

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(SIXTH LOK SABHA)

SECOND REPORT

[Action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions contained in their Twenty-eighth Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) on Petition No. 3 regarding unemployment of Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers]

[Presented to Lok Sabha on the 15th March, 1978]



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 1978/Phalguna, 1899 (S)

Price : Rs. 1.10

**LIST OF AUTHORISED AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF LOK SABHA
SECRETARIAT PUBLICATIONS**

Sl. No.	Name of Agent	Agency No.	Sl. No.	Name of Agent	Agency No.
ANDHRA PRADESH					
1.	Andhra University General Cooperative Stores Ltd., Waltair (Visakhapatnam)	8	12.	Charles Lambert & Company, 101, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Opposite Clock Tower, Fort, Bombay.	30
2.	G.R. Lakshminpathy Chetty and Sons, General Merchants and News Agents, Newpet, Chandragiri, Chittoor District.	94	13.	The Current Book House, Maruti Lane, Raghunath Dadaji Street, Bombay-1.	60
			14.	Deccan Book Stall, Ferguson College Road, Poona-4.	65
ASSAM					
3.	Western Book Depot, Pan Bazar, Gauhati.	7	15.	M/s. Usha Book Depot, 585/A, Chira Bazar, Khan House, Girgaum Road, Bombay-2 -B.R.	5
BIHAR					
4.	Amar Kitab Ghar, Post Box 78, Diagonal Road, Jamshedpur.	37	MYSORE		
			16.	M/s. Peoples Book House, Opp, Jaganmohan Palace, Mysore-1	16
GUJARAT					
5.	Vijay Stores, Station Road, Anand.	35	RAJASTHAN		
6.	The New Order Book Company Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-6.	63	17.	Information Centre, Government of Rajasthan, Tripolia, Jaipur City.	38
HARYANA					
7.	M/s. Prabhu Book Service, Nai Subzmandi, Gurgaon, (Haryana).	14	UTTAR PRADESH		
			18.	Swastik Industrial Works, 59, Moli Street, Meerut City.	2
MADHYA PRADESH					
8.	Modern Book House, Shiv Vilas Palace, Indore City.	13	19.	Law Book Company, Sardar Patel Marg, Allahabad-1	48
MAHARASHTRA					
9.	M/s. Sunderdas Granchand, 601, Girgaum Road, Near Princess Street, Bombay-2.	6	20.	Granthaloka, 5/1, Ambica Mookherjee Road, Belgharia, 24 Parganas.	10
10.	The International Book House (Private) Limited 9, Ash Lane, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay-1	22	21.	W Newman & Company Ltd 3, Old Court House, Street, Calcutta.	44
11.	The International Book Service, Deccan Gymkhana Poona-4	26	22.	Firma K.L. Mukhopadhyay, 6/1A, Banchharam Akkur Lane, Calcutta 12.	82
			23.	M/s. Mukherji Book House, 8B, Duff Lane, Calcutta-6	4

CONTENTS

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS	PAGE (iii)
I INTRODUCTION	1
II REPORT	2

APPENDIX

Action taken replies dated the 6th October, 1976, furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture) on the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions (Fifth Lok Sabha) contained in their Twenty-eighth Report on Petition No. 3 regarding unemployment of Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(1977-78)

CHAIRMAN

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath

MEMBERS

2. Shri Aghan Singh Thakur
3. Shri Ahmed Hossain
4. Shri Rajagopala Rao Boddepalli
5. Shri Ganga Bhakt Singh
6. Shri D. B. Chandra Gowda
7. Shri Kishore Lal
8. Shri R. Kolanthaivelu
9. Shri Lalji Bhai
10. Shri Nanubhai N. Patel
11. Shrimati Ahilya P. Rangnekar
12. Shrimati Rano M. Shaiza
13. Shri Ugrasen
14. Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan
- *15. Sardar Raghbir Singh Virk.

SECRETARIAT

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Chief Legislative Committee Officer.*

*Nominated with effect from 20th February, 1978, *vice* Shri Chand Ram ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as a Minister of State.

**SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(SIXTH LOK SABHA)**

INTRODUCTION

1.1. I, the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Second Report of the Committee to the House on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee on Petitions (Fifth Lok Sabha) on Petition No. 3 regarding unemployment of Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers.

1.2. The Committee considered the matter at their sittings held on the 13th September, 1977 and 7th February, 1978.

1.3. The Committee considered their draft Report at their sitting held on the 9th March, 1978, and adopted it.

1.4. The observations of the Committee on the above matter have been included in this Report.

HARI VISHNU KAMATH,
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

NEW DELHI;
Dated the 9th March, 1978.

II

REPORT

2.1. In their Twenty-eighth Report (Fifth Lok Sabha), the Committee on Petitions considered Petition No. 3 regarding unemployment of Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers and made certain observations/recommendations.

2.2. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture), who were requested to implement the recommendations of the Committee furnished a note dated the 6th October, 1976 (See Appendix) indicating the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations of the Committee in the matter.

