time achievement in Petrochemicals and allied sector has been dropped along with the category for best employees in Petrochemicals sector. The Committee would like to understand the reasons behind the decision to withdraw the provision of cash prizes to incentivise meritorious innovations and inventions in various fields of Petrochemicals and downstream Plastic Processing industry, which was in practice for last eleven years. The Committee are of the considered opinion that cash prizes in the form of incentives to the awardees are always motivational and decision of its withdrawal may discourage the awardees and prove detrimental to the interest of the Petrochemicals Sector. Hence, the Committee recommend that DCPC should reconsider its decision in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and propose to restore some cash prizes in the form of incentives to the awardees for meritorious innovations and inventions in various fields of Petrochemicals and downstream Plastic Processing industry. The Committee trust that the Department would take immediate positive steps in this regard and apprise the Committee of the same.

2.10 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“The Department is implementing the National Petrochemical Awards (NPA) Scheme since 2010-11 which seeks to promote Research & Development and Innovation in the Petrochemicals Sector by providing incentive for meritorious innovations and inventions in various fields of petrochemicals and the downstream plastic processing industry. The Scheme was formulated based on the Policy Resolution for Petrochemicals notified in the Gazette of India on 26th April, 2007. The process of review of the Scheme was initiated in the May, 2021 on the directions of the Central Awards Support Unit (CASU), MHA. The Department first revised the Scheme Guidelines of the National Petrochemicals Awards and conducted the 11th edition (2020-21) of these awards based on the revised guidelines. A meeting in connection with "Transformation and Decoration of Awards" was held on 13th October, 2022 under the chairmanship of Union

Home Secretary. MHA directed the Department to discontinue the award and to consider giving fellowship to promote research in the Petrochemical sector. As per discussions and deliberations held with MHA during meetings held on 13th October, 2022 and 7th December, 2022, and keeping in view the importance of the Scheme for the Petrochemical Sector, the Department decided to transform the NPA Scheme into a Commendation Scheme with various changes introduced so as to bring the Scheme in line with the guidance provided by MHA. Based on the same, the guidelines for the Petrochemicals Research & Innovation Commendation Scheme were formulated, and the new Scheme, i.e. "Petrochemicals Research & Innovation Commendation Scheme" was published in January, 2023."

(Recommendation No. 8)

Performance of CIPET during the last three years and allocation of funds

2.11 The Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) is a premier national institution under the DCPC devoted to Skill Development, Technology Support Services, Academic and Research (STAR) in all the domains of plastics viz. Design, CAD/CAM/CAE, Tooling & Mould Manufacturing, Plastics Processing, Testing and Quality Assurance. The Committee note that BE, 2021-22 of Rs. 117.88 crore in respect of CIPET was reduced to Rs. 102.34 crore at RE, 2021-22 due to slow pace of expenditure mainly due to COVID-19 pandemic. Again, BE, 2022-23 of Rs. 100.24 crore was reduced to Rs. 63.81 crore at RE, 2022-23, the reason being unspent balance lying in CIPET. This can not be termed a satisfactory performance for an organisation like CIPET working with a mission to offer blend of specialized Academic and Skill Development Training Programs in the field of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology to provide qualified Human Resources with entrepreneurship qualities for Petrochemical & Allied Industries. The Committee hope that DCPC/CIPET would take all advance measures to make good the unsatisfactory spending by CIPET in the past and see that budgetary provision of Rs. 92.88 crore during the year 2023-24 are optimally utilised and physical targets fixed are achieved without any shortfall.

2.12 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

"The following are the reasons for amount not spent / utilized:-

- 1) An amount of Rs 31.79 Crore was sanctioned for the construction of Hostel Buildings under the SFC scheme on inter -se allocation within the Scheme "Creation of residential accommodation to augment the increase in intake capacity of the existing and New Academic Programs. The breakup for Inter-se allocation of Rs.31.79 crore is as under;

Sl. No	CIPET Centre	State	Amount (In Crores)
1	CIPET Madurai	Tamil Nadu	6.40
2	CIPET Haldia	West Bengal	3.95
3	CIPET Imphal	Manipur	10.00
4	CIPET Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	7.14
5	CIPET Amritsar	Punjab	1.80
6	CIPET Mysuru	Karnataka	2.50
Total			31.79

The timeline for the hostel construction project is around 18 to 20 months. The work has been initiated for CIPET CSTS Mysuru, Madurai and Varanasi through CPWD, and an amount of Rs. 3.66 crore from Rs 16.04 crore approved for construction of hostels in these three CIPET Centres has been utilized and the remaining amount will be utilized based on progress of the construction of the work in the near future. The details of the actual expenditure of Rs. 3.66 cr from Rs. 16.04 cr may be seen below:

