

37

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

TENTH LOK SABHA

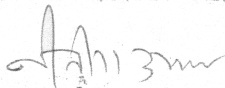
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPTT. OF AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION)**

KHESARI DAL

*[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/
observations contained in the Thirteenth Report of the
Standing Committee on Agriculture (1994-95) (Tenth Lok Sabha)]*

THIRTY SEVENTH REPORT

AUTHENTICATED



**NITISH KUMAR
CHAIRMAN**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 1996/Magha 1917 (Saka)

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THIRTY SEVENTH REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
(1995-96)

(TENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPTT. OF AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION)

KHESARI DAL

*[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations
contained in the Thirteenth Report of the Standing
Committee on Agriculture (1994-95)
(Tenth Lok Sabha)]*

Presented to Lok Sabha on — 1996
Laid in Rajya Sabha on — 1996



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

February, 1996/Magha, 1917 (Saka)

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE.....	(iii)
COMPOSITION OF SUB-COMMITTEE 'A'	(v)
INTRODUCTION.....	(vii)
CHAPTER I Report	1
CHAPTER II Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government.....	4
CHAPTER III Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies	5
CHAPTER IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee	6
CHAPTER V Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited	8
APPENDICES	
I. Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 2.2.1996	10
II. Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thir- teenth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Tenth Lok Sabha).....	12

**COMPOSITION OF THE 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 Nikam
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 Bharati
17. Shri Rudrasen Chaudhary
18. Shri Ganga Ram Koli
19. Dr. Gunawant 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
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 Maheswar Singh
- 42. Dr. Ranveer Singh
- 43. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
- 44. Shri Som Pal

SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Smt. Roli Srivastava | — <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri P.D.T. Achary | — <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri S. Bal Shekar | — <i>Under Secretary</i> |

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

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

COMPOSITION OF SUB-COMMITTEE 'A'

1. Shri Som Pal —*Convenor*
2. Shri Zainal Abedin —*Alternate Convenor*
3. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami
4. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann
5. Dr. Ranveer Singh
6. Smt. Krishnendra Kaur 'Deepa'
7. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
8. Shri Uttamrao Deorao Patil
9. Shri D. Pandian

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) having been authorised by the Committee to submit Report on their behalf, present this 37th Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture 1994-95 (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Khesari Dal relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation).

2. The Thirteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Khesari Dal relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation) was presented to Lok Sabha on 14th February, 1995. The Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation) was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report by August 1995. 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 in its sitting held on 2nd February, 1996 and approved the draft comments and adopted the 37th Report.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 13th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix II.

NEW DELHI;
2nd February, 1996
13 Magha, 1917 (Saka)

NITISH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their Thirteenth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Khesari Dal, Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation). The Thirteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 14th February, 1995. It contained 4 recommendations/observations. Action taken notes have been received in respect of all the recommendations/observations. These have been categorised as follows:—

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

Recommendation Serial No. 2

Total 1

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

Nil

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

Recommendation Serial No. 1

Total 1

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

Recommendation Serial Nos. 3 & 4

Total 2

1.3 The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of the Recommendations/Observations.

Recommendation Serial No. 1, Paragraph No. 1

1.4 The Committee, however, feel that study by one institute, howsoever independent it may be, is not adequate in view of the fact that such studies which have been undertaken by individual agencies in the past, have not led to their findings being accepted by all. Since a serious health hazard to the public is involved, a serious approach is urgently called for. Keeping in view that the interest of the farmers may not be jeopardized any longer, the Committee recommend that a high powered Committee comprising representatives of ICAR, Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Governments of major Khesari Dal growing States and National Institute of Nutrition

should be set up within one month to undertake a scientific study using all the technological expertise available at present to decide whether consumption of Khesari Dal causes lathyrism with the mandate to complete the study within 6 months. The ICAR should be asked to take the lead and coordinate the study.

1.5 The Government in their reply have stated as under:

A high powered Committee with the following members has been set up as approved by the Union Agriculture Minister with Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education-cum-D.G., ICAR as its Chairman.

Secretary, Agriculture, New Delhi.

Secretary, Health, New Delhi.

Secretary, Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

Secretary, Agriculture, Maharashtra, Bombay.

Secretary, Agriculture, Orissa, Bhubaneswar.

Secretary, Agriculture, West Bengal, Calcutta.

Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.

Director, General, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi.

Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Dr. Kothari, President, Academy of Nutrition Improvement, Nagpur.

Director, Industrial Toxicological Research Centre, Lucknow.

Director, Pulses Research Institute, Kanpur.

Director of Research, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, West Bengal.

Director of Research, OUAT, Orissa.

Director of Research, IGKV, Madhya Pradesh.

Director General, Maharashtra Council of Agricultural Research, Pune.

Dy. Director General (Crop Science), ICAR

1.6 The above information has been sent to Lok Sabha Secretariat vide D.O.No. 2-28/94-Pul/TMOP dated 17-5-95. The first meeting of the High Power Committee was held on 31-5-1995 and a copy of the proceedings had been sent to Lok Sabha Secretariat vide D.O.No. 2-28/94-Pul/TMOP(KB) dated 21-7-1995.