2.3. The Committee at their sitting held on the 13th September, 1977, perused the action taken replies dated the 6th October, 1976 on the aforesaid recommendations of the Committee furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture). The Committee noted that the information furnished by the Government was rather old and did not reflect the present position. The Committee, therefore, directed that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation might be asked to furnish up-to-date and revised information in the light of the efflux of time both in regard to facts as well as the policy framework of the present Government.

2.4. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture), with whom the matter was taken up, furnished a revised note dated the 15th December, 1977, indicating the up-to-date position of the action taken by Government on the observations/recommendations of the Committee which is given below seriatim:—

Recommendations in paras 1.13 to 1.19 of the Report

1.13. The Committee note that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in their Position Paper prepared in connection with the formulation of the Fifth Five Year Plan has estimated that 9,000 Agricultural Graduates and 4,660 Post-Graduates would become surplus by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. In addition, there would be a surplus of 1,915 veterinary graduates and 600 Post-Graduates by 1973-74, besides 700 Agricultural Engineers. Thus, a total of 16,000 Agricultural Personnel would have gone without jobs,

according to the estimate of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. The Committee believe that by now many more Agricultural Personnel might have joined the ranks of their unemployed brethren to further increase the staggering figure of 16,000.

1.14. The Committee also note that according to the report of the Working Group on Agricultural Manpower, at the beginning of the Fourth Five Year Plan, the stock of Agricultural Graduates was 52,000. At the end of 1971, it was estimated at 68,000 and it would be one lakh in 1979.

1.15. They further note that in their Position Paper, the I.C.A.R. has estimated that during the Fifth Five Year Plan, the output of Agricultural and Agricultural Engineering Graduates would be 40,000 and 1,400 respectively. According to this Position Paper, in view of the present in-take capacity of Agricultural and Agricultural Engineering Colleges and the existing stock of unemployed Graduates and Post-Graduates, there would be no need for "expansion" of Agricultural Education Programmes in terms of number of Institutions or admissions during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

1.16. The Committee feel that the unemployment problem in general is bad but it is all the more disconcerting when seen amongst the category of Specialists like Agricultural Graduates, Agricultural Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers. Basically, the Indian economy is an agricultural economy where more than 70 per cent of its people earn their livelihood by working on the fields.

1.17. The Committee are aware that though great strides have been made in the agricultural sector in the recent past, it has not as yet been completely modernised so as to make it self-sufficient to feed the entire country by the indigenous production only. As such, there cannot be two opinions on the point that modernisation of Indian agriculture is required to be achieved for making the country self-sufficient in food production. The Committee feel that this can, to a large extent, be accomplished by utilising the educational attainments of our Agricultural Graduates, Post-Graduate and Agricultural Engineers, about more than 16,000 of whom were estimated to be without any gainful employment at the beginning of the Fifth Five-Year Plan.

1.18. The Committee feel that unemployment among the Agricultural personnel is bound to sap the initiative and enthusiasm in

these young Agricultural specialists who have undergone years of learning and practical training during the period of their study, which would result in an irreparable loss to the economy of the country.

1.19. The Committee, however, note that the Government are not oblivious to the gravity of the problem of unemployment among the Agricultural Personnel as the problem of utilisation of these personnel has been engaging the attention of the Government for quite some time. The Committee note that the Government have already taken some steps like implementing special schemes, viz., Farm Graduates Scheme and opening of Agro-Service Centres, which the Committee think, besides providing employment to a number of young Agricultural Specialists are useful in increasing the food production by taking advantage of their special knowledge and experience in providing guidance to the farmers.

Reply of Government

The observations of the Committee have been noted for information/guidance.

Recommendation in para 1.20 of the Report

1.20. The Committee were informed that during the Fifth Five Year Plan, 1500 Agro-Service Centres were proposed to be set up each year or 7,500 centres during the Plan period. The scheme envisaged employment of 10 persons for each Agro-Service Centre.

The following other measures undertaken by the Government in relieving the seriousness of this problem would also need special mention:—

- (i) Rural Engineering Survey;
- (ii) Half-a-Million jobs Programme.

The Committee were informed that these Schemes were expected to provide employment opportunities for about 5,000 Agricultural Graduates/Post-Graduates in Agriculture during 1973-74 itself. The Committee would like to be apprised of the actual achievements of these schemes till date by an action note.

Reply of Government

With the reduction in the outlay for the scheme under the 5th Five Year Plan from Rs. 12 crores to Rs. 4 crores due to constraints

of financial resources, by the Planning Commission, the target for the number of Agro-service centres to be set up has been proportionately reduced from 7500 to 2500. These Agro-Service Centres are set up by unemployed Agricultural Engineers, Engineering graduates and Diploma-holders in Engineering. Since the inception of the scheme, 2964 centres have been set up which have provided self-employment to an equal number of unemployed technocrats who have, in turn, provided employment to other categories of personnel like tractor drivers, mechanics, helpers etc. The number of other category personnel employed depends on their activities which vary from centre to centre. However, as per the evaluation carried out by the Regional Coordinating Centres at Tractor Training and Tractor Service Centre, Budni and Tractor Training Centre, Hissar, an Agro-Service Centre has on an average been able to provide employment to 3-4 persons in addition to the self-employment of an Engineering graduate.