Sl. No.	CIPET Centre	State	Gol Share & Amount transferred to Centre (In Crores)	Actual Expenditure (In Crores)
1	CIPET Madurai	Tamil Nadu	6.40	2.07
2	CIPET Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	7.14	0.76
3	CIPET Mysore	Karnataka	2.50	0.83
Total			16.04	3.66

The details of the status of the various hostel facilities being developed is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Name of the work	Project Cost (Rs. In Crore)	Date of Head Office approval	Date of issue of work orders	Date of start	Estimated date of completion	Remarks
1	CIPET: CSTS, Mysore (Karnataka)	Construction of vertical extension (second floor) over the existing (G+1) Building for 50	3.00 (Share Gol – 2.5 & I.R. 0.5)	11-10-22	08-02-23	22-02-23	22-08-23	Work order awarded by CPWD & work initiated by the

		Bedded Hostel						centre
2	CIPET : CSTS, Madurai (Tamilnadu)	Construction of vertical expansion of 1&2 floor of old boys hostel at CIPET: CSTS, Madurai	6.4	14-11-22	30-03-23	09-04-23	09-04-24	Work order awarded by CPWD & work initiated by the centre
3	CIPET: CSTS, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)	Construction of Hostel Block (G+1) in Phase - I with a capacity of 150 Nos. of Boys Hostel & 50 Nos. of Girls Hostel and mess including development works at CIPET: CSTS, Varanasi	13.78 (Gol fund support – 7.14 & IR-0.64& MSJE fund support 6.00 cr	06-12-22	Work order not awarded by CPWD to contractor		15 Months from Date of Award of Work	Tender activities is in process. The NIT was floated on 27 th May, 2023.
4	CIPET : CSTS, Imphal (Manipur)	Construction of G+2 Boys hostel at CIPET: CSTS, Imphal	10.00 cr	18-10-22	Work order not awarded by CPWD to contractor			The soil testing was carried by CPWD and the results for the same was given on 07.02 2023. The modified preliminary drawing was received from CPWD on 03/03/2023. The detail estimate of the Hostel building is still awaited from CPWD.

5	CIPET: CSTS, Baddi	Construction of Hostel	5.75		Project will start after approval of the SFC	Proposal approved in the 140 th GC meeting for re- alloting Rs .1.80 cr from CIPET: CSTS, Amritsar and Rs. 3.95 cr from CIPET, Haldia to CIPET: CSTS, Baddi (Total Rs. 5.75 cr)
Gol – Govt. of India IR - internal resource						

2) An amount of Rs. 24.00 Crore has been sanctioned for the setting up of 4 Plastic Waste Management Centres. Due to various issues with the State Govt. like allotment of lands and others, the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) had to be revised. The revised SoP for setting up of PWMCs at Bhagalpur, Sanad, Mysuru and Varanasi is under consideration and further details regarding the same have been provided in reply furnished for Point (11) of this report.

3) An amount of Rs 31.09 crore was earmarked for purchase of new Research & Development (R&D) equipment's. However, as the equipment's were not procured in time and would have lost their relevance in the R&D to the DCPC, CIPET has proposed alternate equipment for R&D. The approval of SFC for the same is under the process which is scheduled to be held in the first fortnight of June, 2023 and the purchase will be carried after the approval. The detailed breakup (Centre Wise) of Rs. 31.09 crore proposed for the alternate equipment's is as under:

Scheme	Scheme Name	To be Procured (Rs. in Lakhs)
Scheme – 1	Enhancing Capabilities in R& D and Technology Support at CIPET	
Sub Scheme- 1.1	Setting up of Technology Business Incubator (TBI) – Centre for Technology and Entrepreneurship Facilitation (CTEF) @ SARP-LARPM, Bhubaneswar	1382.80
Scheme – 2	Enhancing capabilities in Academics and Skill Development at CIPET	
Sub Scheme- 2.2	Upgradation of CIPET for Academics, Skill training and Research Programmes.	
a)	IPT- Ahmedabad	157.30

b)	IPT- Bhubaneswar	78.92
c)	IPT - Lucknow	76.36
d)	SARP- ARSTPS	930.98
e)	SARP- LARPM	482.85
	Total	3109.21

4) Due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdown of the 2nd and 3rd wave, the progress registered by CIPET was slow. CIPET has also informed that the procurement of the equipment was delayed on account of the shortage of semi-conductors which emerged due to COVID-19.“

(Recommendation No. 9)

Construction of new CIPET Centres

2.13 CIPET has 46 Centers spread across the country which include 8 Institutes of Plastic Technology (IPT), 31 Centers for Skilling and Technical Support (CSTS), 3 Schools for Advanced Research in Polymers (SARP) and 4 sub-centers. The Committee note that 06 CIPET centres, namely, CIPET CSTS, Gwalior, CIPET CSTS Baddi, CIPET CSTS Varanasi, CIPET CSTS Ranchi, CIPET CSTS Bhagalpur and CIPET IPT Bhita targetted to be completed by July, 2020, November, 2021, December, 2021, April, 2021, March, 2023 and March, 2023 respectively are under various stages of construction and still far from completion. It is disheartening to note that Department is seeking extension of period upto 2025-26 for completing the construction work in respect of all the 6 CIPET centres irrespective of the fact that 4 out of the 6 CIPET centres were targetted to be completed in the years 2020 and 2021. The Committee may be apprised of the reasons thereof.

