

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1969-70)

(FOURTH LOK SABHA)

NINETY-FOURTH REPORT

**MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE)**

Action taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp.



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 1969/Sravana 1891 (Saka)

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CORRIGENDA

TO

Ninety-fourth Report of the
Estimates Committee (Fourth
Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of
Food, Agriculture, Community
Development and Cooperation
(Department of Agriculture).

- Page 4, line 25, for 'experience'
read 'experienced'
- Page 14, line 8, for 'suggestions'
read 'suggestion'
- Page 18, line 13, for 'Institutes'
read 'Institute'
- Page 20, line 4 for 'Recommen-
dation' read 'Recommendations'
- Page 21, line 23, for 'undertaken'
read 'undertake'

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(1969-70)

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(1968-69)**

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15. **Shri Arangil Sreedharan**

INTRODUCTION

1, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf present this Ninety-fourth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp.

2. The Thirty-sixth Report of the Estimates Committee was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 6th March, 1968. Government furnished replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in the Report on the 13th November, 1968. The Study Group 'E' of the Estimates Committee (1968-69) considered the replies received from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at their sitting held on the 29th April, 1969. The draft Report was adopted by the Committee on the 26th July, 1969.

3. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters :—

I. Report

II. Recommendations that have been accepted by Government.

III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of 27 recommendations made in the Thirty-sixth Report, 25 recommendations, i.e. 92.6 per cent have been accepted by Government. The Committee do not desire to pursue 2 recommendations, i.e., 7.4 per cent in view of Government's reply.

NEW DELHI;

July 31, 1969

Sravana 9, 1891 (Saka)

M. THIRUMALA RAO
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

The Estimates Committee are glad to observe that the recommendations contained in their Thirty-sixth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp, have been replied to by Government in time and generally to their satisfaction.

2. The Committee desire that further information on the progress made in the implementation of some of the recommendations may be furnished to the Committee.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1) Paras 1.15 and 1.16

Para 1.15—The Committee note the pioneering efforts made by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in the charting and exploitation of fishing grounds in the in-shore and off-shore areas, studies on the life histories of component species and collection of biological, oceanographical and other environmental data which are essential for understanding the causes of fluctuations in the availability of fisheries and for introducing conservation measures, when required to obtain steady optimum yields. The Committee would, however, like to point out that the estimated marine fish production in India has varied between 5.3 to 8.8 lakh tonnes during the years 1950 and 1964. There is a pressing need for increasing the production by means of increased catches so as to provide nutritious diet to the people, employment to a large number of fishermen and also provide an exportable surplus for purposes of earning foreign exchange.

Para 1.16—The Committee commend the steps taken by the Institute for the exploration of the oceanic fishery resources of the seas around India. They hope that the researches would be further intensified with special emphasis on the pelagic and oceanic fishes and crustacean. The Committee suggest that concerted steps be taken to gear up the work of the Institute by providing them with adequate essential equipments so that the objectives of the Institute are fully realised. The Committee would also stress the need for forging an intimate link with the fishing industry so that the researches undertaken by the Institute can be gainfully utilised.

Reply of Government

Paras 1.15 and 1.16—The recommendations have been noted for guidance. For increased catches from the sea, suitable vessels covering wide areas without interruption and in rough weather are essential. The staff strength may also have to be augmented. These matters are under the consideration of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Recommendation (Serial No. 2) Paras 1.21 and 1.22

Para 1.21—The Committee realise that marine fisheries being essentially capture fisheries, all the basic research has to be carried out necessarily in the areas of occurrence of the fisheries. The research worker has to be where the fish and fisheries are distributed. Therefore, the Marine Fisheries Research Institute should necessarily be located nearest to important centres of

fishing with facilities for reception of sea-going research and exploratory vessels as a *sine qua non*.

Para 1.22—The Committee are surprised that although a period of 20 years has elapsed since the setting up of the Institute, the Ministry have now come to realise that Mandapam Camp is not ideally located for purpose of marine fisheries research. It should have been possible for the Director of the Institute to move the Ministry on this matter earlier than 1965 when the proposal was said to have been finally mooted by him.

The Committee are unhappy to note that the main criterion, which guided the selection of Mandapam Camp as the Headquarters of the Institute, was only the availability of buildings at the Camp and the Institute was located there despite the conviction that the place was not suitable for the purpose. The Committee have little doubt that had the Institute been located at a central place, it could have made greater impact on research, and its output in physical terms would have been greater. The Committee are of the view that the Institute, which holds a pivotal position for research in marine fisheries, should be located at a central place. As, however, a heavy financial outlay is involved in shifting the Institute, the matter has got to be examined carefully.

The Committee suggest that a study team consisting of representatives from the Central Government, the Institute and the concerned State Governments may be appointed to go into the question in all its ramifications before arriving at a final decision.

Reply of Government

Paras 1.21 and 1.22—As suggested, a Committee has been set up, consisting of representatives of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Agriculture, Government of India and the Department of Fisheries of Madras and Kerala States, to consider the question of shifting the Headquarters of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute from Mandapam Camp to a central place.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(1), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Comments of the Committee

Committee may be apprised of the final outcome of the question of shifting the headquarters of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute from Mandapam Camp to a central place.

Recommendation (Serial No. 3) Para 2.5

The Committee are unhappy to observe that there has been a gap between the sanctioned and actual strength of the scientific staff of the Institute from year to year. The Committee are also unhappy that the post of Asstt.