1.7 As per recommendation of the High Power Committee, a study has been assigned to Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), in collaboration with Industrial Toxicological Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow to establish the relationship between the consumption of Khesari Dal and incidence of lathyrism. Further, the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, has also assigned a study to Industrial Toxicological Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow to establish the exact relationship between consumption of Khesari Dal and the incidence of Lathyrism.

1.8 The results of these studies will be available in a period of about 3-4 years as indicated by ICAR.

1.9 The Committee note that the study has not been completed within 6 months as stipulated in the recommendation. They find that the results of the studies would be available in about 3-4 years. The Committee are disappointed to note that no early solution could be found out by the High Power Committee within the stipulated six months period. The Committee would like to know the detailed reasons explaining as to how it would take such a long period of 3 to 4 years to complete the study on the impact of consumption of Khesari Dal. They desire that efforts should be made to find out ways and methods by which the time could be cut-short so that an expeditious solution to this vexed problem could be in sight soon. The Committee again wish to impress upon the government the urgency involved in the matter in view of the implications of the consumption of Khesari Dal on the health of the poor masses and hope that the studies would be expedited by fixing a tight and short time-schedule.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation Serial No. 2, Paragraph No. 2

2.1 The Committee find that the ban on the sale of Khesari Dal was imposed in 1961 under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 on the ground that its consumption is associated with the disease 'Lathyrism' causing crippling paralysis. The Committee note that the major Khesari Dal growing States of West Bengal, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have not imposed ban on its sale. The Committee note that no ban has been imposed on its cultivation all over the country, as it is not feasible to implement the ban. As a result, Khesari Dal continues to be cultivated and consumed. The Committee are, therefore, of the opinion that the purpose of containing health hazard has not, in any way, been served by the partial ban on Khesari Dal. The Committee feel that lifting of ban on the sale of Khesari Dal at this juncture would be premature as it has not been conclusively proved that consumption of Khesari Dal does not lead to lathyrism. The ban on sale was imposed hoping that once the sale is banned, the farmers would feel discouraged to cultivate it. This has not happened. The Committee feel that the ban should continue till it is conclusively proved that consumption of Khesari Dal does not lead to the outbreak or lathyrism.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The ban is continuing.

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

—NIL—

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation Serial No. 1, Paragraph No. 1

4.1 The Committee, however, feel that study by one institute, howsoever independent it may be, is not adequate in view of the fact that such studies which have been undertaken by individual agencies in the past, have not led to their findings being accepted by all. Since a serious health hazard to the public is involved, a serious approach is urgently called for. Keeping in view that the interest of the farmers may not be jeopardized any longer, the Committee recommend that a high powered Committee comprising representatives of ICAR, Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Governments of major Khesari Dal growing States and National Institute of Nutrition should be set up within one month to undertake a scientific study using all the technological expertise available at present to decide whether consumption of Khesari Dal causes lathyrism with the mandate to complete the study within 6 months. The ICAR should be asked to take the lead and coordinate the study.

Reply of the Government

4.2 A high powered Committee with the following members has been set up as approved by the Union Agriculture Minister with Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education-cum-D.G., ICAR as its Chairman.

Secretary, Agriculture, New Delhi.

Secretary, Health, New Delhi.

Secretary, Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

Secretary, Agriculture, Maharashtra, Bombay.

Secretary, Agriculture, Orissa, Bhubaneshwar.

Secretary, Agriculture, West Bengal, Calcutta.

Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.

Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi

Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Dr. Kothari, President, Academy of Nutrition Improvement, Nagpur.

Director, Industrial Toxicological Research Centre, Lucknow.

Director, Pulses Research Institute, Kanpur.

Director of Research, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya,
West Bengal.

Director of Research, OUAT, Orissa.

Director of Research, IGKV, Madhya Pradesh.

Director General, Maharashtra Council of Agricultural Research, Pune.

Dy. Director General (Crop Science), ICAR

4.3 The above information has been sent to Lok Sabha Secretariat vide D.O. No. 2-28/94—Pul/TMOP dated 17.5.95. The First meeting of the High Power Committee was held on 31.5.1995 and a copy of the proceedings had been sent to Lok Sabha Secretariat vide D.O. No. 2-28/94—Pul/TMOP(KB) dated 21.7.1995.

4.4 As per recommendation of the High Power Committee, a study has been assigned to Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), in collaboration with Industrial Toxicological Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow to establish the relationship between the consumption of Khesari Dal and incidence of lathyrism. Further, the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, has also assigned a study to Industrial Toxicological Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow to establish the exact relationship between consumption of Khesari Dal and the incidence of Lathyrism.

