

33

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
(1995-96)

TENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY &
DAIRYING)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1995-96)

*[Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/
Observations contained in the Twenty-First Report of the
Standing Committee on Agriculture]*

THIRTY-THIRD REPORT



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 1995/Agrahayana, 1917 (Saka)

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(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING)**

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Standing Committee on Agriculture]*

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 20th December, 1995
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 20th December, 1995*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 1995/Agrahayana, 1917 (Saka)

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CORRIGENDA

Thirty Third Report of Standing Committee
on Agriculture—Action Taken Report on 21st
Report on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of
Deptt. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

| Page | Line | For | Read |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| iii Sl.No.8 | | Sh. Govindrao Nika | Sh. Govindrao Nikam |
| v Sl.No.4 | | Kum. Umar Bharati | Kum. Uma Bharati |
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| 5 | 15 from above | import | importance |
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| 9 | 2 from below | take | taken |

CORRIGENDA-II

Thirty Third Report of Standing Committee
on Agriculture Action Taken Report on 21st
Report on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of
Deptt. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

| Page | Recommendation No. | Line | For | Read |
|------|--------------------|---------------|--|---|
| | 3.8 & 3.9 | 25 from above | funds are left unutilised. They should | funds left unutilised so far should |
| | 3.16 | 3 from below | filled up immediately so that | filled up immediately within a period of three months so that |

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|--|-------|
| COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE | (iii) |
| COMPOSITION OF SUB-COMMITTEE 'C' | (v) |
| INTRODUCTION | (vii) |
| CHAPTER I Report | 1 |
| CHAPTER II Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government | 11 |
| CHAPTER III Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies | 19 |
| CHAPTER IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee | 22 |
| CHAPTER V Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited | 28 |

APPENDICES

| | |
|--|----|
| I. Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 7th December, 1995 | 31 |
| II. Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Tenth Lok Sabha) | 33 |

**COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
(1995-96)**

Shri Nitish Kumar — CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. **Shri D. Pandian**
3. **Shri Birbal**
4. **Shri Nathuram Mirdha**
5. **Shri G. Ganga Reddy**
6. **Shri Ankushrao Raosaheb Tope**
7. **Shri Sarat Pattanayak**
8. **Shri Govindrao Nika**
9. **Kumari Pushpa Devi Singh**
10. **Shri Channaiah Odeyar**
11. **Shri Tara Singh**
12. **Shri Anantrao Deshmukh**
13. **Shri Uttamrao Deorao Patil**
14. **Shri V. V. Nawale**
15. **Shri Rajvir Singh**
16. **Kumari Uma Bharti**
17. **Shri Rudrasen Chaudhary**
18. **Shri Ganga Ram Koli**
19. **Dr. Gunwant Rambhau Sarode**
20. **Dr. Parshuram Gangwar**
21. **Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma**
22. **Smt. Krishnendra Kaur 'Deepa'**
23. **Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary**
24. **Shri Zainal Abedin**

(iv)

25. Shri B. N. Reddy
26. Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar
27. Dr. R. K. G. Rajulu
28. Shri Upendra Nath Verma
29. Shri Shibu Soren

Rajya Sabha

30. Shri Govindrao Adik
31. Shri Satyanarayana Dronamraju
32. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami
33. Shri H. Hanumanthappa
34. Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal
35. Dr. Bapu Kaldate
- *36. Shri David Ledger
37. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann
38. Shri N. Thangaraj Pandian
- **39. Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran
40. Shri K. N. Singh
41. Shri Maheshwar Singh
42. Dr. Ranveer Singh
43. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
44. Shri Som Pal

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri S.N. Mishra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Smt. Roli Srivastava — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri P.D.T. Achary — *Director*
4. Shri S. Bal Shekar — *Under Secretary*

*Ceased to be Member of the Committee consequent upon retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 14.6.95.

** Ceased to be Member of the Committee consequent upon retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 24.7.95.

**COMPOSITION OF SUB-COMMITTEE 'C' ON DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING**

- Shri Tara Singh** — *Convenor*
2. **Shri N. Thangaraj Pandian** — *Alternate Convenor*
3. **Shri Channaiah Odeyar**
4. **Kum. Umar Bharati**
5. **Dr. Bapu Kaldate**
6. **Dr. Parshuram Gangwar**
7. **Kum. Pushpa Devi Singh**
8. **Shri Govindrao Nikam**

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) having been authorised by the Committee to submit Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-third Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 21st Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture 1995-96 (Tenth Lok Sabha), Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying).

2. The Twenty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying) was presented to Lok Sabha on 4th May, 1995. The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying) was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received.

3. The Committee considered these action taken replies furnished by the Government and approved the draft comments and adopted the Thirty-third Report.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 21st Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix II.

NEW DELHI;
20th December, 1995
29th Agrahayana, 1917 (Saka)

NITISH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) on the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying) which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 4th May, 1995.

2. Action taken notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the 26 recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorised as follows:—

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

Recommendation Para Nos. 3.3, 3.34, 3.35, 3.45, 3.61, 3.62, 3.63, 3.64, 3.65, 3.84, 3.98, 3.104, 3.105 & 3.121

(Total 12)

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

Recommendation Para Nos. 3.66, 3.88, 3.89, 3.118, 3.119 & 3.120

(Total 5)

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

Recommendation Para Nos. 3.8 & 3.9, 3.16, 3.20, 3.97, 3.109 & 3.117

(Total 6)

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

Recommendation Para Nos. 3.44, 3.72 & 3.87

(Total 3)

3. The Committee will now deal with the recommendations which have not been accepted and have been included in Chapter IV of the report.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.8 & 3.9)

In its Twenty-first Report on Demands for Grants (1995-96) the Committee made the following recommendations:—

"The Committee observe that from the year 1992-93 to 1994-95, only 34.5% of the Eighth Plan outlay has been utilised in this sector relating to Veterinary Services and Animal Health. It may be seen that the Revised Estimate for 1994-95 is only 52.6% of the Original Budget Estimate and even this Revised estimate is less than the actual expenditure in the previous year 1993-94. The Committee fail to understand as to how it is proposed to spend Rs. 35.05 crores on Plan side in 1995-96, while the pace of expenditure all along had been only of the order of around Rs. 18.53 crores on an average per year and with only two years of the Eighth Plan remaining. The Committee feel that the implementation of the Plan Schemes relating to Veterinary Services and Animal Health has been tardy in all the last three years and there appears to be lack of will to implement the schemes vigorously. The Committee recommend that the basic causes for this tardy implementation should be quickly analysed and identified in order to take remedial measures so that the funds allotted for 1995-96 are fully utilised to achieve the Eighth Plan objective of developing adequate animal health services which is the basic requirement for protection of livestock. They also desire that extent of budget allocation for animal health services should be enhanced at revised estimate stage and in the coming years in view of the large livestock population.

The Committee warn the Government that in view of the susceptibility of the new cross-breed livestock to various diseases including exotic diseases, any lethargy in the implementation of the animal health care schemes may lead to morbidity and mortality of the livestock which will prove very costly to the nation and to the poor rural work force."

The Government in their reply has stated:—

"The Veterinary Services and Animal Health scheme of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has four components which deal with (a) strengthening of quarantine services and establishment of facilities for testing of livestock vaccines etc. (b) providing assistance to States for control of animal diseases (c) professional efficiency development, and (d) rinderpest eradication programme.