2.14 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“Construction of CIPET Centres at Gwalior, Baddi, Varanasi and Ranchi though committed for completion in July 2020, November 2021, December 2021 and April 2022 respectively could not be completed as per target due to the reasons mentioned below:

S No	Centre	Date of commencement of construction	Target Date of completion	Reason for Delay	Physical Progress percentage (As on 23.05.2023)	Expected date of completion

1.	CIPET: CSTS, Gwalior	02.01.2019	18 months	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction cost increased by Rs.8.76 Crore due to site conditions. 2. Academic Building & other infrastructure will be completed after one year from the date of receipt of additional fund (Rs.8.76 crore) from Govt. of MP to MPIDC (Construction agency) 	95% (only TSS Building)	June 2023 (TSS Building)
2.	CIPET: CSTS, Varanasi	01.06.2020	18 months	Construction cost increased by Rs.6.45 crore	97%	June 2023
3.	CIPET: CSTS, Ranchi	26.10.2020	18 months	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rainfall 2. Scarcity of sand from the river and ban by the government for mining of sand 3. COVID lockdown and slow movement of labor after lockdown 4. Increased cost of 	80%	Sep'2023

				<p>materials</p> <p>5. The GST Rate was increased by 6% (from 12% to 18%) on work done from 18.07.2022 as per Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India guidelines.</p> <p>The completion of construction got delayed due to the above reasons.</p> <p>Further, the construction cost has exceeded due to the above reasons to the tune of Rs.4.21crore</p>		
4	CIPET: CSTS, Baddi	19.05.2020	18 months	<p>1. Due to hilly terrain area lots of excavation work was done</p> <p>2. Some extra necessary work done</p> <p>3. Due to increase in GST from 12</p>	96%	October 2023

				% to 18%		
				The construction cost has exceeded due to the above reasons to the tune of Rs.5.15 crore out of which Rs.2.57 crore has been provided by the State Govt.		
				Due to fund deficit, the completion of construction got delayed		
5.	CIPET: CSTS, Bhagalpur	02.04.2022	18 months	--	40%	--
6.	CIPET: CSTS, Bihta	25.10.2022	18 months	--	33%	--

- With regard to Bhagalpur, initially the location was approved for Mothihari and later it was relocated to Bhagalpur and hence initiation of construction could begin in the year 2022 only.
- With regard to Bihta, initially the approved location was Medak (Telangana). However and due to non-approval of project by State Govt., the Centre was relocated to Bihta. The construction at Bihta is under progress and is expected to be completed within the stipulated time of 18 months from the time of initiation of construction.

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(Recommendation No.10)

2.15 The Committee have been told that the matter in respect of CIPET CSTS Gwalior and CIPET CSTS Varanasi is being taken up with the respective State Governments for seeking additional funds. For CIPET, CSTS Baddi, the State Government has provided additional funds of Rs. 2.57 crore, out of total deficit of Rs. 5.15 crore and the work of CIPET CSTS Ranchi has triggered up after continuous meeting and follow up with CPWD. Nothing has been mentioned with regard to the status of CIPET CSTS

Bhagalpur and CIPET IPT Bhita. The Committee feel that the onus lies with the Department to set up all the 6 CIPET Centres as targetted. The Committee recommend that all necessary steps be taken on an urgent basis to resolve the issues with the respective State Governments so that all the six CIPET centres come into existence at the earliest.

2.16 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“Status of establishment of CIPET Centre at Bhagalpur and Bihta (Bihar) are as follows:-

Bhagalpur (Bihar):

The total project cost of Rs.40.10 crore is to be shared between Govt. of Bihar and Govt. of India on 50:50 sharing basis excluding the cost of land.

The State Govt. of Bihar has allotted 8 acres of land in the campus of Bhagalpur Cotton Spinning Mill Ltd., Aliganj, Bhagalpur and CIPET has taken possession of the same.

The renovation of existing shop floors (7534 sq.mt.) with two buildings (786 sq.mt.) along with construction of new Academic and Hostel buildings (3452 sq.mt.) has been initiated by the Infrastructure Development Authority (IDA), Govt. of Bihar. CIPET has approved the cost estimates of Rs.23.06 crore towards renovation / construction of buildings.

Further, the Contractor has been finalized by IDA and the work order has been issued to the Contractor in May 2022. The Repair work of campus and Admin block and construction of boys & girls hostel are under progress. So far 40% of the work has been completed.

