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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(1998-99)**

**TWELFTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT  
(DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT)**

**NINTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*July, 1998/Shravana, 1920 (Saka)*

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Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development  
(1998-99)  
Corrigenda to Ninth Report (12th Lok Sabha)

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# NINTH REPORT

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (1998-99)

(TWELFTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT  
(DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT)

*[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the  
Third Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development  
(1996-97) (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 1996-97  
of the Department of Wastelands Development]*

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 29th July, 1998  
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 29th July, 1998*



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

*July, 1998/Shravana, 1920 (Saka)*

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (1998-99)

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45. Shri Suryabhan Patil Vahadane

SECRETARIAT

- |                           |   |                             |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri G.C. Malhotra     | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri S.C. Rastogi      | — | <i>Director</i>             |
| 3. Shrimati Sudesh Luthra | — | <i>Under Secretary</i>      |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (1998-99) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Ninth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Department of Wastelands Development of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment.

2. The Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 29th August, 1996. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 24th January, 1997.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 23rd July, 1998.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of the Committee (Eleventh Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix II.

NEW DELHI;  
July 28, 1998  
*Shravana 06, 1920 (Saka)*

KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN,  
*Chairman,*  
*Standing Committee on*  
*Urban and Rural Development.*



## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

This report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (1998-99) deals with the action taken by the Government on recommendations contained in their third report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Department of Wastelands Development of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment which was presented to Lok Sabha on 29th August, 1996.

2. Action taken notes have been received from Government in respect of all the 15 recommendations which have been categorised as follows:—

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

Para Nos. 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, 5.14 & 5.15.

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue:

Para No. 5.10

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

Para Nos. 5.3, 5.5 & 5.9

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

Para No. Nil

3. The Committee will now deal with action taken by Government on some of the recommendations.

## A. Full utilisation of allocated funds

### Recommendation No. 5.3

4. The Committee had observed that not only the allocation during the 8th Plan was meagre, but Department could not utilise the little funds allocated and there was underspending of Rs. 4.18 crores during 1994-95 and Rs. 3.60 crores during 1996-97. They would like an explanation of the Department in this regard. It was strongly recommended that the funds allocated for the specific schemes should be utilised fully and Department should take the necessary steps in this regard.

5. The Ministry in their reply have stated that the unspent balance for 1993-94 to 1995-96 is as follows:—

Year	Rs. in crores
1993-94	3.80
1994-95	4.18
1995-96	3.60

It has further been clarified that this amount was utilised under the schemes of the Department by re-appropriation. During the year 1992-93, there was no unspent balance. During 1993-94, out of Rs. 3.80 crores, Rs. 3.64 crores was utilised through re-appropriation and only Rs. 0.16 crores was surrendered. Similarly, in the year 1994-95 out of total unspent amount of Rs. 4.18 crores, Rs. 3.92 crores were re-appropriated and Rs. 0.26 crores was surrendered. Lastly, during 1995-96, out of Rs. 3.60 crores of unspent balance, an amount of Rs. 1.99 crores was re-appropriated and Rs. 1.61 crores were surrendered.

The Government have also stated that they have noted the recommendations of the Committee and efforts in future would be made to utilise the funds as per allocation under various schemes of the Department.

6. The Committee note that even the meagre outlay earmarked during the 8th Plan for different projects launched for development of wastelands in the country could not be spent fully. They regret

to note that the Government have justified the underspending by explaining that the unspent funds were re-appropriated/surrendered. The Committee will like to know whether such reappropriation was permissible under the relevant guidelines issued by the Government. In case such reappropriation is permissible under the guidelines the same should be suitably revised to ensure that in no case funds earmarked for a specific scheme are diverted to meet other purposes.

## **B. Chalk out an action plan to develop wastelands**

### **Recommendation No. 5.5**

7. The Committee observed that so far the Department had not chalked out an action plan to develop the total wastelands in the country within a reasonable time period say 10 to 15 years. It had been stated that the High Level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia considered these issues and its report was presented to the Department on 8th December 1995 and was under consideration of the Government. The Committee observed that more than 8 months had elapsed since the report of Mohan Dharia Committee was presented to the Department and till date no concrete action was taken on its recommendations. They urged that they should be apprised about the recommendations of said Committee with specific reference to the observations of the Committee in their 7th, 16th & 23rd reports with regard to the development of wastelands. They also liked that while formulating the strategy for Ninth Plan, the Department should consider the recommendations of the Committee to chalk out an action plan and substantial funds should be allocated with a view to develop wastelands in not more than 10-15 years.