The Components assistance to States for control of animal diseases and rinderpest eradication programme are directly related to livestock control/eradication efforts. In the first component, the expenditure during the first three years has been Rs. 20.96 crores out of the budget provision of Rs. 22.38 crores (93%). In the rinderpest eradication programme, external aid component could not be fully availed of and,

therefore, the utilisation percentage came down. However, the external aid component was primarily meant for procurement of diagnostic equipments and vehicles etc. The vaccination programme in the States where the disease still occurs and the buffer zones has not been adversely affected. EEC has now agreed to release the funds during 1995-96. In the professional efficiency development component, the expenditure during the first three years has been about 41 percent of the Eighth Plan outlay. The component dealing with strengthening of quarantine services and establishment of facilities for testing of livestock vaccines etc. is being reviewed as it was felt that some of the proposed activities could be taken up by existing institutions and the proposed additional staff could be reduced. The expenditure in this component during the three years has been only about 8 percent of the Eighth Plan outlay.

The funds provided for Control of Animal Diseases, as explained in the preceding paragraph, have been more or less fully utilised. The Government is making sincere efforts in controlling the diseases in livestock."

The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Government. The Committee expected that the Government would seek enhanced allocation at the Revised Estimate stage as recommended by them; but they are deeply disappointed to note that the reply of the Government is completely silent on this aspect. The Committee wish to point out that the infrastructure to provide basic animal health care throughout the country is highly inadequate and they desire that the major chunk of the Eighth Plan funds are left unutilised. They should be utilised for this purpose by suitably enhancing the allocations to the States and if necessary by drawing out new schemes of health care.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.16)

The Committee in Para No. 3.16 made the following recommendation:—

"The Committee note that the National Project on Rinderpest Eradication is being implemented with the assistance of European Economic Community (EEC). The committee have been informed that the Government is in the process of declaring 14 northern States free from rinderpest and a major campaign has been started in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and parts of Maharashtra where the disease is known to exist. The Government expect that the disease would be eradicated during the next 24 months. However, the Committee note that the expectation of the Government has not been matched by the efforts made by them, as the Government could utilise only Rs. 30.95 crores which is only 32.1 percent of the total Plan outlay of Rs. 96.13 crores in the first three years of the Eight Plan (from 1992-93 to 1994-95). The reason given for the shortfall in expenditure

is that the Donor Agency, namely EEC has not released funds during 1993-94 and 1994-95 on the ground that the Central Project Monitoring Unit is not fully staffed. The Committee are dismayed to note that the Government could not fill up the vacancies for two years continuously during 1993-94 and 1994-95 when the flow of funds was stopped by EEC. The Committee observe that it was due to complete lack of manpower planning on the part of the Government no advance action was taken in time to anticipate the vacancies and to fill the up. Because of lack of methodical planning and implementation, precious foreign assistance that was forthcoming could not be put to use to save the lives of the poor speechless suffering cattle. The Committee do not understand as to how the rinderpest disease could be eradicated completely within the next 24 months as planned by the Government in view of their poor past performance & lack of proper planning with a Budget Estimate of Rs. 26.13 crores for 1995-96 as there is no certainty about the spending this money given the past track record. The Committee, therefore, recommend emergency recruitment to be restored to in the interest of availing the foreign assistance to save the lives of precious cattle. The Committee recommend further that all the vacancies should be filled up within a period of 3 months."

The Government in their reply have stated as under:—

"The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying have initiated steps for filling up the posts of National Project Coordinator, Director Information and other posts sanctioned under the project. The EEC has agreed to open the budgetline and to release the funds during 1995-96. A Revised Estimate of Rs. 24.34 crores has been proposed for the project for the year 1995-96. This amount is expected to be fully utilised to supply equipments, vehicles, reagents etc. to the States for sero-surveillance and sero-monitoring work. The vaccination programme in the States where the disease still occurs and the buffer zones has proceeded smoothly."

The Committee are not satisfied with the general nature of the reply of the Government. In spite of the recommendation of the Committee that Emergency recruitment should be resorted to and all the vacancies be filled up within a period of three months, the Government has informed that it has only initiated steps for filling up the posts sanctioned under the project. The Committee emphasis that the Government should look into the matter to ensure that all the vacancies are filled up immediately so that the pre-condition of filling up the vacancies in the Central Project Monitoring Unit for availing foreign assistance is fully met.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.20)

The Committee in its 21st Report in Para 3.20 made the following recommendation:—

"The Committee observe that the actual expenditure under the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in 1993-94 was Rs. 9.05 crores whereas the Revised Estimate for 1994-95 for this Centrally sponsored programme has been lowered to Rs. 8.00 crores only. The Committee also note that there has been always shortfalls in physical achievements to the tune of 22 lakhs of vaccinations in 1992-93 and 1993-94. The Committee have been informed that the reasons for shortfall is that the State Governments have not been providing matching funds for this programme. The Committee note that the physical achievement is not proportionately higher in 1993-94 despite an expenditure which is twice that of the previous year 1992-93. The Committee desire that the Union Government should contemplate taking some steps to make the programme more attractive which may induce the State Governments to complete to provide matching assistance for the successful implementation of this programme. The Committee also expect the Government to ensure that the physical achievements are proportionate to the expenditure incurred."

The Government in their reply have stated as under:—

"As against the actual expenditure incurred, Rs 4.45 crores in the year 1992-93, Rs. 9.05 crores in the year 1993-94 in respect of assistance to States for control of animal diseases, the budget estimates for the year 1994-95 have been kept at Rs. 8.00 crores. Under this scheme there are three main components consisting:

- (a) Control of Foot and Mouth Diseases;
- (b) Systematic Control of Livestock Diseases of National Importance;
and
- (c) Animal Disease Surveillance.

In the first, component, assistance is being given to livestock owner belonging to the weaker sections of the society to undertake vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease. 25% of the cost of the medicine is met by the Government of India, matching support is provided by the State Government and balance being met by the owner. Under this component, the budgetary provisions have been increased from Rs. 150 lakhs in 1992-93 to Rs. 220 lakhs in 1993-94 and further stepped up to Rs.245 lakhs in the year 1994-95. The Department is making every effort to persuade the States to have a properly organised need based foot and mouth vaccination programme and to increase the States' corresponding budgetary allocations."

The Committee feel that the reply of the Government is vague. The Committee wanted explanation for lower allocation this year and desired to introduce some element of competition (such as awards for States who completed the highest coverage etc.) among States to induce them to take up the programme effectively. The Committee note that the Government could not explain in their reply as to why the allocation of Rs. 8 crores for assistance to States for control of animal diseases has been lower in comparison to the last year especially in view of the fact that Rs. 9.05 crores had been utilised in this account. The Committee also note that no action has been taken by the Government to introduce an element of competition among the States as recommended by the Committee by instituting some awards etc. in order to have the maximum and widest vaccination coverage for the livestock. The Committee are unhappy that no serious thought had been given by the Government to understand the import of the recommendation of the Committee and to take steps to implement it. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Government should contemplate taking steps to make the programme more attractive and to induce the States to compete for providing matching assistance.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.97)

In its 21st report in Para No. 3.97 the Committee made the following recommendation:—

"The Committee note that the integrated Dairying Development Project Scheme for the Non-operation Flood Areas and Hilly and Backward Areas is meant for improving the social, nutritional and economic status of residents of comparatively more disadvantaged areas and for generating additional employment opportunities in those areas. Although the scheme was conceptualised at the time of formulation of 8th Five Year Plan, the scheme could be made operational only during the later part of 1993-94. Due to this late start, only Rs. 35.81 crores which is 17.90% of the total 8th Plan outlay of Rs. 200 crores has been spent on the scheme. Even with the present budget allocation of Rs. 25 crores for 1995-96 and a similar allocation for 1996-97, there is no hope of avoiding a huge shortfall of around Rs. 110 crores at the end of the plan period. The Committee are very much concerned over the time taken to start the implementation of the scheme and desire that much higher budgetary allocations should be made atleast for 1996-97 if it could not be done during 1995-96 under exceptional circumstances. The Committee also expect that the entire budget allocation for 1995-96 is fully utilised. The Committee feel that the scheme has not been sufficiently popularised among the State Governments and they recommend that steps should be taken to persuade the State Governments especially those in the North East to come up with more

proposals in the coming years with a view to improve the socio-economic and nutritional status of the people to these comparatively more disadvantaged areas."