Bihta (Bihar):

Govt. of Bihar has allotted 10 acres of land at Industrial Area Sikandarpur, Bihta and possession of the same has been taken by CIPET: CSTS, Hajipur in August 2021. Further the revised project cost of Rs. 84.336 crore has been approved by the State Cabinet. The Govt. of India will bear the approved project share of Rs.25.66 and the balance project cost will be borne by Govt. of Bihar.

The State Govt. has given the construction work to IDA, Govt. of Bihar and the work order has been awarded by IDA to the Contractor on 25.10.2022 for an amount of Rs.46.93 crore and the project completion period is 18 months. The construction work has started in December 2022. So far 33% of the construction work is completed. The total project cost approved in the EFC during the year 2016 for establishment of IPT Centre was Rs.51.32 crore on 50:50 sharing basis between Government of India and respective State Govt. (Rs.25.66 crore :

Rs.25.66 crore). Subsequently, when Bihta Centre was approved during June 2021, the revised Project Cost came out to be Rs.84.34 crore out of which the share of Govt. of India was approved to be Rs.25.66 crore and the remaining amount of Rs.58.68 crore will be borne by Govt. of Bihar.

All necessary steps are being taken by Department/CIPET on priority basis to resolve the issues with the respective State Governments to ensure that the construction of all six CIPET Centres will be completed and fully functional as per the time schedule.

The details regarding the new Centres at Gwalior, Varanasi, Ranchi and Baddi have been tabulated below:”

S. No.	Centre	Date of approval of project by Govt. of India	Total project cost (Rs. in crore)	Name of the Construction agency	Date of issue of work order to the Civil Contractor	Present physical progress percentage of completion	Estimated date of completion of construction
1.	Gwalior	06.04.2016	40.10	MPIDC, Govt. of MP	02.01.2019	95%	June 2023 (only TSS Building)
2.	Varanasi	03.05.2016	40.10	CPWD, Allahabad	01.06.2020	97%	June 2023
3.	Ranchi	03.05.2016	51.32	CPWD, Ranchi	26.10.2020	80%	Sep'2023
4.	Baddi	26.05.2015	40.10	WAPCOS Ltd	19.05.2020	96%	Oct'2023

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(Recommendation No. 11)

Establishment of Plastic Waste management Centres (PWMCs) at CIPET Centres

2.17 The Committee note that the proposal for establishment of 4 Plastic Waste management Centres (PWMCs) at Bengaluru, Varanasi, Patna & Ahmedabad was first deliberated in the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) meeting held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (C&PC) on 21.10.2019 and approved by the Department on 20.12.2019. PWMCs aim inter-alia to optimize the processing condition for product development with improved compatibility among the different plastics, develop well trained manpower for plastic recycling units, promote effective plastics waste management solutions, promote entrepreneurs and start up ventures, develop the product for economic aspect and assess the recyclability of developed pallets.

The Committee, however, regret to note that till date not even a single PWMC has been established. CIPET has revised the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Detailed Project Report (DPR), which DCPC approved on 28.06.2022, and circulated the same to the respective CIPET Centres at Hajipur, Varanasi, Bengaluru &

Ahmedabad. CIPET Centres have submitted the approved revised SOP and DPR to the respective State Governments for allotment of suitable 2-3 acre land as per the revised SOP. However, in the absence of any response from the respective State Governments, it has been decided to establish PWMC in the existing CIPET Campuses to avoid further delay. The amended revised SOP and DPR for establishment of PWMC at CIPET Centre is being prepared by CIPET. The Committee consider it a step in right direction in view of the benefits accruing out of the PWMCs once they are established. As already a considerable time has elapsed, the Committee would desire DCPC/ CIPET to soon amend the revised SOP and DPR for establishment of PWMCs at CIPET Centres so the work for establishment of PWMCs is started and objectives of PWMCs are fulfilled. Needless to mention, the Ministry/Department should vigorously pursue the matter with the respective State Governments for allotment of the required land to establish PWMCs and apprise them of the progress made. In case land is not available in the identified States, the PWMCs should be offered to other States where the need exists.

2.18 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“Initially the establishment of PWMC at Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Patna (Bihar) and Varanasi (U.P.) was proposed . The respective State Government was required to provide 2 to 3 acres of land at free of cost / lease along with prefabricated constructed shed of 4000 sqm having necessary electricity, water and other civil infrastructure required for operation of PWMC. Recurring expense of Rs.3.60 crore for three years was supposed to be shared by CIPET and State Govt. on 50:50 basis.

However, due to high land cost and also non-availability of suitable land in the city areas, the respective State Governments were not able to provide land and financial support for the establishment of PWMCs in the existing/ new CIPET centres. Hence, this matter was put up to the CIPET-GC and it was proposed to establish PWMCs at Sanand instead of Ahmedabad, Bhagalpur instead of Patna, Mysuru instead of Bengaluru and Varanasi and the same was approved by 139th Governing Council (G.C.)- CIPET held on 20.01.2023.