The evaluation of the Agro-service centres was also taken up with the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission who indicated that the Evaluation study of special Employment Programmes (Half a Million Job Programme) undertaken by them had also covered the evaluation of the Agro-Service Centres Scheme. Their report is still under preparation and has not yet been finalised and released.

The average yearly employment for the years 1973-74, 1974-75 and 1975-76 of agricultural graduates under rural engineering surveying schemes has been of the order of 310, 390 and 122 respectively. The employment generation gradually went down because the Rural Engineering Survey Schemes were to be discontinued after March, 1976. These Scheme have since been closed.

Recommendation in para 1.21 of the Report

The Committee were also informed that the National Commission on Agriculture in its Inteim Report recommended one Agricultural Extention officer (A.E.O.) for a population of roughly 10,000 to 12,000 or 5 to 6 A.E.Os. per block. On this basis, the additional requirement of Agricultural Extension Officers at the block level during the Fifth Plan period was estimated at 19,000. As this Scheme has a very big potentiality of employing the Agricultural Graduates, the Committee would like to be apprised of the present stage of this Scheme and its achievements by an action note.

Reply of Government

The new Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Strengthening of Agricultural Extension Administration in the States", has been cleared by the E.F.C. The scheme is now in the final stage of being approved for implementation. In the meantime, based on the schemes, the administrative approval-cum-financial sanctions have already been issued for the States of Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Assam. It is proposed to include all the major remaining States in Extension Programme during the next Financial Year i.e. 1978-79.

In the 5 States where the scheme has already been sanctioned for implementation, 1374 agricultural graduates and post-graduates will be employed over a period of the next 5 years. Similarly, additional employment will be generated in the remaining States. Their exact number will be known only after specific proposals from those States are received and finalised.

Recommendation in para 1.22 of the Report

The Committee have learnt from the Planning Commission that the Nationalised Banks have an extensive programme of opening branches in rural areas to mobilise deposits and to advance loans to agriculturists. The Department of Banking has made projections of the demand of Agricultural Graduates in the banking sector upto the end of 1980. According to these estimates, the requirements of Agricultural Graduates during the Fourth Plan period were about 4,400 and an additional 3,000 during the Fifth Plan period. The Committee hope that the work on the implementation of this scheme is progressing according to the schedule and they would like to be apprised of the achievements made thus far by an action taken note.

Reply of Government

The number of rural branches in the public sector banks have increased from 1523 in June, 1969 (the date of nationalisation to 6163 as on 31st March, 1976). Along with the opening of rural branches by the public sector banks, the Regional Rural Banks have also come on the scene recently. As on 25th June, 1976, 19 Regional Rural Banks with 100 Branches had been established. The programme for branch expansion of both public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks are being constantly kept under review.

All these branches and their work in rural areas have made a large demand for the employment of agricultural graduates both as managers of rural branches in certain areas as well as agricultural field officers. The number of persons employed by these banks as on 31st December, 1975, was 3811 agricultural graduates, 1447 post graduates and 101 Diploma-holders.

Recommendations in paras 1.23 and 1.24 of the Report

1.23. The Committee were informed that modernisation of Rice Mills has also quite a considerable potentiality for increasing the employment opportunities for the Agricultural personnel. The Committee are hopeful that modernisation of these Mills in a phased manner would already have been receiving due attention at the hands of Government.

1.24. The Committee hope that with increasing tempo of implementation of all these schemes and also formulation of some such schemes with allied objectives, the unemployment problem amongst the Agricultural Personnel will be fully obliterated besides benefiting the country from their knowledge and expertise in improving the agricultural base of the country as also augmenting the agricultural production, which is the crying need of the hour.

Reply of Government

"The Rice Milling Industry (Regulation and Licensing) Act—the Rules thereunder" has been amended to implement the programme of modernisation expeditiously. The State Government are gearing up their efforts to modernise the entire industry in their respective States. The programme is now in a take-off stage.

2. The proposal for establishing 8 regional Centres for transfer of technology in rice processing has recently been approved by the Ministry of Finance. Three Regional Extension Service Centres at Hyderabad, Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur, and Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar have so far been established. There is a proposal to establish two more such centres during the remaining years of the 5th Five Year Plan. There is scope for employment of agricultural engineers and agricultural graduates in these centres.

3. The training facilities at the Rice Processing Engineering Centre I.I.T. Kharagpur are being expanded so as to make it an international centre for training. The proposal includes provision of some additional staff, some of whom may be agricultural engineers, crop engineers and agricultural graduates.

4. There are about 70,000 single hullers operating in the country. With the proposed amendment, all these hullers will have to be modernised within a specified period. The Food Corporation of India have a programme of setting up 24 mills out of which 17 are already under operation and 7 are under erection. Apart from Punjab and Haryana where modernisation has come in a big way, the modernisation programme is catching up fast in States like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa. Although these modernised mills will be in the private sector, they are expected to generate considerable employment potential.