The Government in their reply have stated as under:—

"As brought out before the Committee earlier, this Department had initiated advance action in November, 1991 by writing to the State Governments to prepare project proposals for consideration under this Scheme. However, not many proposals were forthcoming in order to prepare a consolidated scheme and it was, therefore, decided in consultation with the Planning Commission to process proposals on a case to case basis. In the meanwhile efforts to obtain more proposals continued by writing D.O. letters to the concerned States in November, 1992, September, 1993 and again in December, 1994. In addition the matter was taken up with the State Governments during State Plan discussion in the Planning Commission impressing upon them to expedite project proposals. The response from the States improved resulting in the approval of 21 projects in 14 States with a total outlay of Rs. 85.29 crores upto March, 1995. Further proposals from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar and also additional proposals from the States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are at various stages of consideration and are likely to be approved during the year 1995-96.

This Department had sought an allocation of Rs. 50.00 crore during 1994-95 and Rs. 70.00 crore during 1995-96 for this scheme but because of over all resource constraints the outlays made available for the scheme were only Rs. 24.91 crore and Rs. 25.91 crores respectively.

As regards popularising the scheme particularly in the North Eastern States, it may be noted that already proposals have been approved for all the North-Eastern States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. the entire State of Tripura is now covered under Integrated Dairying Development Project and as many as 10 districts in Assam have been brought under the ambit of this Central Sector Scheme."

The Committee note that the allocation of funds for 1995-96 is only Rs. 25.91 crores against an allocation of Rs. 70 crores sought by the Department. The Committee feel that the matter of higher allocations for development of dairies in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas should be taken up vigorously at the highest level so that adequate funds are allotted to the Scheme in view of the late start of this Eighth Plan Project only in the later part of 1993-94 and in view of the need for improving the social, nutritional and economic status of the residents of these areas.

Recommendation Para No. 3.109

In the 21st Report the Committee made the following recommendation in Para No. 3.109:—

"The Committee note that in Delhi Milk Scheme a number of essential operational and technical posts at senior levels have been lying vacant for years together (some even from 1989), resulting in great strain on the management in maintaining the operation efficiency. The Committee find that there are direct inductions at senior levels on deputation basis to this organisation where procedural delays are found to occur whenever a deputationist reverts back to his parent cadre and a new incumbent is to be selected. The Committee wonder as to how the DMS is unable to build up its own cadre of officers within the organisation who could grow up to take up positions of higher responsibility although this organisation has been in existence since 1st November, 1959. The Committee feel that the recruitment rules to senior positions deserve a thorough revision so that officers within the organisation with long years of relevant practical experience in running the organisation are made to form part of the feeder cadre to the higher positions of responsibility instead of depending on deputations. The Committee are of the view that such avenues of growth would ensure continue and act as a great incentive of the officers within to serve with greater dedication and by developing a sense of identity with the organisation. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the recruitment rules in DMS to senior positions of Manager grade and above should be thoroughly revised within a period of six months so that permanent arrangements are made to fill up the vacancies on long term basis with the available talent within the organisation and the system of deputations is done away with in view of the need to ensure continuity and to provide greater incentives to the staff."

The Government in their reply have state as under:—

"The process of revision of recruitment rules has been under way for the past 3 years. The recruitment rules of 19 categories have been revised during this period. Recruitment rules of Deputy General Manager (Technical) and Shift Transport Engineer have also been revised recently. Action has been initiated for revising the recruitment rules of the remaining categories of posts."

The Committee note that the Government have given a very sketchy reply to their recommendation. The reply does not reveal the number of categories for which the recruitment rules are still to be framed and also the number of categories among them in senior positions of Manager grade and above. In the absence of details of revision of the reply, the Committee are at a loss to know if the recruitment rules to senior positions have been revised to give effect to the recommendation

of the Committee in letter and spirit. The Committee regret to note that the Government have not completed the thorough revision of rules within the period of six months stipulated by the Committee. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the recruitment rules of DMS should be revised within another three months and copies of the revised rules should be made available to the Committee with a note indicating whether the recommendation of the Committee about doing away with deputationism has been complied with or not in respect of each of the senior positions.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.117)

The Committee in its 21st report have made the following recommendation in Para No. 3.117.

"The Committee note that there is shortfall in the creation of rural dairy processing capacity although from the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan period, although necessary funds have been spent as planned on the dairy development activities by NDDB. The Committee find that annual targets fixed for creating rural processing capacity have been lower than the annual target of 200 lakh litres per day fixed for the entire Eighth Plan and even these lower targets could not be achieved in full. The Committee feel that there is an urgent need to accelerate the pace of work in the matter and they recommend that the reasons for this shortfall should be analysed and special steps are taken to achieve the Eighth Plan target. The Committee also desire that the physical targets for 1995-96 should be revised upwards and the targets for 1996-97 should be at least equal to the original target for the Eighth Plan if not higher."

The Government in their reply have stated as under :-

"Although there has been some shortfall in achieving the targets fixed for creating rural processing capacity in the past, several steps have been taken to accelerate the pace of work and it is expected that the target for the year 1995-96 would be achieved. The target for 1996-97 has been fixed at 205.75 lakh liters per day and this is higher than the original target of 200 lakh litres per day for the Eighth Plan."

The Committee note that the Government have not taken any steps to analyse the reasons for the shortfall in the creation of rural dairy processing capacity in the last three years as recommended by the Committee in order to take special steps to achieve the Eighth Plan target in the remaining two years. They are pained to note that no details of the steps take by the Government for accelerating the pace of work in the matter have been given and there appears to be some mechanical

raising of the targets. The Committee require that these details should be furnished to them and special steps should be taken to achieve the Eighth Plan target.

Implementation of Recommendations

The Committee would like to emphasize that the greatest importance should be attached to the implementation of the recommendations by Government. They, Therefore, expect that the Government would implement such recommendations expeditiously. In case, it is not possible to implement any recommendation in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee in time with reasons for non-implementation.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 3.3)

The Committee observe that even after the recommendation of the Committee last year to observe economy under the head 'Domestic and Foreign Travel', the Revised Estimate for 1994-95 has not come down from the original Budget Estimate of Rs. 18.50 lakhs and no economy appears to have been observed. The Committee note that out of Rs. 18.50 lakhs earmarked for 1995-96, one fourth of the funds are for foreign travel. The Committee are not satisfied with the effect of the economy measures stated to have been taken by the Government and recommend that foreign travel expenses should be limited to the barest minimum required.

Reply of the Government

The Revised Estimate for travel expenses was Rs. 18.50 lakhs during 1994-95. The same amount of Rs. 18.50 lakhs has been retained in the Budget Estimates of 1995-96 despite escalation in the cost of air, rail and road transport.