8. The Government in their action taken replies have stated that the High Level Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia submitted its Report on 8.12.95 to the then Prime Minister, which contained various recommendations for consideration and implementation by various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and the State Governments. It has also been stated that the matter is under consideration.

9. The Committee are not happy with the way the Government have treated the considered recommendations made by the High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia.

**The report of the Committee though presented on 8.12.1995 is still reported to be under consideration of the Government.**

**The Committee hope that the Government would give due importance to the recommendations made by Mohan Dharia Committee and expedite a decision thereon.**

### **C. Re-structuring of the schemes**

#### **Recommendation No. 5.9**

10. The Committee noted that in two of the schemes (i) Support to NGOs/VAs and (ii) Investment Promotional Scheme, the performance, both physical and financial is very poor. Under Scheme at (i), the financial achievement is reported only 7% whereas in scheme at (ii) above, the utilisation is only 27%. The physical achievement in the (ii) scheme has been given just 14%. They in their 16th report had recommended to restructure the schemes. They had stated that with regard to Wastelands Development Task Force, and Investment Promotional Scheme the issue of restructuring was considered by the working Group on Wastelands Development for Ninth Five Year Plan and that they had recommended to discontinue both -of the scheme. Further, it had been stated that after indepth consultation with NABARD, commercial Banks and Corporate sector, DoWD should come up with fresh policy incentives for establishing a farmer and industry nexus. The Committee note with constraint that on the recommendation of the Committee to restructure the schemes the Department has taken the decision to discontinue the schemes. They noted that the schemes have been started with the laudable objectives and would like that while formulating strategy for Ninth Five Year Plan, the Department should reconsider and review the schemes. The schemes should be continued in the Ninth Five Year Plan after restructuring the same.

11. The Government in their action taken notes have stated that in the light of the recommendations of the Committee, necessary efforts had been made by the Department to restructure the Investment Promotional Scheme and formulate policy initiatives for establishing the farmers and industrialists nexus. A token provision of Rs. 1.00 crore and Rs. 1.5 crore had been proposed for 1997-98 towards committed liabilities for Investment Promotional Scheme and Wastelands Development Task Force respectively.

It has further been submitted that the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance have enlisted these two schemes namely (i) Investment Promotional Scheme and (ii) Wastelands Development Task Force to be weeded out during Ninth Five year Plan period.

**12. The Committee have been stressing again and again that the (i) Investment Promotional Scheme and (ii) Support to NGOs/VAs Scheme should be restructured so that these schemes could achieve the objectives for which these were launched. They note that the Department while stating that they made efforts to restructure these schemes and have made token provisions for these schemes during 1997-98 have stated that the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) have enlisted these two schemes for weeding out during Ninth Five Year Plan period. The Committee would like to be informed of the reasons due to which the Ministry of Finance propose to weed out these schemes during Ninth Five Year Plan period.**

## CHAPTER II

### RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

#### Recommendation Para No. 5.1

The Committee are at a loss to understand that Government have not so far been able to prepare the official data with regard to total wastelands in the country. They note that the initiative has been taken by NWDB in 1986 and mapping of only 146 districts in the country has been completed so far. The Committee note with constraint that Government could not complete the task of mapping even after passing a decade. The Committee would like the Government to ascertain the correct information in regard to wastelands in the country in order to fix the future priorities and the targets.