Recommendation in para 1.25 of the Report

The Committee are also sure that in order to increase the employment avenues for the Agricultural Engineers, the curriculum study in Agricultural Engineering Colleges in the various Agricultural Universities should be so oriented as to include within its scope some basic elementary and fundamental subjects of other Engineering disciplines like Civil and Mechanical.

Reply of Government

For all Engineering students, basic engineering training is given in the first two years of the curriculum which includes civil, mechanical and electrical engineering. Thereafter, the students of Agricultural Engineering branch out in their disciplines. This has been taken care of in the model syllabus prepared by the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers and circulated to the Universities for adoption.

Recommendation in para 1.25 of the Report

The Committee would also wish the Government to examine implementation of various important suggestions made by the different Agricultural Universities in the country as mentioned above.

Reply of Government

(1) For educating the farmers on a mass scale, the Directorate of Extension and Training (a subordinate office of the Department of Agriculture) is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Farmers Training and Education and Functional Literacy." This programme is already in operation in 138 selected agricultural districts and is being extended to 12 additional districts. Under this scheme, farmers and farm women are trained and educated by organising

specialised courses, production-cum-demonstration training camps, discussion groups for farmers and farm women and specialised courses for conveners of discussion groups etc. The main objectives of the scheme are:

- (i) To provide concurrent technical knowledge relating to high yielding varieties, fertilizers, inputs, pesticides etc.
- (ii) To encourage the farmer to develop interest in seeking guidance from extension personnel and agricultural scientists in order to enable him to find solution to his problems encountered by him in the field.
- (iii) To create a corps of progressive farm leaders.
- (iv) To assist the farmer by imparting knowledge in regard to resources, availabilities of various agricultural inputs, mode of securing assistance and credit etc.

(2) The Public Sector Banks are giving assistance for setting up Agro-Service Centres to the entrepreneurs including agriculture and engineering graduates. The assistance is provided keeping in view their ability to contribute from their own resources. Where it is found that the entrepreneur is not in a position to provide the margin money from his own resources, the assistance is provided by the Banks even to the extent of 100 per cent.

Recommendation in para 1.27 of the Report

The Committee are of the view that there can be considerable scope for employment of Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates in Fertiliser and Pesticides industries. The Committee desire that the Government may examine the extent to which these industries can provide additional employment to Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates and formulate definite plans for providing them employment in this field.

Reply of Government

Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. have as their dealers institutional agencies including cooperatives, dealers appointed from among educated unemployed, disabled ex-servicemen and private dealers. Educated unemployed dealers are appointed by inviting applications through advertisements; preference is given to unemployed agricultural graduates.

(2) Of the other two public-sector fertiliser units under the control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the Madras Fertilizers Ltd. have long term marketing arrangements with nine marketers, two from the private sector and seven from the cooperative sector. The conditions laid down by M/s Fertilizers and Chemicals, Travancore for appointment of dealers are furnishing of security, ability to market the fertilizers and to provide requisite services including promotional activities. Even though no fixed percentage of posts are reserved for agricultural graduates preference is given to them by some of the companies while making selection in the Marketing Division as Area Managers, Regional Managers, Regional Agronomists, Sales Officers and Depot Officers. Government have no control on the appointment of dealers by the private manufacturers but some of them do give preference to the graduates, post-graduates including agricultural graduates.

(3) As regards Pesticides industry, it is at present mostly in the private sector and the Government have very little control over them in so far as appointment of staff is concerned. However, the industry is likely to absorb some graduates as apprentices and trainees in their factories, undertakings etc., depending on their capacity based on their capital investment, business turnover, prospects of future development etc. After training these graduates for a period varying from 6 months to one year in all aspects of pesticides, formulation, marketing, utilisation etc., they can be appointed as their dealers. Some of them can set up small formulation units or engage themselves in providing custom services in Plant Protection etc.

Recommendation in para 1.28 of the Report

The Committee feel that Agricultural Universities can also play a useful role in devising and implementing new schemes having employment potential for Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates. In this connection, the Committee would like to mention the lead being given by the Pantnagar Agricultural University by setting up farms and workshops in its jurisdiction in association with its qualified Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates, thus providing them with employment.

Reply of Government

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have emphasised on Agricultural Universities the need for increasing practical training in all disciplines of agricultural education and also suitable appren-

ticeship schemes on earn-while-learn projects which could help in the building up of confidence among agricultural engineers and graduates. Suitable schemes for introducing Apprenticeship Schemes are being included in the 6th proposals.

Recommendations in paras 1.29 and 1.30 of the Report

1.29. The Committee would also like to mention the recent scheme launched jointly by the Indian Bank and the I.I.T., Madras, to help young entrepreneurs who are graduates from colleges and institutes of engineering, technology, etc., to set up their own industrial/servicing units.

1.30. The Committee desire that Government may consider how more such schemes can be launched specially for Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates.

Reply of Government

Employment opportunities for 300 Agricultural Graduates and 18 Agricultural Engineers are proposed to be created during the 5th Plan period. In addition to this, opportunities are also being created for them by imparting long-term training in scientific methods of storage and inspection of foodgrains particularly in private sector concerning pesticides and insecticides.