During 1994-95, the break-up between foreign and domestic components was not given and only lumpsum amount was provided for travel expenses. In fact out of Rs. 18.50 lakh an amount of Rs. 7.98 lakh was incurred on foreign travel. Foreign travel expenses are being limited to the barest minimum required.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.34)

The Committee note that against the Eighth Plan target of 34 lakh doses of frozen semen, the Central frozen Semen Production and Training Institute could achieve a production of only 13.50 lakh doses which is 40% of the target in the first three years of the Plan period. However, the Government have strengthened the laboratory facilities of the Institute in the last three years to enable them produce about 10 lakh frozen semen doses each during 1995-96 and 1996-97. But the Committee find that the Budgetary Support for the Institute has decreased from Rs. 1.43 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 0.68 Crore in 1995-96, While target for frozen semen production has increased from 4.5 lakh closed in 1993-94 to 10 lakh doses in 1995-96. The Committee wonder as to how the Government propose to achieve higher targets with reduced budgetary allocations. The Committee

expect concrete results in frozen semen production to offset the shortfall in production in the last three years.

Reply of the Government

The semen collection and freezing facilities have been stepped up by acquiring new equipments and laboratory instruments in the last two years. A large number of bulls is necessary for achieving higher levels of semen production and for this purpose order for the purchase of 24 exotic bulls have been placed and advance payments made and the bulls are expected to be in position by December, 1995.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.35)

The Committee note that under the Programme for Extension of Frozen Semen Technology, Frozen Semen Stations have to be set up to produce, store and transport frozen semen doses and liquid nitrogen to field Artificial Insemination Centres. The Committee note that only 18 Frozen Semen stations have been set up during 1992-95 against a Plan target of 40, Similarly, against the Eighth Plan target of 3500 Artificial Insemination Centre only 1174 centres have been set up from 1992-93 to 1994-95 which is only 33.54 per cent of total target. The committee are concerned to note the tardy pace of progress in the setting up of the frozen Semen Stations and the Artificial Insemination Centres. They recommend that a special action plan may be drawn up to implement the scheme vigorously in order to provide the basic input of artificial insemination in far-flung rural areas for the purpose of raising quality livestock.

Reply of the Government

There are two schemes to take care of the requirement of semen production and distribution through the setting up of frozen semen stations and artificial insemination (AI) centres, namely, the Technology Mission on Dairy Development (TMDD), the Scheme of Extension of Frozen Semen Technology (EFST).

A specific plan for strengthening 40 identified frozen semen stations in the operation flood areas has been work out by the TMDD: As regards setting up frozen semen stations and AI centres under the EFC scheme, an action plan has been drawn up for those States which have been assisted under the scheme and similar plans are being worked out for the remaining States.

As the cost of AI installations have gone up substantially in the last about 3 years, higher allocations have been proposed in the revised estimates for 1995-96 as well as in the Budget Estimates for 1996-97 so as to take care of the projected physical targets.

Recommendation (Para No 3.45)

The Committee are also concerned about the tardy pace of expenditure for the schemes under the Central Poultry Development Organisation as only Rs. 6.88 crores out of a total plan outlay of Rs.19.75 crores has been spent in the first three years of plan which means an achievement of only 34.84 percent of the total outlay. The Committee, therefore, expect the government to implement the schemes with redoubled vigor to realise the physical targets of the Eighth Plan fully.

Reply of the Government

The Eighth Plan outlay for Central Poultry Development Organisation is Rs. 15.00 crores. Out of this a sum of Rs. 7.40 crores (approx.)* have been spent during the first three years and the year-wise break up is as follows:—

| | (Rs. in crores) |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1992-93 | 2.58 |
| 1993-94 | 2.24 |
| 1994-95 | 2.58 |
| <hr/> Total <hr/> | <hr/> 7.40 <hr/> |

which is about 50% of the Plan outlay. The provision for 1995-96 is Rs.2.95 crores, it is expected that the entire amount would be utilised and the physical targets will be achieved fully during the 8th Five Year Plan.

* It includes an amount of Rs. 0.55 crores (approx.) sanctioned by this Department for capital works.

Recommendation (Para Nos. 3.61, 3.62, 3.63)

The Committee note that the Central Sheep Breeding Farm is to provide 1200 exotic and cross-bred came per year to different States for implementing Sheep Development Programmes in the States. The Committee also note that the benefits will be conferred on scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population indirectly by the scheme, as the rams supplied from the State Farms are used by the shepherds/breeders who are small farmers, tribes, marginal farmers and agricultural laborers. But the committee are not satisfied with the results achieved by the Government as only 50 per cent of the funds earmarked for the Eighth Five Year Plan period has been utilised by the Central Sheep Breeding Farm in the first three years of the plan and with this expenditure only 43 percentage of the total physical target of distribution of rams could take place within that period.

The Committee also find that two different targets have been indicated

by the Department for Distribution of Rams. In the Performance Budget it has been indicated that 1200 rams per year would be provided to different States whereas in a note furnished to the Committee it has been indicated that 800 rams per year is the target.

The Committee wonder as to how a target of 1200 rams per year has suddenly been scaled down to 800 rams per year. Under the other programme known as the National Ram/buck production programme and the programme for Rabbit Development, the Committee observe that only 32.2% of the total plan outlay has been utilised. The reasons for this under-utilisation is stated to be non receipt of proposals from the States. The Committee, therefore, feel that there is an emergent need to activate the entire governmental machinery from its callous indifferent attitude in order to realise the socio-economic objective behind those schemes to the fullest extent.

Reply of the Government

The Central Sheep Breeding Farm, Hissar has been established with the main aim of distribution of acclimatised exotic rams to various State Governments for cross breeding programme. A target of distribution of 800 rams has been fixed during the VIII Plan. During the first 3 years of the Plan 2079 rams were distributed which represents achievement of 51% of the total VIIIth Plan target, However, for the first three years only, achievement is 87%. The expenditure during the first three years is 52% of the Plan outlay. Infact, targets of distribution has been enhanced from 1995-96 onwards to achieve the overall targets for the Eight Plan.

There is printing error in the Performance Budget. The correct figures with regard to distribution of rams is 800 per annum.

The State Governments concerned have already been requested to make full use of this scheme by timely submission of viable proposals. The response from the State Governments has been encouraging and during the year 1995-96 the allocated funds of Rs. 2.00 crores would be fully utilised. The Department is, in fact, seeking additional outlays at R.E. stage.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.64)

The Committee recommend that efforts should be made to make the schemes more attractive so that State Governments readily come forward to avail of the Central assistance. In cases where the beneficiaries are 100 per cent Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Castes, the government should consider making the schemes fully funded by the union Government. The Committee also recommend that no element of competition may be introduced among the States by institution awards for best performance in establishing sheep development programmes for the exclusive benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Reply of the Government

Out of two schemes, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Ram/Buck Production Programme is implemented by the States for strengthening of infrastructure at Sheep Breeding Farms, Goat Farms, Rabbit Farms and Wool Boards. The response from the State Governments has improved recently. As regards making the scheme fully funded by the Union Government in case the beneficiaries are 100 percent Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, the Stated Governments are being consulted for formulation of suitable scheme. The proposal to institute awards to the States for best performance on Sheep Development Programmes for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is also being taken-up with the State Governments.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.65)

The Committee, therefore, expect that atleast in the last two yours of the Eighth Plan, the budget estimates are fully utilised and the budget estimates for 1996-97 are made substantially higher so that the avowed targets of the Eighth Plan are achieved for the betterment of economic lives of the rural poor.