4.5 The result of these studies will be available in a period of about 3-4 years as indicated by ICAR.

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation Serial No. 3, Paragraph No.3

§E 5.1 An important point brought to the attention of the Committee is that there are some tested methods to remove the toxicity of Khesari Dal, before its consumption. Although the claim about the percentage of toxicity that can be removed through these methods, varies, the Committee feel that these methods should be popularised. It is admitted that Khesari Dal contains about 28% protein which is the highest among pulses. If, therefore, the toxicity could be removed or neutralized, it would be a good and cheap source of protein for the impoverished people. The Committee note that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have brought out some pamphlets outlining the methods of removing the toxic content in Khesari Dal. The Committee recommend that a vigorous publicity campaign should be undertaken both by the Central and State Governments to popularise these methods by drawing out specific publicity programmes and by allocating sufficient funds for it on priority basis. The Committee also recommend that the Government should consider seriously the question of making these processing methods compulsory before the consumption of Khesari Dal mandatory in the interest of the health of the people and bring out a legislation in this regard.

Reply of the Government

5.2. The matter is being pursued with the Ministry of Health and Family welfare. The detailed action taken report will be submitted separately.

Comments of the Committee

5.3 The Committee are disappointed to note that no specific reply has come forth from the Ministry of Health even after almost an year after the report has been presented. The Committee do not approve of this laxity in processing an important recommendation of the Committee which relates to the removal of toxicity of Khesari Dal and made it worthy of human consumption and desire positive implementation of the recommendations forthwith.

Recommendation Serial No. 4, Paragraph No. 4.

5.4 The Committee note that the Government have been making efforts to develop varieties of Khesari Dal with very low content of BOAA. They also note that in 1972 one variety known as Nirmal was notified and released for cultivation in West Bengal and thereafter no other variety

could be developed successfully for cultivation in other parts of the country. No details are available with regard to the cultivation of Nirmal, its acceptance by the farmers, the toxic content, its impact on the consuming public etc. The Committee note that even after a lapse of 22 years as after 1972 the research efforts have not yielded any fruitful results in the matter. The Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons as to why the research efforts could not bear fruit. The Committee desire that the Government should speed up the research activities with sufficient funding in order to develop a low toxic variety of Khesari Dal which could be cultivated all over the country. The Committee also recommend that a suitable strategy should be evolved whereby the farmers could be encouraged to take up cultivation of alternate crops in place of Khesari Dal.

Reply of the Government

5.5 The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are working on developing the low toxin varieties which would be safe for human consumption. The results of these studies will take about 3-4 year's time. However, as recommended by the Standing Committee the matter is being looked after by ICAR. The matter is being pursued and a separate report will be submitted in due course of time. The cultivation of alternate crops like lentil, gram, peas, linseed and safflower is being encouraged.

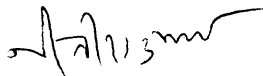
Comments of the Committee

5.6 The Committee desire that the new low toxin varieties of Khesari Dal should be developed by ICAR expeditiously without taking a long time. They also desire that the new varieties should be such that they could be grown in adverse low moisture conditions and they should also be disease-resistant.

NEW DELHI;
2nd February, 1996
13 Magha, 1917 (Saka)

NITISH KUMAR
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

AUTHENTICATED



NITISH KUMAR
CHAIRMAN
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGR.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE NINETY FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON FRIDAY, THE 2ND FEBRUARY, 1996 AT 1100 HRS. IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'B', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Nitish Kumar — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri D. Pandian
3. Shri Birbal
4. Shri G. Ganga Reddy
5. Shri Ankushrao Raosaheb Tope
6. Shri Govindrao Nikam
7. Shri Tara Singh
8. Shri Anantrao Deshmukh
9. Shri Uttamrao Deorao Patil
10. Shri Rajvir Singh
11. Shri Rudrasen Chaudhary
12. Dr. Parshuram Gangwar
13. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma
14. Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary
15. Dr. R.K.G. Rajulu
16. Shri Upendra Nath Verma

Rajya Sabha

17. Shri Govindrao Adik
18. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami
19. Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal
20. Dr. Bapu Kaldate
21. Shri K.N Singh
22. Shri Maheshwar Singh

- 23. Dr. Ranveer Singh
- 24. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
- 25. Shri Som Pal

SECRETARIAT

- 25. Shri P.D.T. Achary — *Director*
- 2. Shri S. Bal Shekar — *Under Secretary*

**

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The Draft Action Taken Report on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 13th Report on Khesari Dal was considered and adopted by the Committee without any change. The Members of the Committee, thereafter, authorised the Chairman to present the Action Taken Report to the House on a date convenient to him.

The Meeting then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

(Vide Para 4 of the Introduction to the Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE THIRTEENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (10TH LOK SABHA)

I.	Total number of Recommendations	4
II.	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government: (Serial No. 2)	Total 1
	Percentage	25%
III.	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies:	Total 0
	NIL	
	Percentage	0%
IV.	Recommendations/observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee:	Total 1
	(Sl. No. 1)	
	Percentage	25%
V.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited:	Total 2
	(Sl Nos. 3 & 4)	
	Percentage	50%