Accordingly, the revised DPR and SoP for the establishment of PWMCs in existing / new centres is under review. As per revised DPR and SoP, the respective State Government has no contribution w.r.t. land as well as finance. PWMC will be established by CIPET with the financial support from Gol and internal resources of respective CIPET centre. The PWMCs centres will be demonstrative type.

Meanwhile, CIPET Centres @ Bhagalpur, Mysuru, Sanand and Varanasi are in the process of making the layout plan for the construction fabricated shed of 600 to 750 sqm with proper ventilation, lighting, fans, PCC flooring suitable for machine installation and operation, office cabins, Material Storage, Digital lab,

tinkering lab with minimum furnishing at each location within CIPET Premises having necessary electricity, Air and water facilities. The Department envisages that after the necessary approvals, the PWMCs will be established within a timeframe of 1 year and CIPET has already been directed to initiate the process for procurement of equipment's for these PWMCs.”

(Recommendation No. 12)

CIPET- Short term and long term skill development training programmes

2.19 The Committee note that CIPET conducts Short Term and Long Term Skill Development Training Programmes. The Committee find placement figures for candidates after completion of CIPET Short Term training programme very discouraging. During 2020-21, out of 29,581 candidates admitted in the programme, 29,465 candidates were trained, however only 1886 candidates could be placed. Again, during 2021-22 and 2022-23, out of 34,208 and 36,536 candidates admitted, 34,027 and 36,422 (upto January, 2023) were trained and only 6,018 and 8,246 candidates, respectively were offered placements. The Committee would desire DCPC/CIPET to analyse seriously the reasons behind less placements in comparison to the total number of candidates trained and take appropriate steps to ensure much more placements.

2.20 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“CIPET Centres regularly conduct various Short-Term Skill Up-gradation Programmes (SUP) for College Students, Working Professionals, etc., to enhance their technical skills and also conducting Skill Development Training Programmes (SDTP) which are placement linked for the benefit of underprivileged and unemployed youth for getting gainful employment in the Plastics / Petrochemical Industries. The candidates trained in SUP courses are either working professionals or the college graduates wishing to enhance their skills and as such are not offered placement services by CIPET.

The candidates admitted / qualified / employed details given below:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	No. of Candidates Admitted	No. of Candidates Trained in SUP	No. of Candidates Trained in SDTP	No. of Candidates Placed in SDTP	% of placement
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(h=f/e*100)
1.	2020-21	29,581	26998	2467	1886	76.44
2.	2021-22	34,208	26140	7887	6018	76.30
3.	2022-23 (Upto Jan.2023)	36,536	25593	10829	8246	76.14

SUP – Skill Upgradation Programme

SDTP – Skill Development Training Programme (Placement linked programmes)”

(Recommendation No. 13)

2.21 The Committee also note that the number of candidates qualifying CIPET Long Term training programme is very low. During 2020-21 and 2021-22, out of the 13,297 and 13,494 candidates enrolled, only 4,263 and 4,562 candidates were qualified and 3,563 and 3,932 candidates, respectively were placed. The Department/CIPET, therefore, need to focus on the reasons for this sorry state of affairs. CIPET, being a specialized institute to develop manpower in different disciplines of Plastics Engineering & Technology and offering Programs in the field of Polymer Science & Technology to provide qualified Human Resources with entrepreneurship qualities for Polymer & Allied Industries, the Committee would like to be assured that DCPC/CIPET would extend all possible help to the talented youth to make them qualify CIPET training programme and get better employment opportunities so that they can cater to the need of Polymer & Allied Industries.

2.22 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“During 2020-21 and 2021-22, 13,297 and 13,494 candidates enrolled for Diploma, Post Diploma, Post Graduate Diploma, UG and PG programmes offered at CIPET Centres. Out of these total enrolments 4,263 and 4,562 candidates appeared for final semester examination in the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 (the remaining students are of earlier years/semesters and undergoing training) and have been awarded with Diploma, Post Diploma, Post Graduate Diploma, UG and PG Degrees.

CIPET offers placement to all the qualified students of long term training programmes and 3,563 and 3,932 candidates were placed during 2020-21 and 2021-22 and the remaining qualified students opted for higher studies or Entrepreneurship.”