Reply of the Government

For vigorously implementing the scheme National Ram/Buck Production Programme and Programme for Rabbit Development during the last two years, a Revised Estimates of Rs. 2.50 crores has been proposed against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 2.00 crores during 1995-96. A provision of Rs. 3.00 crores is proposed for the year 1996-97.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.84)

The Committee note that there has been huge shortage of dry and green fodder in the country and the shortage is likely to widen further by many million tones in the coming years. The Committee observe that no serious note has been taken of this widening shortage by the Government, as the central fodder and feed development organisations have been allocated meagre funds and even out of these allocations there had been shortfalls in utilisation. The Committee observe that no targets have been fixed for the entire plan period in respect of quantum of seed production, organisation of training programmes, demonstrations and Seed Minikit demonstrations etc.

There appears to be lack of direction and will to achieve the results right from the beginning of the Eighth Plan period which has resulted in a drift, as only 36.8 percent of the total Eight Plan outlay was spent in the first three years of the plan period. The committee fail to understand as to why matching budgetary allocations are not made annually after having set out ambitious plan outlays. Such an approach of under-allocation to

important inputs can only force the Committee to conclude that all the tall claims of higher outlays and plan projections have no meaning as they are always not matched by proper annual allocations. The Committee feel that if there are resource constraints, only realistic outlays and achievable projections should have been made while concretising the Five Year Plans, as the plan projections give rise to high hopes in the minds of the people. The Committee expect that the budget provision of Rs. 3.55 crores is fully utilised by the Central Fodder Development Institutions and they recommend that higher allocations should be made to them in 1996-97 so that the effects of shortfall in allocation in the beginning years of the plan are suitable off-set by increased allocations to this vital activity which caters to the basic need of fodder for the cattle.

Reply of the Government

Targets for seed production, training programmes, demonstrations and seed minikit demonstration are being fixed prior to commencement of the sowing season every year, keeping in view the prevailing situation at the stations by the Regional Coordination Committees for various stations and the Department. The achievement against targets fixed during the last three years are given in the table below :—

| S. No. | Scheme/Activity | 1992-93 | | 1993-94 | | 1994-95 | |
|--------|---|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|
| | | Target | Ach. | Target | Ach. | Target | Ach. |
| 1. | Regional Station for Forage Production and Demonstraion | | | | | | |
| i. | Seed Production (Qtls.) | 2522 | 1945 | 2341 | 2412 | 2407 | 2133 |
| ii. | Demonstration (Nos.) | 980 | 1000 | 1050 | 1092 | 1365 | 1086 |
| iii. | Training (Nos.) | 14 | 19 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 14 |
| iv. | Farmers/Field days (No.) | 12 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 9 |
| 2. | Central Fodder Seed Production Farm | | | | | | |
| v. | Seed Production (Qtls.) | 1200 | 1309 | 1200 | 1205 | 1200 | 1690 |
| vi. | Training (Nos.) | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. | Central Minikit Distribution | | | | | | |
| vii. | Distribution of minikit (Nos. in lakh) | 1.20 | 1.30 | 1.30 | 1.30 | 2.00 | 1.10 |

An outlay of Rs. 3.77 crores is proposed for the year 1996-97 for the Central Feed and Fodder Development Organisations.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.98)

The Committee also recommend that the Government should undertake a study of the economic viability of milk production to ascertain the cost

of milk production to order to ensure remunerative prices for milk. The Committee desire that this viability study should be undertaken based on units of one cow, five cows and ten cows.

Reply of the Government

Cost of production survey of milk is being done since 1985-86. So far Bihar, Haryana, Karnatak, Kerala, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat have conducted the survey and submitted the report. The State of Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have taken up the study but the results have not been furnished to the Department of Animal Husbandry so far. Among the rest of the States major milk producing States have been requested to undertake the study. The present study is done on the basis of one cow or one buffalo. As regards study on the basis of one cow, five cows and ten cows is concerned the department has made a request to Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, Pusa for development of suitable methodology for cost estimation based on three different sizes of dairy units.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.104)

The Committee note that from 1987-88 till the year 1993-94, the Delhi Milk Scheme has replaced 472 out of the 800 old structures of Milk booths with prefabricated milk booths. The Committee also note that during 1994-95 the target for replacement of milk booths is 75 and for the year 1995-96, an allocation of Rs. 44 lakhs has been made to replace 100 booths as per information given in the latest performance Budget document. However, in the Detailed Demands for Grants for 1995-96, an allocation of only Rs. 12 lakhs has been made for the purpose which meant a lower target in 1995-96. The Committee recommend that higher targets should be set for replacement of old milk booths so that all the remaining booths are replaced by the end of the Eighth Plan period.

Reply of the Government

During the 5 years period i.e. 1988-89 to 1993-94, 500 booths have been replaced/renovated by the DMS. This job has been executed through the Hindustan Pre-Fab Ltd. a Government of India enterprise. During the year 1994-95 funds were allocated for replacement of 75 old booths. The reconstruction work of these booths is nearing completion and alongwith 25 booths being taken up in the current year, 100 booths would thus be replaced. The remaining 200 booths will be taken up for renovation/execution in the following three years.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.105)

The Committee were informed during evidence that no dairy in India is having any system of monitoring toxic residue which comes into milk

through pesticides residue in the fodder and through water. The Committee wish to point out that according to Codex specifications, the maximum permissible limit of toxic elements in milk is 0.05 mg per litre and since the average toxic elements found in India in milk is 90 times the maximum limit, the Committee recommend that suitable arrangements should be made to monitor the toxicity levels in milk in our country.

Reply of the Government

A survey is being conducted by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in different centres in the country. The result available so far indicate that the levels of lindane and HCH are above PFA specifications only for about 10% of the samples. The State Governments have been advised by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying to conduct the necessary tests to constantly monitor toxicity level in milk and to take appropriate steps for bringing down the levels of contaminations wherever they are found to be above the specifications. The National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Karnal, has been requested to develop the necessary system to monitor toxicity at the dairy plants.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.121)

The Committee pointed out during evidence that the Annual Report 1994-95 of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying gives census figures of livestock population for the years 1982 and 1987 only and the latest quinquennial census figures of 1992 are not available. The Committee have been informed that central aid is being given to State Governments for carrying out the census and some States have completed the census whereas some other States could not do so and because of this consolidation of information at the national level has not been possible and the matter is being pursued at the Chief Secretaries level. The Committee desire that the State Governments should be asked to complete the census work. Within a period of 3 months so that at least the census work for 1997 is carried out with advance planning in a proper manner.

Reply of the Government

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics has been constantly monitoring the progress of 15th Livestock Census work in the States/UTs. The State Governments are required to submit the quarterly progress report in this regard and the same are being received in the Directorate. The matter has been vigorously pursued by the Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying with the Chief Secretaries of the States which were lagging behind in census work. All except one State Governments have responded indicating that the pending livestock census work is being completed and the 1997 census would start on time. The remaining State is being reminded again to complete the pending work immediately.

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Para No. 3.66)

The Committee also recommend that on the lines of Goat and Rabbit Development Programme the Government should formulate programmes for the conservation and development of ibex goat and musk deer which are in the process of becoming extinct.

Reply of the Government

This would concern the Ministry of Environment and Forests, who have been requested to initiate appropriate action.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.88)

The Committee note that the neelgai species is not being exploited for the purpose of breeding and for meat processing. The Committee recommend that this aspect may be gone into by the Government for formulating a suitable scheme for implementation.