#### Reply of the Government

The National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) on the basis of the Satellite Imageries has reported 35.65 million hectares of wastelands in 241 districts where the District Level Mapping has been completed. This constitutes 17.49% of the total geographical area. For the remaining districts *i.e.* 200 plus, a National Workshop on application of Remote Sensing and GIS Techniques was held on 14th & 15th June, 1996 at Hyderabad and on the basis of the recommendations of this Workshop, the Department of Wastelands Development has decided to complete the district level mapping through NRSA using IRS-1C satellite imageries and the work is proposed to be taken up shortly. NRSA is likely to complete the work relating to the remaining districts by the end of 1997-98 and thereafter a database on wastelands is likely to be made available.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.)  
dated 24th January, 1997]

#### Recommendation Para No. 5.2

The Committee note that the approved outlay by the Planning Commission is far less than the proposed outlay by the Department for development of wastelands. Out of the proposed outlay of

Rs. 1137 crores, the allocation was Rs. 254.90 crores *i.e.* about 1/5th of the proposed outlay. The Standing Committee in their 16th report had recommended for the reasonable enhancement of allocation. However, there was no enhancement in the outlay during 1995-96. Further BE of 1996-97 has also been pegged at BE of 1995-96. Of equal concern is the achievement under different schemes by the Department. Since the inception of the Department of Wastelands Development around 2 lakh hectares of wastelands could be developed (the figure includes the target for 1996-97) whereas the total wastelands has been estimated upto 187 million acres. The Committee note with concern that with the meagre allocation of funds and with the existing pace of development that the task of wastelands development may take a century or so. They would like to recommend that Government should enhance the allocation of funds substantially during the year 1996-97. Further, while planning for Ninth Five Year Plan, Government should reconsider the financial allocation to this Department in view of the severity and magnitude of vast wastelands developments.

#### Reply of the Government

The Department of Wastelands Development was set up in July, 1992 at the stage when the programmes of various Central Ministries/ Departments including State Governments for 8th Five Year Plan were already finalised. In view of the severity and magnitude of vast wastelands in the country, higher outlay of Rs. 1137 crores (total outlay proposed under all the Budget Heads of the Department was Rs. 1165 crores) for the 8th Plan Period. The Planning Commission has so far not finalised the 8th Plan outlay for this Department and allocation is being made only on Annual Plan basis. The Department has been insisting for higher allocation to the Planning Commission. During Plan discussions the need to enhance the outlay was appreciated but inability to do so was expressed due to resource crunch. The outlay proposed by the Department of Wastelands Development, after its formation in July 1992 and approved by the Planning Commission is as follows:

Year	Proposed outlay	Approved outlay
1	2	3
1992-93	—	24.90*
1993-94	190.00	50.00

1	2	3
1994-95	254.50	60.00
1995-96	200.22	60.00
1996-97	200.00	60.00

\*Allocated from the budget of Env. & Forests.

The above recommendations of the Committee have been kept in view while finalising the Ninth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 1997-98.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.4)**

It is found by the Committee that the Department does not have data regarding State-wise allocation and utilisation. When asked about it, the Deptt. has merely stated that the allocation is made project-wise. The Committee note with constraint the attitude of the Deptt. towards the implementation of Schemes. The Department does not maintain the data State-wise. It is recommended that Department should procure the realistic data regarding the magnitude of wastelands in respective States so that proper planning could be made and funds could be sanctioned based on the severity of wastelands of that State.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Under the schemes of the Department, area specific project proposals received from the District Rural Development Agency/Zilla Parishads/State Governments are sanctioned on project to project basis after detailed examination in the Department. The detailed information of each sanctioned project regarding project period, total project cost, funds released on year-to-year basis, utilisation and project area to be treated are maintained State-wise to ensure proper planning and monitoring. However, the observations of the Committee have been noted and in future efforts would be made to sanction the projects



keeping in view the severity and magnitude of the wastelands in the various States.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

**Recommendation (Para No. 5.6)**

The Committee note that the performance of various schemes launched by the Department is not quite satisfactory. Under Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme during 1995-96, more than 100% utilisation of funds has been reported whereas the physical achievement is around 66%. The Committee would like the explanation of the Government in this regard. They would also like that financial allocation under this scheme should be stepped up since IWDP is the biggest scheme of the Department.