(Recommendation No. 14)

Implementation of PCPIR Policy

2.23 The Committee note that that the Government had formulated the PCPIR Policy in April 2007 to give a boost to the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical sectors. The Policy was notified to attract investment and for generation of employment in the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs). The concept of PCPIRs is based on cluster approach to promote these sectors in an integrated and environmental friendly manner on a large scale. So far, 4 PCPIRs have been notified viz. (i) Gujarat (Dahej) notified in the year 2009, (ii) Andhra Pradesh (Vishakhapatnam) in 2009, (iii) Odisha (Paradeep) in 2010 and (iv) Tamil Nadu (Cuddalore and

Nagapattinam). It is, however, disappointing to note that the DCPC could commission PCPIR Dahej, Gujarat only in March 2017. PCPIR, Andhra Pradesh (Vishakhapatnam) and Odisha (Paradeep) are pending for want of environmental clearances due to procedural delays and require further time to get materialized. The Committee are not happy with such unsatisfactory performance as these PCPIRs were notified long back in the years 2009 and 2010. The Ministry/DCPC should make serious efforts for energising and strengthening their executive and monitoring wings. There should be closer and more intense interaction with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the concerned State Governments at the highest level for obtaining the environmental clearances in respect of PCPIRs Andhra Pradesh (Vishakhapatnam) and Odisha (Paradeep) so that both the PCPIRs are commissioned at the earliest and the intended objectives of PCPIR Policy to attract investment and for generation of employment in the PCPIRs achieved.

2.24 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“Noted for compliance. However, it is pertinent to mention that earlier a Committee of State Industry Secretaries of the existing PCPIR states under the Chairmanship of Spl. Chief Secretary (Industries), Government of A.P. was formed by the Department on 26.11.2019 to reflect on the experiences of implementation of PCPIRs and recommend modifications in the policy. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, draft CCEA note for review of PCPIR Policy was circulated on 24.08.2020 for inter-ministerial consultation. However Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Expenditure and Department of Revenue also have not supported the draft CCEA note. Accordingly, the draft CCEA note was withdrawn with the approval of Hon'ble Minister(C&F).”

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
(Please see Para No. 1.16 of Chapter – I of the Report)

(Recommendation No. 15)

2.25 In respect of Tamil Nadu (Cuddalore and Nagapattinam), the Committee have been informed that an area of about 23,000 hectares of land covered in 45 villages in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam districts were declared as "Local Planning Area" for the proposed PCPIR, vide Govt. G.O. (Ms) No.108, H&UDD, Dated 20.06.2017, however, the Government of Tamil Nadu has now cancelled the declaration of "local Planning Area" vide Govt. G.O. (Ms) No 36, H&UDD, dated 21.02.2020 and the same has been published in Tamil Nadu Govt. Gazette. In view of the foregoing, the Committee would like to be apprised of the further plan of action of the DCPC with regard to setting up of PCPIR, Tamil Nadu.

2.26 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“The Tamilnadu Government has informed that implementation of PCPIR project in the identified 45 Villages of Cuddalore and Nagapattinam District is not possible.”

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No. 1.19 of Chapter – I of the Report)

(Recommendation No. 16)

2.27 A representative of DCPC admitted during evidence that the main reasons for not performing well in respect of PCPIR Policy is non-availability of required ‘land’. Earlier the Department had notified area of about 250 square kilometers and as land is a scarce commodity acquiring it and notifying it for industrial purposes has become a challenge. The Committee note that the DCPC is in the process of reviewing PCPIR policy. After consultation with important stakeholders, particularly the State Governments, it has come to notice that instead of 250 square kilometer area of land with common infrastructure facilities, the Department can go for 5000 acres of land with common infrastructure facilities. Hence, the Department has decided to shift their focus on smaller area and proceed further in the matter. The Committee approve the idea of the Department that it should go for smaller piece of land to set up PCPIRs. As PCPIR Policy was envisaged in the year 2007 and only one PCPIR has been commissioned so far, the Committee urge the Government to take faster action in this regard and bring a revised PCPIR Policy at the earliest.

2.28 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“Department is in the process of reviewing PCPIR policy, for which stakeholder consultation is being conducted. “

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No. 1.22 of Chapter – I of the Report)

(Recommendation No. 17)

Quality Control orders for Chemicals

2.29 A representative of the DCPC submitted during evidence that quality of chemicals is a very important factor to consider. Chemicals and Petrochemicals sector is an unregulated sector and it is possible that spurious Chemicals are made available in the Country. In order to check the spurious Chemicals some standards are required and for that purpose Quality Control Orders(QCOs) are needed for various Chemicals. As on date, the DCPC has QCO in respect of about 61 Chemicals and a large number

of Chemicals are still outside the purview of QCOs. The Committee consider it a matter of serious concern. Needless to say, the bottlenecks to bring all the chemicals under Quality Control Orders have to be dealt with a sense of urgency and priority to ensure that customers do not get sick by use of spurious chemicals in the products. The Department has stated to be working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change which is implementing some of the international conventions. The Committee believe that continuous and dedicated efforts are required in this direction and trust that with combined efforts of all the stakeholders, success would be achieved and all the Chemicals brought under Quality Control Orders.

2.30 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“The identification of Chemicals for mandatory standard is assessed based on the hazardous nature and installed capacity, import, export and demand of the said chemical so that it doesn’t affect the market during implementation of Quality Control Order. There are certain International Conventions pertaining to chemicals, to which Government of India is a signatory and concerned industry is complying to these conventions. Accordingly, the Department is in the process of making mandatory standards for the chemicals under restricted list of certain international conventions.