Reply of the Government

As Neelgai is covered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, the Department had approached the Ministry of Environment and Forests to fulfil the recommendations of the Standing Committee. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has intimated that since Neelgai is included under Schedule III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, its hunting has been prohibited. That Ministry is of the view that there may be risks in the exploitation of Neelgai from the wild if breeding for meat processing were to be permitted. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is, therefore, of the view that because of the ban on the slaughter of Neelgai, it will be difficult to formulate a policy for breeding Neelgai for meat purposes.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.89)

The Committee take a serious view of the fact that meat of veal is being exported despite Supreme Court's judgement to the effect that cattle below 14 years of age should not be slaughtered. The Committee desire that the Government should look into the matter to ensure that the Supreme Court's orders are implemented in letter and spirit.

Reply of the Government

Slaughter of animals is a State subject. Export of beef and veal from cattle is banned. Only buffalo meat and buffalo veal is permitted for export. The States have enacted their own Animal Preservation Acts and are implementing the same.

Recommendation (Para No. 3. 118)

The Committee have been informed during evidence that the Government have a scheme for setting up carcass utilisation centres. The Committee recommend that an incentive scheme should be started by the Government to encourage the private sector to utilise modern technologies for process the hide, bone and bone products of a number of animals that die in the country to boost export of these products.

Reply of the Government

The scheme on establishment of carcass and by-products utilisation centres and hide flaying units is being implemented for effective utilisation of fallen animals and other by-products. Under the scheme the State Governments can either establish the facilities themselves or partly or fully involve registered Associations/Societies/Corporations/Federations/Boards preferably of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Backward/Minorities Communities, for implementation/operation of the scheme for smooth functioning in public interest on merit. Thus the private sector is covered to a large extent. Collection of dead animals is a function of local bodies and the private sector also will need the support of the local bodies.

Recommendation (Para Nos. 3.119-3.120)

The Committee have been informed during evidence that the current practice under the Breeding Policy is to produce a bull of high quality by using exotic varieties to breed with a few descript varieties. The Committee note that according to the original Breeding Policy the real thrust was on cross-breeding between the exotic varieties and the non-descript indigenous varieties to produce high quality bulls and the present practice is a deviation from the original mandate.

The Committee are very much concerned that because of our greed to produce more milk in the shortest possible time, the emphasis has really shifted to cross breeding between exotic varieties and descript Indian varieties with the result the non-descript Indian varieties are in the process of extinction. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the original scheme of Breeding Policy of cross-breeding between exotic varieties with the non-descript Indian varieties should be given prime importance instead of being relegated to a position of secondary importance.

Reply of the Government

The policy regarding breeding of cattle has been to upgrade the germplasm of low producing cows with high quality bulls. The required bulls are in turn selected from amongst the recognised breeds or by mating exotic bulls of high quality with high yielding indigenous cows. The bulls/semen so produced are utilised to upgrade non-descript and low yielding Cows to produce off-springs with higher milk yielding potential. There has been no shift in the emphasis of this programme.

This Department follows the strategy of production of high yielding cross-breed cows by cross-breeding of low producing and non-descript cows with bulls/semen of exotic dairy breeds. The programmes taken up by this Department under Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are based on this strategy.

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Para Nos. 3.8-3.9)

The Committee observe that from the year 1992-93 to 1994-95, only 34.5% of the Eighth Plan outlay has been utilised in this sector relating to Veterinary Services and Animal Health. It may be seen that the Revised Estimate for 1994-95 is only 52.6% of the original Budget Estimate and even this Revised Estimate is less than the actual expenditure in the previous year 1993-94. The Committee fail to understand as to how it is proposed to spend Rs 35.05 crores on Plan side in 1995-96, while the pace of expenditure all along had been only of the order of around Rs. 18.53 crores on an average per year and with only two years of the Eighth Plan remaining. The Committee feel that the implementation of the Plan Schemes relating to Veterinary Services and animal health has been tardy in all the last three years and there appears to be a lack of will to implement the schemes vigorously. The Committee recommend that the basic causes for this tardy implementation should be quickly analysed and identified in order to take remedial measures so that the funds allotted for 1995-96 are fully utilised to achieve the Eighth Plan objective of developing adequate animal health services which is the basic requirement for protection of livestock. They also desire that the extent of budget allocation for animal health services should be enhanced at Revised Estimate stage and in the coming years, in view of the large livestock population.

The Committee warn the Government that in view of the susceptibility of the new cross-breed livestock to various diseases including exotic diseases, any lethargy in the implementation of the animal health care schemes may lead to morbidity and mortality of the livestock which will prove very costly to the nation and to the poor rural works force.

Reply of the Government

The Veterinary Services and Animal Health scheme of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has four components which deal with (a) strengthening of quarantine services and establishment of facilities for testing of livestock vaccines etc. (b) providing assistance to States for control of animal diseases (c) professional efficiency development and (d) rinderpest eradication programme.

The components assistance to States for control of animal diseases and rinderpest eradication programme are directly related to livestock control/eradication efforts. In the first component, the expenditure during the first three years has been Rs. 20.96 crores out of the budget provision of Rs. 22.38 crores (93%). In the rinderpest eradication programme, external aid component could not be fully availed of and, therefore, the utilisation percentage came down. However, the external aid component was primarily meant for procurement of diagnostic equipments and vehicles etc. The vaccination programme in the States where the disease still occurs and the buffer zones has not been adversely affected. EEC has now agreed to release the funds during 1995-96. In the professional efficiency development component, the expenditure during the first three years has been about 41 percent of the Eighth Plan outlay. The component dealing with strengthening of quarantine services and establishment of facilities for testing of livestock vaccines etc. is being reviewed as it was felt that some of the proposed activities could be taken up by existing institutions and the proposed additional staff could be reduced. The expenditure in this component during the three years been only about 8 percent of the Eighth Plan outlay.

The funds provided for control of animal diseases, as explained in the preceding paragraph, have been more or less fully utilised. The Government is making sincere efforts in controlling the diseases in livestock.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.16)

The Committee note that the National Project on Rinderpest Eradication is being implemented with the assistance of European Economic Community (EEC). The Committee have been informed that the Government is in the process of declaring 14 Northern States free from rinderpest and a major campaign has been started in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and parts of Maharashtra where the disease is known to exist. The Government expect that the disease would be eradicated during the next 24 months. However the Committee note that the expectation of the Government has not been matched by the efforts made by them, as the Government could utilise only Rs. 30.95 crores which is only 32.1 percent of the total Plan outlay of Rs. 96.13 crores in the first three years of the Eighth Plan (from 1992-93 to 1994-95). The reason given for the shortfall in expenditure is that the Donor Agency, namely EEC has not released funds during 1993-94 and 1994-95 on the ground that the Central Project Monitoring Unit is not fully staffed. The Committee are dismayed to note that the Government could not fill up the vacancies for two years continuously during 1993-94 and 1994-95 when the flow of funds was stopped by EEC. The Committee observe that it was due to complete lack of manpower planning on the part of the Government no advance action was taken in time to anticipate the vacancies and to fill them up. Because of lack of methodical planning and implementation, precious foreign assistance that

was forthcoming could not be put to use to save the lives of the poor speechless suffering cattle. The Committee do not understand as to how the rinderpest disease could be eradicated completely within 24 months as planned by the Government in view of their a Budget Estimate of Rs. 26.13 crores for 1995-96 as there is no certainty about the spending this money given the past track record. The Committee, therefore, recommend emergency recruitment to be restored to in the interest of availing the foreign assistance to save the lives of precious cattle. The Committee recommend further that all the vacancies should be filled up within a period of 3 months.