**Reply of the Government**

Under Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme, regarding the release of funds during 1995-96, it is submitted that funds are released throughout the year and bulk of release takes place in the later part of the financial year, as the progress of work implementation picks up during rainy season. Consequently, all the progress report showing substantial progress and target achievement comes in the later part of the year. Correspondingly the bulk of the funds are released in the later part of the financial year and the targets are achieved after the monsoon period, the targets of 1995-96 have been achieved by now.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

**Recommendation (Para No. 5.7)**

The Committee note that in the Performance Budget 1996-97, the detailed performance of various schemes has not been given. In the schemes of Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies, there is no mention about the performance of NGOs to whom the grant has been given. Similarly, in Investment Promotional Scheme, there is no mention about the performance of the Scheme by way of attracting, mobilising

resources from financial institutions, banks, corporate bodies. The Committee would like that Performance Budget should indicate clearly the performance of each of the scheme in detail.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.8)**

Further it is found that as per the statement at page No. 101 BE 1996-97, under Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies has been mentioned as Rs. 3.00 crores whereas on page No. 107 the amount has been mentioned as 3.50 crores. The Committee note this error with constraint and would like that the Department should ensure about the correctness of data given in the performance budget or any other written material furnished to the Committee.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Financial target shown as Rs. 3.00 crores for the year 1996-97 under Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies on page-101 of the PERFORMANCE BUDGET OF MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT 1996-97 in English version is a printing mistake. In Hindi version of the same on page-81, the amount has been correctly shown as Rs. 3.50 crores. The mistake is regretted.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.11)**

The Committee feel that in the existing stringency of funds as compared to the magnitude of the task of development of wastelands, the Government should evolve mechanism to attract private agencies for this task. To achieve this purpose the Committee urge that a Public

awareness programme should be launched. Further, they would like that viability of involving private agencies in this task should be examined and Committee should be apprised of this.

### **Reply of the Government**

Most of the schemes of the Department involve participation of masses and in order to involve them in a big way, the Department has initiated the following activities:

- Publication of literature on wastelands development, important activities of the Department, Technology Bulletins, Pamphlets etc.
- Making short duration films on the on-going projects for telecast through Doordarshan.
- Organising training for NGOs/farmers, coordinators and field level workers.
- Institution of a national award, Rajiv Gandhi Parti Bhoomi Mitra Award with the objective of according recognition to the outstanding work done by individual and institutions for development of non-forest wastelands.
- Holding of training programmes on different schemes of the Department.
- Arranging Seminars/Workshops with the help of Institutions for creating awareness among the field level workers.
- Highlight the Department's activities through Print, Electronic media and participation in multi-media campaign.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.12)**

The Committee note that the monitoring of the projects/schemes of the Department is not satisfactory. So far C&AG have not examined to any of the schemes and there is no evaluation of the projects/

schemes by the Department. Further it is noted that monitoring of different schemes is done by DRDAs. The Committee would like to recommend that Government should take effective steps to strengthen the monitoring system to ensure the implementation of the scheme.

### **Reply of the Government**

Progress of the project implementation is monitored and evaluated through various Quarterly/Half Yearly/Annual Reports which are submitted by the nodal agencies/project implementing agencies. Under Grant-in-Aid scheme, every project is evaluated by independent evaluators after release of each instalment. Second and subsequent instalment is released only when progress of the work and project implementation has been found satisfactory. In IWDP scheme, independent evaluators are being appointed during alternate monsoon years. So far evaluators have been appointed for 102 IWDP projects. In 47 cases, evaluators have submitted their evaluation reports. However, this Department has not evaluated any of the scheme as a whole till now, since the Department was created in July, 1992, and most of the projects taken up are still under implementation, any evaluation at this stage would be premature, as development of wastelands under any projects take a minimum of 7 to 10 years. Further, a minimum of 8 to 10 year period is required for the establishment of the plantation thereafter impact of such work can be studied. All the State Governments have been requested to constitute State level Monitoring and Review Committee for indepth review of the progress under IWDP scheme. They have also been requested to strengthen Monitoring and Review system at Village, Block, District, and State level. At the same time, steps have been taken to strengthen the Monitoring and Evaluation Division in the Department to cope up with the increased work load.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands  
Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.)  
dated 24th January, 1997]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.13)**

The Committee note with constraint that development of wastelands should not be uni-dimensional and limited in scope. There should be

land use planning and planning capability should be built up from below starting from the villages. In the huge task of development of wastelands it is needless to stress here that involvement of local people is must. The Committee would like to stress that desirable measures for reclamation of each type of wastelands should be evolved.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted. The IWDP projects are implemented on watershed development basis. The Guidelines for Watershed Development have become effective from 1.4.95 and provide for involvement of the village community in the planning and implementation of projects.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.14)**