The list of Petrochemical QCOs (Implemented/ Under Extension) is placed at **Annexure-I.**”

Recommendation No. 18

Harmonized system (HS) codes

2.31 The Committee have been informed that the DCPC has been able to get some Harmonized system (HS) codes modified and some duty rationalization done so far. The Department want a low duty rate on the raw materials and a higher duty rate on finished products. According to the Department the duty on Epichlorohydrin which is manufactured with crude glycerin has been reduced to 2.5 percent from 7.5 percent and for acid-grade fluorspar to 2.5 percent from 5 percent though the Department wanted it to reduce to zero and they aim to do so. The Committee applaud the efforts of the Department to get duty rates on raw materials reduced . Besides, there is stated to be a huge scope for misuse in the Chemical Sector and the Department has so far been able to get the coding for only a limited number of chemicals. The Committee would desire that the Department pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) for codification of maximum number of chemicals. The Committee consider this to be a step in right direction for minimising the risk of ill health caused by

exposure to chemicals. The Committee would like to be kept informed of the progress made in this direction from time to time.

2.32 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“This Department in consultation with DA&FW has identified 14 pesticides having import value more than Rs.100 crore imported under “Other” category, were identified for creation of new separate tariff lines. Total 24 New HS codes covering 28 products have been created in the Finance Budget 2023-24.

14 HS Codes are created as 'Pure Organic Chemicals' under Chapter- 29 and 10 new dedicated HS codes have been created under Chapter 38 in the Finance bill 2023. The same may be seen at Annexure-II.

Also, Department of Revenue vide its order dated Circular No. 15/2023- Customs dated 07.06.2023 has made IUPAC name and CAS number mandatory for the constituents of the chemicals in the chapters 28, 29, 32, 38 and 39 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 in the bills of entry. The circular will be effective from 01.07.2023. The CAS no. and IUPAC name will help in analysing the import data chemicals wise and will broaden the scope of data analysis and will help in taking trade remedial measures against surge in imports. Copy of the circular dated 07.06.2023 is placed at Annexure-III.

With respect to petrochemicals, it is mentioned here that in the past this department recommended the following polymers/petrochemical products to Department of Revenue from others category of ITC HS classification:-

- i. Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) emulsion grade/ Suspension grade
- ii. Chlorinated Poly Vinyl Chloride (CPVC) resin
- iii. Linear Low Density Poly Ethylene (LLDPE)
- iv. Low Density Poly Ethylene (LDPE)
- v. High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE)
- vi. Polyamide (Nylon) 6 and Polyamide 6,6 chips or resins
- vii. PET Chips/Flakes, Polyester Chips (bottle grade/filament grade/ Industrial yarn grade/ textile grade)

Eight (8) petrochemical products were assigned new HS Codes from others category. The list of which is attached at **Annexure –IV**.

Further, DCPC in consultation with Industry Associations is in the process of creation of new HS code of Petrochemicals. In this regard the Department is identifying and analyzing tariff lines related to Petrochemical including other category, the details of which may be seen at **Annexure-V**.”

CHAPTER – III

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

NIL

CHAPTER – IV

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

(Recommendation No. 1)

Proposed and approved allocation for the year 2023-24

4.1 The Committee note that the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals(DCPC) projected an outlay of Rs. 200.95 crore for its various schemes/programmes and other requirements during 2023-24. However, it has been reduced to Rs. 173.45 crore by the Ministry of Finance. The reduction in the proposed budget outlay, which was assessed by the Department as necessary, is made in respect of (i)PLI scheme for CPC (which has been approved by EGOS for Rs.5000 crore) for which a provision of Rs.5.00 crore was made in BE 2023-24 with regard to PMA expenditure under existing scheme of the DCPC i.e. NSP; (ii) CPDS, where only an amount of Rs.3.00 crore has been allocated which has been merged with NSP scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2023; (iii) CIPET where Rs.92.88 crore has been allocated against Rs. 106.20 crore and (iv)New Schemes of Petrochemicals (NSP), where a reduced amount of Rs. 22.00 crore (including CPDS fund of Rs.3.00 crore) has been allocated.

The Committee are of the view that the downward revision of the financial targets which would have helped the Department in improving its lagging performance would affect the performance of the Department this year too resulting in retarded growth of the chemical and petrochemical industry on the whole. Hence, the Committee recommend that the DCPC should get the funds of the required level of Rs 200.95 crore at the RE, 2023-24.