Reply of the Government

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying have initiated steps for filling up the posts of National Project Coordinator, Director Information and other posts sanctioned under the project. The EEC has agreed to open the budgetline and to release the funds during 1995-96. A Revised Estimate of Rs. 24.34 crores has been proposed for the project for the year 1995-96. This amount is expected to be fully utilised to supply equipments, vehicles, reagents etc to the States for sero-surveillance and sero-monitoring work. The vaccination programme in the States where the disease still occurs and the buffer zones has proceeded smoothly.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.20)

The Committee observe that the actual expenditure under the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in 1993-94 was Rs. 9.05 crores whereas the Revised Estimate for 1994-95 for this Centrally sponsored programme has been lowered to Rs. 8.00 crores only. The committee also note that there has been always shortfalls in physical achievements to the tune of 22 lakhs of vaccinations in 1992-93 and 1993-94. The Committee have been informed that the reasons for shortfall is that the State Governments have not been providing matching funds for this programme. The Committee note that the physical achievement is not proportionately higher in 1993-94 despite an expenditure which is twice that of the previous year 1992-93. The Committee desire that the Union Government should contemplate taking some steps to make the programme more attractive which may induce the State Governments to complete to provide matching assistance for the successful implementation of this programme. The Committee also expect the Government to ensure that the physical achievements are proportionate to the expenditure incurred.

Reply of the Government

As against the actual expenditure incurred, Rs. 4.45 crores in the year 1992-93, Rs. 9.05 crores in the year 1993-94 in respect of assistance

to States for control of animal diseases, the Budget Estimates for the year 1993-94 have been kept at Rs. 8.00 crores. Under this scheme there are three main components consisting:—

- (a) Control of Foot and Mouth Disease;
- (b) Systematic Control of Livestock Diseases of National Importance; and
- (c) Animal Disease Surveillance.

In the first component, assistance is being given to livestock owner belonging to the weaker sections of the society to undertake vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease. 25% of the cost of medicine is met by the Government of India, matching support is provided by the State Government and balance being met by the owner. Under this component, the budgetary provisions have been increased from Rs. 150 lakhs in 1992-93 to Rs. 220 lakhs in 1993-94 and further stepped up to Rs. 245 lakhs in the year 1994-95. The Department is making every effort to persuade the States to have a properly organised need based foot and mouth vaccination programme and to increase the States' corresponding budgetary allocations.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.97)

The Committee note that the Integrated Dairy Development Project Scheme for the Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas is meant for improving the social, nutritional and economic status of residents of comparatively more disadvantaged areas and for generating additional employment opportunities in those areas. Although the scheme was conceptualised at the time of formulation of Eighth Five Year Plan, the scheme could be made operational only during the later part of 1993-94. Due to this late start, only Rs. 35.81 crores which is 17.90% of the total Eighth Plan outlay of Rs. 200 crores has been spent on the scheme. Even with the present budget allocation of Rs. 25 crores for 1995-96 and a similar allocation for 1996-97, there is no hope of avoiding a huge shortfall of around Rs. 110 crores at the end of the Plan period. The Committee are very much concerned over the time taken to start the implementation of the scheme and desire that much higher budgetary allocations should be made atleast for 1996-97 if it could not be done during 1995-96 under exceptional circumstances. The Committee also expect that the entire budget allocation for 1995-96 is fully utilised. The Committee feel that the scheme has not been sufficiently popularised among the State Governments and they recommend that steps should be taken to persuade the State Governments especially those in the North East to come up with more proposals in the coming years with a view to improve the socio-economic and nutritional status of the people to these comparatively more disadvantaged areas.

Reply of the Government

As brought out before the Committee earlier, this Department had initiated advance action in November, 1991 by writing to the State Governments to prepare project proposals for consideration under this scheme. However, not many proposals were forthcoming in order to prepare a consolidated scheme and it was, therefore, decided in consultation with the Planning Commission to process proposals on a case to case basis. In the meanwhile efforts to obtain more proposals continued by writing D.O. letters to the concerned States in November, 1992, September, 1993 and again in December, 1994. In addition the matter was taken up with the State Governments during State Plan discussions in the Planning Commission impressing upon them to expedite project proposals. The response from the States improved resulting in the approval of 21 projects in 14 States with a total outlay of Rs. 85.29 crore upto March, 1995. Further proposals from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar and also additional proposals from the States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are at various stages of consideration and are likely to be approved during the year 1995-96.

This Department had sought an allocation of Rs. 50.00 crore during 1994-95 and Rs. 70.00 crore during 1995-96 for this scheme but because of over all resource constraints the outlays made available for the scheme were only Rs. 24.91 crore and Rs. 25.91 crore respectively.

As regards popularising the scheme particularly in the North Eastern States, it may be noted that already proposals have been approved for all the North-Eastern States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The entire State of Tripura is now covered under Integrated Dairy Development Project and as many as 10 districts in Assam have been brought under the ambit of this Central Sector Scheme.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.109)

The Committee note that in Delhi Milk Scheme a number of essential operational and technical posts at senior levels have been lying vacant for years together (some even from 1989), resulting in great strain on the management in maintaining the operation efficiency. The Committee find that there are direct inductions at senior levels on deputation basis to this organisation where procedural delays are found to occur whenever a deputationist reverts back to his parent cadre and a new incumbent is to be selected. The Committee wonder as to how the DMS is unable to build up its own cadre of officers within the organisation who could grow up to take up positions of higher responsibility although this organisation has been in existence since 1st November, 1959. The Committee feel that the recruitment rules to senior positions deserve a thorough revision so that officers within the organisation with long years of relevant practical

experience in running the organisation are made to form part of the feeder cadre to the higher positions of responsibility instead of depending on deputations. The Committee are of the view that such avenues of growth would ensure continuity and act as a great incentive to the officers within to serve with greater dedication and by developing a sense of identity with the organisation. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the recruitment rules in DMS to senior position of Manager grade and above should be thoroughly revised within a period of six months so that permanent arrangements are made to fill up the vacancies on long term basis with the available talent within the organisation and the system of deputations is done away with in view of the need to ensure continuity and to provide greater incentives to the staff.

Reply of the Government

The process of revision of recruitment rules has been under way for the past 3 years., The recruitment rules of 19 categories have been revised during this period. Recruitment rules of Deputy General Manager (Technical) and Shift Transport Engineer have also been revised recently. Action has been initiated for revising the recruitment rules of the remaining categories of posts.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.117)

The Committee note that there is shortfall in the creation of rural dairy processing capacity although from the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan period, although necessary funds have been spent as planned on the dairy development activities by NDDB. The Committee find that annual targets fixed for creating rural processing capacity have been lower than the annual target of 200 lakh liters per day fixed for the entire Eighth Plan and even these lower targets could not be achieved in full. The Committee feel that there is an urgent need to accelerate the pace of work in the matter and they recommend that the reasons for this shortfall should be analysed and special steps are taken to achieve the Eighth Plan target. The Committee also desire that the physical targets for 1995-96 should be revised upwards and the target for 1996-97 should be at least equal to the original target for the Eighth Plan if not higher.

Reply of the Government

Although there has been some shortfall in achieving the targets fixed for creating rural processing capacity in the past, several steps have been taken to accelerate the pace of work and it is expected that the target for the year 1995-96 would be achieved. The target for 1996-97 has been fixed at 205.75 lakh liters per day and this is higher than the original target of 200 lakh liters per day for the Eighth Plan.