Pilot Projects under Command Area Development Programme

Against a total of 50 Projects, 35 Projects are in operation at present. 13 Projects started during the 4th Five Year Plan have already completed their term.

(2) Two Pilot Projects on salt-affected lands are to be established during the 5th Five Year Plan. Proposals in this regard are awaited from the State Governments. Under each Pilot Project, a number of agricultural graduates, one agricultural engineer and two Junior engineers will be engaged.

(3) For integrated CAD Programme, 61 irrigation Projects spread over 16 States have been identified. Command Area Development Authorities have been set up in 47 of the selected irrigation Projects. Under this programme, soil surveys, topographical surveys, preparation of farm plans, construction of field channels and drains, land development etc. are envisaged. Up to the end of March, 1977 an area of 11.2 lakh hectares was surveyed, planned and designed for

on-farm development work. Field channels to the tune of 84,100 Kms., field drains in 16,500 Kms. and land levelling in 7,00,000 hectares were completed. For the execution of these works, a large number of agricultural graduates and agricultural engineers work on the field. This programme is expected to increase year after year creating more and more employment potential for agricultural graduates and agricultural engineers.

Recommendation in para 1.31 of the Report

The Committee feel that a National Register of Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates may be maintained by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on the lines of a similar National Register being maintained by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, as it would serve a useful purpose in the placement of qualified persons in suitable jobs.

Reply of Government

The I.C.A.R. proposes to establish a Planning and Evaluation Cell at the headquarters of ICAR and its units all over the country in the Agricultural Universities. This unit will be able to monitor the manpower requirements and keep a national registry of all types of graduates. Establishment of this unit is being proposed for the 6th Five Year Plan.

Recommendation in para 1.32 of the Report

The Committee are of the view that it is the responsibility of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research as the coordinator of Agricultural Education in the country to see that Agriculture Education is job oriented and meaningful and with this end in view the I.C.A.R. should consider the question of conducting a review of the curricula in the various Agricultural Universities in the country.

Reply of Government

The ICAR has appointed an Agricultural Universities Review Team headed by Dr. M. S. Randhawa, Ex-Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana to review the problems and programmes of Agricultural Universities and to suggest suitable modifications so that Agricultural Education as a whole can be job-oriented, practical oriented and meaningful. This Team is expected to submit its report by the end of 1977.

Recommendation in para 1.33 of the Report

The Committee recommend that Government should evaluate the performance oriented programmes such as the Agro-Service Centres, Agriculture Extension Officers Schemes, etc., and point out the shortcomings in the implementation of those programmes.

Reply of Government

As already indicated in reply to Question No. 1.20, the evaluation carried out by the Regional Coordinating Centres at Tractor Training and Tractor Service Centre, Budni and Tractor Training Centre, Hissar has shown that an Agro-Service Centre provides, on an average, employment to 3-4 persons in addition to the self-employment of an engineering graduate. The programme evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission have also covered the Agro-Service centres scheme as part of their Evaluation Study of Special Employment Programmes. Their report is still under preparation and has not yet been released.

(2) As regards Agricultural Extension Scheme, their evaluation will be covered under the proposed scheme for "Strengthening of Extension Machinery in States, District and Block level."

Additional Information

At the beginning of the 4th Plan (1969), the stock of agricultural graduates was estimated at 51,000. On the basis of intake level in 1973, the draft 5th Five Year Plan document estimate a rise in the stock to 76,000 and 97,000 in 1974 and 1979 respective.

There were 3583 job seeking agricultural graduates on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in December, 1968. The number went up sharply to 9092 in December, 1972. However, thereafter the number went on declining to 7958 as on 31st December, 1975. Towards the end of the year 1976, there were 8285 job seeking agricultural graduates on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in the country.

Apart from employment generated by plan programmes in the field of agriculture, it was hoped both in the 4th and the 5th plans that there would be additional employment opportunities in the Agro-Service Centres and in the commercial banks. The actual employment generated under these two heads is indicated in reply to Questions No. 1.20 and 1.22."

Observations of the Committee

2.5. The Committee note the action taken replies furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture) indicating the action taken by Government on the observations/recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twenty eighth Report on the matter.

The Committee note that the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme—"Strengthening of Agricultural Extension Administration in the States" is in the final stage of being approved for implementation. Based on the scheme, the administrative approval-cum-financial sanction has already been issued for the States of Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Assam. The Government also propose to include all the major remaining States in Extension Programme during the next financial year—i.e., 1978-79. The Committee hope that State Governments will extend full and enthusiastic co-operation in the implementation of these schemes meant for generation of additional employment for Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates.

2.6. The Committee note that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has appointed an Agricultural Universities Review Team headed by Dr. M. S. Randhawa, Ex-Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, to review the problems and programmes of Agricultural Universities and to suggest suitable modifications in their curricula, so that Agricultural Education as a whole can be job-oriented, practical and meaningful. The Committee hope that the Review Team will submit its report early and Government will accord earnest consideration thereto, with a view to prompt and effective action.

HARI VISHNU KAMATH,

Chairman,

Committee on Petitions.