4.2 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“Against a projection of Rs. 29.93 crore for the New Scheme of Petrochemicals (NSP) and Rs. 6.00 crore for CPDS, an amount of Rs. 22.00 crore (including CPDS) has been approved in the Budget for 2023-24. Department is also in progress for development of Chemical and Petrochemical Data Management System (CPDMS) portal for which approximately Rs.5.00 crore will be utilized under NSP scheme. A proposal has received from Bhopal Welfare Commissioner office for renovation of Old District Court Building and shifting of O/o WC, Bhopal from Rajendar Prasad Bhawan to Old District Court Building for which approximately an amount of Rs.2.45 crore will be demanded in RE 2023-24. There is also shortage of funds under various object heads of “Secretariat”, therefore more funds will be demanded at RE 2023-24 stage. Based on the demands of funds from various programme divisions, a higher RE will be projected by DCPC.”

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Please see Para No. 1.7 of Chapter – I of the Report)

(Recommendation No.2)

4.3 The Committee observe that the Ministry of Finance made the reduction in proposed allocation of funds to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals observing its slow pace of expenditure viz. slow pace of expenditure by various Plastic Parks and Center of Excellences (CoEs) under NSP scheme and due to huge unspent balance remaining in the account of CIPET, etc. This indicates lack of concerted efforts on the part of the Department and the concerned institutions viz CIPET, CoEs etc. The Committee have been informed that keeping in view the slow progress of expenditure in NSP schemes & by CIPET for Plastic Parks, CoEs & CIPET centres, follow up with State Governments is going on to expedite the process relating to establishment of different Plastic Parks, CoEs and CIPET centres.

The Committee would desire that the Ministry/Department intensify their efforts to resolve the related issues with the concerned State Governments to get the desired results in order to avoid further delays in implementation of their projects/schemes. The Committee have been assured that the Department will ensure full utilization of funds allocated during the first quarter of the financial year by timely accessing and processing of financial proposals by various programme divisions. The Committee trust that the Department would project their requirement of funds at RE, 2023-24, in a more convincing manner and allocations will be suitably stepped up.

4.4 In their Action Taken Note furnished to the Committee, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated as follows:

“Against a projection of Rs. 29.93 crore for the New Scheme of Petrochemicals (NSP) and Rs. 6.00 crore for CPDS, an amount of Rs. 22.00 crore (including CPDS) has been approved in the Budget for 2023-24. Hence, so far as NSP is concerned, there is a shortfall. In this regard, it is mentioned that the Department reviewed the progress of Plastic Parks and has requested the implementing agencies to convene regular meetings with the State and Local Level Industrial Associations and other plastic industries in order to attract investments so as to ensure the implementation of the ongoing projects under the NSP. This would help in timely implementation as well as utilization of funds. The Department has also been consistently reviewing the progress of the approved Centres of Excellence (CoEs) to ensure that they achieve their intended objectives. CIPET has requested a reduced RE allocation during FY 2022-23 due to pendency of identification of land at Srinagar or Jammu for establishment of CIPET centre and no allocation of funds has been proposed for CIPET centre at Nashik & Bihta (Patna) due to slow response from respective State Governments.

Further, the Department would project the requirement of funds at RE 2023-24 in a more convincing manner and as per demands from the implementing agencies.”

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
(Please see Para No. 1.10 of Chapter – I of the Report)

CHAPTER – V

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

- Nil -

New Delhi;
07 February, 2024
18 Magha, 1945 (Saka)

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR
CHAIRPERSON,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(2023-24)**

Minutes of the Seventh Sitting of the Committee

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 07th February, 2024 from 1530 hrs. to 1600 hrs. in the Chamber of Hon'ble Chairperson, Room No. 219, 'B' Block, Parliament House Annexe Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

DR. SHASHI THAROOR- Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri C. N. Annadurai
3. Shri Prataprao Patil Chikhlikar
4. Shri Rajeshbhai Naranbhai Chudasama
5. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
6. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar
7. Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh

RAJYA SABHA

8. Dr. Anil Jain
9. Shri Arun Singh
10. Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Shri Chander Mohan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Geeta Parmar | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Kulvinder Singh | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Panna Lal | - | Under Secretary |
| 5. | Ms. Neelam Bhawe | - | Committee Officer |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration, the following Draft Reports: :-

(i) XXX XXX XXX XXX

(ii) Fifty-First Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty-First Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemical, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers; and

(iii) XXX XXX XXX XXX

3. Giving an overview of the important Observations/Recommendations contained in the draft Reports, the Chairperson solicited the views/suggestions of the Members.

4 After some deliberations, the draft Reports were adopted by the Committee without any amendment.

5. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Reports and present/lay the Reports in both the Houses of Parliament in the current session.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-II

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FORTY- FIRST REPORT (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (2023-24) ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24)' PERTAINING TO THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS)

	Total No. of Recommendations	18
I	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: (Recommendation Nos. 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15, 16,17 and 18)	16
Percentage of Total		89
II	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not like to pursue in view of the Government's replies: NIL	00
Percentage of Total		0%
III	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies given by the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration: (Recommendation No. 1 and 2)	02
Percentage of Total		11%
IV	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the final replies of the Government are still awaited: NIL	00
Percentage of Total		0%