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation (Para No. 3.44)

The Committee note that during the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan, an expenditure of Rs. 10.88 crores only which is 31.3% of the total plan outlay of Rs. 34.75 crores has been incurred towards Poultry Development. The Committee note that huge funds were earmarked for setting up the National Poultry Development Board and the funds remained unutilised for years together, as the government could not muster enough efforts for setting up the Board. The Committee view such practices seriously as huge funds are locked up while many developmental projects suffer due to resource crunch. The Programme to set up the Board remains a Chronic non-starter ever since 1992-93 and this speaks volumes of the lethargic manner and lack of will on the part of the governmental machinery. The Committee recommend that the National Poultry Development Board should be constituted within three months without any further delay, as poultry development provides additional income and job opportunities to a large number of women, unemployed youth and other persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society. The Committee desire that in this year the whole of the budget estimate of Rs. 2.60 crores should be completely utilised and higher allocations earmarked in the budget estimates for 1996-97 with a view to make up for the shortfalls in the previous years.

Reply of the Government

Of the total of Rs. 34.75 crores Rs. 15 crores is for Central Poultry Development Organisation and the details of this are given under item 3.45. The balance of Rs. 19.75 crore is for National Poultry Development Board. Though the proposal was approved by Departmental Committee as early as on 8th June, 1993, the Ministry of Finance desired that since the matter involves a policy issue it may be got approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). A Draft Cabinet Note was accordingly prepared. It was decided to ascertain the views of all State Governments/UTs in the matter before sending the note to the CCEA. Now we have received comments from all the States/UTs except Nagaland and the NCT of Delhi. While we have reminded these States/NCT of Delhi for their views, the draft note for CCEA has been revised and is being put up for approval. The amount proposed is expected to be utilised in full once the Board, is formed. Pending the formation of the Board it is proposed to take up a scheme for setting up poultry complexes on pilot basis initially in the six States during 1995-96 with an outlay of Rs. 3.50 crores.

There are 99 pig breeding farms with State Governments to which assistance from the scheme can be made available. However, there is a ceiling of Rs. 15 lakhs for each farm which is divided into various components. So far State Governments have come forward with proposals seeking assistance in respect of 58 farms out of the total 99 farms. Further, even these proposals have not always been for all components uniformly as per the scheme. For these two reasons i.e. (i) not all farms have come forward for assistance; and (ii) those which have sought assistance have not asked for assistance for all components, the expenditure incurred under the scheme has been below expectation. Special efforts were made to persuade the States to come forward and avail of assistance under the scheme but the response has not been upto the mark. The Department has now approached the Planning Commission to increase the ceiling from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 32 lakhs in respect of different components based on the demand from States. If this ceiling is removed, expenditure will increase.

As desired by the Committee the performance budget document for 1995-96 will contain details about total number of pigs imported and the number of persons trained in the previous years and also the details of targets fixed for the coming years.

Regarding special allocation to North-Eastern States, it may be stated that an amount of Rs. 142.45 lakhs has been released till 1994-95 to 20 farms in these States which is 31.57% of the total release to 58 farms in the country. Thus, it will be seen that North Eastern States have been getting proportionately higher releases.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.72)

The Committee note that insufficient availability of high quality stock and lack of training to the producers are the constraints in pig farming in the country. The Committee also note that pig rearing has a special significance for the North Eastern States where pig meat is the staple food. The Committee observe that after allocating Rs. 2.00 crores during 1995-96, still Rs. 3.10 crores of the total plan outlay remains. The Committee, therefore, find no justification in denying higher allocation to this activity and avidly hope that much higher allocations would be made available atleast in 1996-97, if it is not possible to make it in 1995-96. The Committee recommend that the Performance Budget document should contain details about the total number of exotic piglets imported and the total number of persons trained in the previous year and also details of targets fixed for the coming years on these aspects, so that the Committee could properly appreciate the financial requirements for these activities. The Committee also recommend that specific emphasis should be given to increase the import of exotic piglets and to increase the extent of training imparted in the North Eastern States on pig farming.

Reply of the Government

Regarding availability of high quality stock it may be stated that under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development" there is a component for the procurement of exotic pigs through imports and inter-farm exchange. There is also a component for training facilities to producers. States are being persuaded to make use of these components.

Recommendation, (Para No. 3.87)

The Committee note that Budget allocations have been made for meat processing both by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The activities for which financial requirements have been projected in both the cases are mainly for enabling higher export of meat products after due processing. The Committee find that there is duplication in the activities undertaken by both the governmental organizations they, therefore, feel that all these activities should be undertaken by one organization instead of by two. The Committee recommend that the Department of Animal Husbandry should transfer all activities relating to meat processing to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries so that there is no duplication of efforts and unnecessary establishment expenditure in having two separate administrative machineries for doing the same work is avoided in the interest of economy.

Reply of the Government

The Department has taken up two Schemes, namely:—

- a) Development of Technology and Infrastructure for Export Oriented Livestock Products Units; and
- b) Assistance to States for modernization/improvement of abattoir houses, Carcass and By-products Utilization Centres.

While the second Scheme is ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the first one has been introduced in the Eighth Plan. The issue of avoiding duplication in the work relating to establishment of modern abattoir houses between the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been discussed with the Planning Commission. The matter has been carefully considered in the Ministry of Agriculture and it has been decided to implement the Scheme during the Eighth Plan. At the time of the formulation of the Ninth Plan a single Department/Ministry implementing the Scheme will be finalized.

NEW DELHI;
20th December, 1995
29th Agrahayana, 1917 (Saka)

NITISH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE 92ND SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER,
1995 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'B' GROUND FLOOR, PARLIAMENT
HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.

The Committee sat from 1530 hrs. to 1640 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Nitish Kumar — Chairman

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Ankushrao Raosaheb Tope
3. Shri Sarat Pattnayak
4. Shri Govindrao Nikam
5. Kumari Pushpa Devi Singh
6. Shri Tara Singh
7. Shri Rudrasen Chaudhary
8. Shri Parshuram Gangwar
9. Dr. Gunawant Rambhau Sarode
10. Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary
11. Shri Zainal Abedin
12. Shri Upendra Nath Verma
13. Shri Anantrao Deshmukh

Rajya Sabha

14. Dr. Bapu Kaldate
15. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann
16. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
17. Shri Som Pal

At the outset Chairman (AC) welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and requested them to take up the adoption of the Draft Report on the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Repeat Bill, 1995

and the Draft Action Taken Reports on the Demands for Grants 1995-96 in respect of the Department of Agricultural Research & Education, the Department of animal Husbandry and Dairying and the Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The Draft Reports were considered one by one and adopted without modifications. The Members of the Committee, thereafter, authorised the Chairman to present the Report on the Rice-Milling Industry (Regulation) Repeal Bill, 1995 and the Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants 1995-96 in respect of Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education), Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying) and Ministry of Water Resources to the House on a date convenient to him.

The Committee decided that the next Committee for the year 1996-97 may consider and take up "Breeding Policy" as a separate subject for study and report.

The meeting then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

(Vide Introduction of the Report)

Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the 21st Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture (10th Lok Sabha)

| | | |
|------|---|-------|
| I. | Total number of Recommendations | 26 |
| II. | Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government (Para Nos. 3.3, 3.34, 3.35, 3.45, 3.61, 3.62 & 3.63, 3.64, 3.65, 3.84, 3.98, 3.104, 3.105 & 3.121) | |
| | Total | 12 |
| | Percentage | 46.15 |
| III. | Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (Para No. 3.66, 3.88, 3.89, 3.118, 3.119 & 3.120) | |
| | Total | 5 |
| | Percentage | 19.23 |
| IV. | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee (Para No. 3.8 & 3.9, 3.16, 3.20, 3.97, 3.109, 3.117) | |
| | Total | 6 |
| | Percentage | 23.07 |
| V. | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies are still awaited Para Nos. 3.44, 3.72, 3.87 | |
| | Total | 3 |
| | Percentage | 11.53 |