NEW DELHI;

Dated the 9th March, 1978.

APPENDIX

(See para 2.2 of the Report)

[Action taken replies dated the 6th October, 1976, furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture) on the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions (Fifth Lok Sabha) contained in their Twenty-eighth Report on Petition No. 3 regarding unemployment of Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers.]

Observations/Recommendations of the Committee

1.13. The Committee note that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in their Position Paper prepared in connection with the formulation of the Fifth Five Year Plan has estimated that 9,000 Agricultural Graduates and 4,660 Posts-Graduates would become surplus by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. In addition, there would be a surplus of 1,915 veterinary graduates and 600 Post-Graduates by 1973-74, besides 700 Agricultural Engineers. Thus, a total of 16,000 Agricultural Personnel would have gone without jobs, according to the estimate of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. The Committee believe that by now many more Agricultural personnel might have joined the ranks of their unemployed brethren to further increase the staggering figures of 16,000.

1.14. The Committee also note that according to the report of the Working Group on Agricultural Manpower, at the beginning of the Fourth Five Year Plan, the stock of Agricultural Graduates was 52,000. At the end of 1971, it was estimated at 68,000 and it would be one lakh in 1979.

1.15. They further note that in their Position Paper, the I.C.A.R. has estimated that during the Fifth Five Year Plan, the output of Agricultural and Agricultural Engineering Graduates would be 40,000 and 1,400 respectively. According to this Position Papers, in view of the present in-take capacity of Agricultural and Agricultural Engineering Colleges and the existing stock of unemployed Graduates and Post-Graduates, there would be no need for "expansion" of Agricultural Education Programmes in terms of number of Institutions or admissions during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

1.16. The Committee feel that the unemployment problem in general is bad but it is all the more disconcerting when seen amongst the category of Specialists like Agricultural Graduates, Agricultural Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers. Basically, the Indian economy is an agricultural economy where more than 70 per cent of its people earn their livelihood by working on the fields.

1.17. The Committee are aware that though great strides have been made in the agricultural sector in the recent past, it has not as yet been completely modernised so as to make it self-sufficient to feed the entire country by the indigenous production only. As such, there cannot be two opinions on the point that the modernisation of Indian agriculture is required to be achieved for making the country self-sufficient in food production, the Committee feel that this can to a large extent be accomplished by utilising the educational attainments of our agricultural Graduates. Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers, about more than 16,000 of whom were estimated to be without any gainful employment at the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan.

1.18. The Committee feel that unemployment among the Agricultural Personnel is bound to sap the initiative and enthusiasm in these young Agricultural specialists who have undergone years of learning and practical training during the period of their study, which would result in an irreparable loss to the economy of the country.

1.19. The Committee, however, note that the Government are not oblivious to the gravity of the problem of unemployment among the Agricultural Personnel as the problem of utilisation of these personnel has been engaging the attention of the Government for quite some time. The Committee note that the Government have already taken some steps like implementing special schemes, viz., Farm Graduates Scheme and opening of Agro-Service Centres, which the Committee think, besides providing employment to a number of Young Agricultural Specialists are useful in increasing the food production by taking advantage of their special knowledge and experience in providing guidance to the farmers.'

Action taken (Items 1.13 to 1.19)

The observations of the Committee have been noted for information/guidance.

1.20. The Committee were informed that during the Fifth Five Year Plan, 1500 Agro-Service Centres were proposed to be set up each year or 7,500 centres during the Plan period. The scheme envisaged employment of 10 persons for each Agro-Service Centre.

The following other measures undertaken by the Govt. in relieving the seriousness of this problem would also need special mention:—

- (i) Rural Engineering Survey;
- (ii) Half-a-Million jobs Programme.

The Committee were informed that these Schemes were expected to provide employment opportunities for about 5,000 Agricultural Graduates/Post-Graduates in Agriculture during 1973-74 itself. The Committee would like to be apprised of the actual achievements of these schemes till date by an action note.

Action taken

The number of Agro-Service Centres to be set up during the Fifth Five Year Plan period has been reduced to 2500 Centres as the allocation for the schemes has been reduced by Planning Commission from Rs. 12 crores to Rs. 4 crores. The total number of Agro-Service Centres set up since inception of the Scheme till the end of June, 1976 is 2,554. The Agro-Service Centres are set up by unemployed Agricultural Engineering Graduates, Diploma Holders in Engineering and as such 2,554 Agro-Service Centres set up so far provide employment to at least the same number of unemployed technicians besides providing employment to other categories of personnel like Tractor Drivers, Mechanics, Helpers and Ministerial staff. The amount of employment generated depends upon the activities of the Centres which vary from place to place. The employment generated by the present Agro-Service Centres varies from 2 to 6 persons per centre at present.

The evaluation of Agro-Service Centres was taken up with the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission who had informed that the evaluation of their 'scheme 'Half a Million Jobs' has been completed and the report is under compilation. Their report will also cover the scheme of Agro-Service Centres under this Ministry.