The Committee note that the outlay under the scheme Technology Development, Extension and Training that is Rs. 2.00 crores in 1996-97 is very less considering urgency of training and technology development in the field of wastelands development. They would like that appropriate funds should be allocated under this scheme. Further it is also stressed that efforts should be made to take benefit of the latest technology from the countries where the achievement with regard to development of wastelands is tremendous like in Israel.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Department of Wastelands Development is taking up the matter with the Planning Commission for higher allocation of funds during the 9th Plan period. During the year 1997-98, higher outlay has been proposed. The Department is currently implementing the JoJoBa plantation and Research project in Rajasthan to cover arid and semiarid regions of the country with the Israel technology. The project is under implementation in the problem based location in Rajasthan with a total outlay of Rs. 2.3 crores.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

**Recommendation (Para No. 5.15)**

The Committee urge that in order to provide greater accountability, transparency and coordination between voluntary organisations and the district administration needs to be developed.

**Reply of the Government**

Under the scheme of Support to NGOs/VAs, financial assistance is provided by the Department directly to the Voluntary Agencies. However, before approval of the projects, District Administration/DRDA is required to furnish the pre-appraisal report and recommendation on the viability of the project. The District Administration is also to certify that the wasteland to be developed by VAs is actually available for development. After approval of the project, a copy of the approval is also endorsed to District Collector/DRDA for information and necessary action with a view to develop proper coordination and transparency.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.)  
dated 24th January, 1997]

### **CHAPTER III**

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

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.10)**

The Committee would also like to recommend that the schemes/programmes which have not been taken seriously so far may be merged with effective schemes of similar nature in order to make use of the scarce resources and to get better results. Besides they also urge that a spirit of competitiveness among Districts and States should be inculcated to get the better results. The achievement of best performing states should be circulated to the poor performing states to inculcate the feeling of competitiveness. Besides this, such Districts with the good performance should be provided more funds as a bonus as an incentive for the better results.

##### **Reply of the Government**

The suggestions of the Committee have been noted.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands  
Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.)  
dated 24th January, 1997]

## CHAPTER IV

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

#### Recommendation (Para No. 5.3)

The Committee also observe that not only the allocation during the 8th Plan was meagre, but Department could not utilise the little funds allocated and there was underspending of Rs. 4.18 crores during 1994-95 and Rs. 3.60 crores during 1996-97. They would like an explanation of the Department in this regard. It is strongly recommended that the funds allocated for the specific schemes should be utilised fully and Department should take the necessary steps in this regard.

#### Reply of the Government

The unspent balance for 1993-94 to 1995-96 is as follows:—

Year	Rs. in crores
1993-94	3.80
1994-95	4.18
1995-96	3.60

This amount was utilised under the schemes of the Department by re-appropriation as indicated in the Annexure-I from which it can be observed that during the year 1992-93, there was no unspent balance. During 1993-94, out of Rs. 3.80 crores, Rs. 3.64 crores was utilised through re-appropriation and only Rs. 0.16 crores was surrendered. Similarly, in the year 1994-95 out of total unspent amount of Rs. 4.18 crores, Rs. 3.92 crores were re-appropriated and Rs. 0.26 crores was surrendered. Lastly, during 1995-96, out of Rs. 3.60 crores of unspent balance, an amount of Rs. 1.99 crores was re-appropriated and Rs. 1.61 crores were surrendered.



The Department has, noted the recommendations of the Committee and efforts in future would be made to utilise the funds as per allocation under various schemes of the Department.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

### **Comments of the Committee**

Please *see* Para 6, Chapter I of the Report.

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.5)**

The Committee observed that so far the Department have not chalked out an action plan to develop the total wastelands in the country within a reasonable time period say 10 to 15 years. It has been stated that the High Level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia considered these issues and its report has been presented to the Department on 8th December 1995 and is under consideration of the Government. The Committee observed that more than 8 months had elapsed since the report of Mohan Dharia Committee was presented to the Department and till date no concrete action has been taken on its recommendations. The Committee would like to urge that they should be apprised about the recommendations of said committee with specific reference to the observations of the Committee in their 7th, 16th & 23rd reports with regard to the development of wastelands. The Committee would also like that while formulating the strategy for Ninth Plan, the Department should consider the recommendations of the Committee to chalk out an action plan and substantial funds should be allocated with a view to develop wastelands in not more than 10-15 years.