The average yearly employment for the years 1973-74, 1974-75 and 1975-76 of Agricultural graduates under rural engineering surveying schemes has been of the order of 310, 390, 122 respectively. The

employment was gradually reduced as the Rural Engineering Survey Scheme was to be discontinued after March 1976. The scheme has since been closed.

1.21. The Committee were also informed that the National Commission on Agriculture in its Interim Report recommended one Agricultural Extension Officer (A.E.O.) for a population of roughly 10,000 to 12,000 or 5 to 6 A.E.Os. per block. On this basis, the additional requirement of Agricultural Extension Officers at the block level during the Fifth Plan period was estimated at 19,000. As this Scheme has a very big potentiality of employing the Agricultural Graduates, the Committee would like to be apprised of the present stage of this Scheme and its achievements by an action note.

Action taken

The Scheme "Strengthening of Extension Machinery in States, Districts, and Block Levels" is being reviewed further in the light of report of National Commission on Agriculture which has since been received, particularly regarding involvement of certain percentage of V.L.Ws. exclusively for Agril. Extension Work.

1.22. The Committee have learnt from the Planning Commission that the Nationalised Banks have an extensive programme of opening branches in rural areas to mobilise deposits and to advance loans to agriculturists. The Department of Banking has made projections of the demand of Agricultural Graduates in the banking sector upto the end of 1980. According to these estimates, the requirements of Agricultural Graduates during the Fourth Plan period were about 4,400 and an additional 3,000 during the Fifth Plan period. The Committee hope that the work on the implementation of this scheme is progressing according to the schedule and they would like to be apprised of the achievements made thus far by an action taken note.

Action taken

The number of rural branches in the public sector banks have increased from 1523 in June, 1969 (the date of nationalisation) to 6163 as on 31-3-1976. Along with the opening of rural branches by the public sector banks, the Regional Rural Banks have also come on the scene recently. As on 25-6-1976, 19 Regional Rural Banks with 100 branches have been established. The programme for branch expansion of both public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks are being constantly kept under review. All these branches and their

work in rural areas have made a large demand for the employment of agricultural graduates both as managers of rural branches in certain areas as well as agricultural field officers.

1.23. The Committee were informed that modernisation of Rice Mills have also quite a considerable potentiality for increasing the employment opportunities for the Agricultural Personnel. The Committee are hopeful that modernisation of these Mills in a phased manner would already have been receiving due attention at the hands of Government.

1.24. The Committee hope that with increasing tempo of implementation of all these schemes are also formulation of some such schemes with allied objectives, the unemployment problem amongst the Agricultural Personnel will be fully obliterated besides benefiting the country from their knowledge and expertise in improving the agricultural base of the country as also augmenting the agricultural production, which is the crying need of the hour.

Action taken (Items 1.23 and 1.24)

The following steps have been taken to implement the programme of modernisation of Rice Mills in the country:—

- (i) The Rice Milling Industry (Regulation and Licensing) Act and the Rules thereunder have been amended to implement the programme of modernisation expeditiously. The State Governments are gearing up their efforts to modernise the entire industry in their respective States. The Programme is now in a take off stage.
- (ii) The proposal for establishing 8 regional centres for transfer of technology in rice processing has recently been approved by the Ministry of Finance. Three centres are proposed to be established during 1975—77. There is a scope of employment of agricultural engineers and agricultural graduates in these centres.
- (iii) The training facilities at the Rice Processing Engineering Centre, I.I.T. Kharagpur are being expanded so as to make it as an international centre for training. The proposal includes provision of some additional staff, some of whom may be agricultural engineers, crop engineers and agricultural graduates.

- (iv) There are about 70,000 single hullers operating in the country. With the proposed amendment, all these hullers will have to be modernised within a certain period of time. The Food Corporation of India have a programme of setting up 24 mills out of which 17 are already under operation and 7 are under erection. Apart from Punjab and Haryana where modernisation has come up in a big way, the modernisation programme is catching up fast in States like Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal. Although these modernised mills will be in the private sector, they are expected to generate considerable employment potential.

1.25. The Committee are also sure that in order to increase the employment avenues for the Agricultural Engineers, the curriculum of study in Agricultural Engineering Colleges in the various Agricultural Universities should be so oriented as to include within its scope some basic elementary and fundamental subjects of other Engineering disciplines like Civil and Mechanical.

Action taken

This has been communicated to the concerned Department (ICAR) and Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities for information|guidance|necessary action. ICAR have informed that the Scientific panel on Agricultural Education is considering the recommendation for orienting the syllabus.

1.26. The Committee would also wish the Government to examine the implementation of various important suggestions made by the different Agricultural Universities in the country as mentioned above.

Action taken

The suggestions made by the Agricultural Universities have been commended to State Governments, all Agricultural Universities Managers of Agro Industries Corporations for necessary action.

Regarding the suggestion for intensifying extension work, the Directorate of Extension has started a massive Centrally sponsored programme of Farmers Training and Education and functional literacy in 100 selected Agricultural Districts and this is being extended to 50 additional districts within the Fifth Plan period. Under this scheme, the farmers and farm women are trained and educated by organising specialised courses, production-cum-demonstration training centres, discussion groups for farmers and farm women and specialised courses for convenors of discussion groups etc.

The main objectives of the scheme are:

- (i) to provide concurrent technical know-how relating to high yielding varieties, fertilisers, inputs and pesticides etc.
- (ii) to encourage the farmer to develop interest in seeking guidance from the extension personnel and the Agricultural scientists in order to enable him to find solution of the problems encountered by him in the field.

The public sector banks are giving assistance for setting up agro-service centres to the entrepreneurs including agriculture and engineering graduates. The assistance is provided keeping in view their ability to contribute from their own resources. Where it is found that the entrepreneur is not in a position to provide the margin money from his own resources, the assistance is provided by the banks even to the extent of 100 per cent. Ro

1.27. The Committee are of the view that there can be considerable scope for employment of Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates in Fertiliser and Pesticides industries. The Committee desire that the Government may examine the extent to which these industries can provide additional employment to Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates and formulate definite plans for providing them employment in this field.

Action taken

This has been brought to the notice of the concerned Ministry viz. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers for suitable action.

1.28. The Committee feel that Agricultural Universities can also play a useful role in devising and implementing new schemes having employment potential for Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates. In this connection, the Committee would like to mention the lead being given by the Pantnagar Agricultural University by setting up farms and workshops in its jurisdiction in association with its qualified Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates, thus providing them with employment.

Action taken

This has been communicated to the Vice-chancellors of the Agricultural Universities for necessary action:

1.29. The Committee would also like to mention the recent scheme launched jointly by the Indian Bank and the I.T., Madras, to help

young entrepreneurs who are graduates from colleges and institutes of engineering, technology, etc., to set up their own industrial/servicing units.

1.30. The Committee desire that Government may consider how more such schemes can be launched specially for Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates.

Action taken (Items 1.29 and 1.30)

Employment opportunities for 300 Agricultural Graduates and 18 Agricultural Engineers are proposed to be created during the Fifth Plan period under four schemes relating to food storage. In addition to this, opportunities are also being created for them by imparting long term training in scientific methods of storage and inspection of foodgrains particularly in the Private Sector concerning Pesticides/Insecticides.

To ensure efficient and prompt utilisation of the irrigation potential, the Government of India have launched a massive programme of Integrated Command Area Development during the Fifth Plan. A number of Centrally Sponsored Soil & Water Management Pilot Projects have also been established in different States of the country.

Pilot Projects under CAD Programme

Against a total of 50 projects proposed, 21 projects are in operation at present. 10 projects started during Fourth Plan have already completed their term. 6 more new projects are under processing. Under each pilot project a number of Agricultural Graduates and one or two Agricultural Engineers are engaged.

For integrated CAD Programme, 52 Irrigation Projects spread over 16 States have been identified. Command Area Development Authorities have been set up in 40 of the selected irrigation projects. Under this programme, soil surveys, topographical surveys, preparation of farm plans, construction of field channels and drains, land development etc. are envisaged. During 1976-77, it is proposed to cover 6.4 lakh hectares under soil survey and 5.17 lakh hectares under on-farm development works. For the execution of these works, a large number of Agricultural Graduates and Agricultural Engineers are required to be engaged. This programme is expected to increase year after year creating more and more employment potential for Agricultural Graduates and Agricultural Engineers.

1.31. The Committee feel that a National Register of Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates may be maintain by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on the lines of a similar National Register being maintained by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, as it would serve a useful purpose in the placement of qualified persons in suitable jobs.

Action taken

A National Register maintained by CSIR already includes post-graduates in Agriculture and Animal Science and graduates in Agricultural Engineering. For the graduates in Agriculture and Animal Sciences, it is felt that the object of their placement in suitable jobs would be better served in case a Placement Cell is set up at the University Headquarters as a part of Student Welfare activity. This proposal has been commended to the Agricultural Universities. They have also been informed that during 5th Plan, the Agricultural University pattern of assistance of ICAR include the item of setting up of Placement Cells on cent per cent grant basis.

1.32. The Committee are of the view that it is the responsibility of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research as the co-ordinator of Agricultural Education in the country to see that Agriculture Education is job oriented and meaningful and with this end in view the I.C.A.R. should consider the question of conducting a review of the curricula in the various Agricultural Universities in the country.

Action taken

Scientific Panel on Agricultural Education of ICAR has been re-constituted with experts representing, agriculture, Animal Science, Agri. Engg., Home Science and Basic Science. The Panel will review the course curriculam as suggested by the Committee to make the training more job oriented and meaningful.

1.33. The Committee recommend that Government should evaluate the performance oriented programmes such as the Agro-Service Centres, Agriculture Extension Officers Schemes, etc., and point out the short-comings in the implementation of those programmes.

Action taken

The evaluation of Agro-Service Centres was taken up with the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission

who had stated that the evaluation of their scheme 'Half a Million Job' has been completed and the report is under compilation. Their report shall also cover the scheme of Agro-Service Centres under this Ministry. So far as Agriculture Extension Officers scheme is concerned, its evaluation will be covered by the proposed scheme 'Strengthening of Extension Machinery in the States, Districts and Block level'.