### **Reply of the Government**

The High Level Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia submitted its Report on 8.12.95 to the then Prime Minister. The Report contained various recommendations which envisage consideration and implementation by various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and the State

Governments. The matter is under consideration of the Central Government.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

### **Comments of the Committee**

Please *see* Para 9, Chapter I of the Report.

### **Recommendation (Para No. 5.9)**

The Committee note that in two of the schemes (i) support to NGOs/VAs and (ii) Investment Promotional Scheme, the performance, both physical and financial is very poor. Under Scheme at (i) the financial achievement is reported only 7% whereas in scheme at (ii) above, the utilisation is only 27%. The physical achievement in the (ii) scheme has been given just 14%. The Standing Committee in their 16th report had recommended to restructure the schemes. They have stated that with regard to Wastelands Development Task Force, the issue of restructuring was considered by the Working Group on Wastelands Development for Ninth Five Year Plan and that they had recommended to discontinue the scheme. As regards the scheme of Investment Promotional Scheme, it has been stated that the Working Group on Ninth Five Year Plan has recommended to discontinue the scheme. Further, it has been stated that after indepth consultation with NABARD, Commercial Banks and Corporate sector, DoWD should come up with fresh policy incentives for establishing a farmer and industry nexus. The Committee note with constraint that on the recommendation of the Committee to restructure the schemes the Department has taken the decision to discontinue the schemes. They note that the schemes have been started with the laudable objectives and would like that while formulating strategy for Ninth Five Year Plan, the Department should reconsider and review the schemes. The schemes should be continued in the Ninth Five Year Plan after restructuring the same.

### **Reply of the Government**

In the light of the recommendations of the Committee, necessary efforts have been made by the Department to restructure the Investment Promotional Scheme and formulate policy initiatives for establishing the farmers and industrialists nexus. A token provision of Rs. 1.00 crore and Rs. 1.5 cores respectively has been proposed for 1997-98

towards committed liabilities for Investment Promotional Scheme and Wastelands Development Task Force.

However, the Department of Expenditure, Min. of Finance have enlisted these two schemes namely (i) Investment Promotional Scheme and (ii) Wastelands Development Task Force to be weeded out during Ninth Five Year Plan period.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) O.M. No. G-33011/11/96-Admn. (Coord.) dated 24th January, 1997]

#### **Comments of the Committee**

Please see Para 12, Chapter I of the Report.

**CHAPTER V**

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

—NIL—

NEW DELHI;  
*July 28, 1998*  

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*Shravana 06, 1920 (Saka)*

KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN,  
*Chairman,*  
*Standing Committee on*  
*Urban and Rural Development.*

## APPENDIX-I

### COMMITTEE ON URBAN & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (1998-99)

#### EXTRACTS OF MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 23rd JULY, 1998

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1630 hrs. in Committee Room 139, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

#### PRESENT

Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan — *Chairman*

#### MEMBERS

*Lok Sabha*

2. Shri D.S. Ahire
3. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq
4. Shri Padmanava Behera
5. Shri Sriram Chauhan
6. Shri Ramkrushna Suryabhan Gavai
7. Shri Vinod Khanna
8. Shri Subhash Maharia
9. Shri Subrata Mukherjee
10. Shri Chandresh Patel

*Rajya Sabha*

11. Shrimati Shabana Azmi
12. Shri Nilotpal Basu
13. Shri Jhumuklal Bhendia
14. Shri N.R. Dasari
15. Shri Onkar Singh Lakhawat
16. Prof. A. Lakshmisagar



## APPENDIX II

[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

*Analysis of the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (11th Lok Sabha)*

I. Total Number of Recommendations	15
II. Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government	
Para Nos. 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, 5.14 and 5.15)	11
Percentage to the total recommendations	73.33%
III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies.	
Para No. 5.10	1
Percentage to the total recommendations	6.67%
IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of that Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
Para Nos. 5.3, 5.5 and 5.9	3
Percentage to the total recommendations	20%
V. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	Nil.
Percentage to the total recommendations	Nil