Research Officer for Bacteriology had been kept vacant for nine years even when it was realised that there was no possibility of getting a good Bacteriologist. The delay of three years in filling up the vacancy of the Senior Research Officer for Oceanography also appears to be indefensible. The Committee need hardly emphasise that the continuance of a large number of vacant posts is likely to have deleterious effect on the smooth functioning of a research institute. The Committee hope that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, to which the Institute has now been transferred would take note of the present position and take energetic steps to fill up the vacant posts.

Reply of Government

The gap between the sanctioned and actual strengths has since been considerably reduced and the existing vacancies are now only about 30—35 out of a total of nearly 500 posts. Some of these posts cannot also be filled up as a 3% reduction of sanctioned strength for economy has to be applied as per the directive of the Ministry of Finance. One of the reasons for posts remaining vacant is the reluctance of newly recruited staff to continue in isolated places, like Mandapam Camp, another reason is that well qualified staff are attracted by better salaries paid by private institutions and also by some educational institutions in and outside India.

As regards the posts of Senior Research Officer (Oceanography), even though a candidate was selected and offered the post as early as August, 1967, he has not joined duty. The vacancy was pending with the Union Public Service Commission as no suitable candidate was available for nearly three years. Oceanography being a very specialised field, experience and competent persons to hold senior posts are necessarily very few. It was thought desirable to keep the post vacant than to fill it up with an incompetent person.

As regards the vacancy of the post of Assistant Research Officer (Bacteriology), this post was kept in abeyance when the fish curing section was shifted to the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology at Ernakulam to form that Institution some years ago. Action has now been taken to fill up the vacancy.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Recommendation (Serial No. 3) Para 2.6

The Committee trust that the Institute would not keep a large number of temporary staff for unduly long period and that the incumbents would be confirmed as soon as they fulfil the necessary conditions.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for compliance.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Recommendation (Serial No. 3), Para 2.7

As regards scientific personnel *vis-a-vis* administrative staff, from the statement given in para 2.2 *ante*, it will be observed that as against an actual strength of 242 scientific and technical personnel in the Institute, there were 202 administrative and Class IV staff as on 1st April, 1967. In the opinion of the Committee in research institutions the emphasis should always be more on the scientific staff and less on the administrative and ministerial staff. It is, therefore, desirable to fix some norms and ratios between the scientific and technical staff on the one hand and administrative and ministerial staff on the other.

Reply of Government

The question of the feasibility of fixation of a ratio between the administrative staff and the research staff in an Institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research particularly Fisheries Research Institute will be examined in detail and the decision arrived at will be made applicable to all the Central Fisheries Research Institutes.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee may be informed in due course of the final decision.

Recommendation (Serial No. 4) Para 2.11

The Committee note the organisational set-up and the functions of the Administrative Division of the Institute. The Committee suggest that the Standing Research Committee or the appropriate Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research may conduct a review of the present staffing pattern of the Institute with a view to locate the deficiencies in the working of the Institute in the various divisions and suggest suitable remedial measures. The Committee also suggest that there should be an annual review of the staff position of the Instt. by the Director as well as the Council.

Reply of Government

The Work Study Unit of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recently visited the Instt. to conduct a detailed review of the present staffing pattern of the Instt. with a view to locating the deficiencies in the working in various divisions and to suggest suitable remedial measures. The report of the Unit is being finalised.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Recommendation (Serial No. 5) Para 2.15

The Committee note with concern that 35 persons left the Institute and its various Sub-stations during the last three years due principally to un-

favourable pay-scales and meagre chances of promotion. The Committee feel that similar situation may be prevalent in other institutes dealing with fisheries research. The Committee have no doubt that the frequent flight of personnel from one institute to another seriously affects the quality of research. The Committee however, are glad to note that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has proposals to improve the pay-scales of the scientific staff and to give them better working conditions. The Committee hope that the Council would lose no time in reviewing the pay-scales of scientific staff prevalent in the fisheries research institutes on the lines of the recommendations made by the Committee in para 87 of their 75th Report (Third Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture)—Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Reply of Government

As noted by the Committee the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has under consideration the question of improving the pay-scales of the scientific staff and to give them better working conditions. In fact, detailed proposals were formulated to revise the pay-scales of scientific and technical staff employed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research but these proposals could not be given a final shape mainly due to the ban on any upward change in the pay structure at any level imposed by the Government of India. This ban is now operative till 30th June, 1969. However, realising the paramount and urgent need for finalising the proposals referred to above, it has been decided to approach the Cabinet and seek exemption from the operation of the ban. This is accordingly being done.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Recommendation (Serial No. 6) Para 2.17

In the opinion of the Committee, unless there are suitable channels of promotion for the various grades of officers and staff, they are likely to lose interest in their work and this will ultimately affect adversely the smooth working of the Institute. The Committee, therefore, feel that to give impetus to the scientific and other staff there should be a provision for creation of intermediate selection grade posts. The Committee also suggest that the question of giving suitable incentives for meritorious work to the scientific and technical personnel may be examined.

Reply of Government

Under the reorganised Indian Council of Agricultural Research, recruitment to all scientific posts is being done by selection through the Selection Committees of the Council constituted for this purpose. Officers and staff already working under the Council are also eligible to apply for the posts provided they have the requisite qualifications and experience prescribed

for the posts. A well qualified and experienced hand has very good prospects of obtaining employment suited to his qualifications and experience under the system of selection.

As regards the "question of giving suitable incentives for meritorious work to the scientific and technical personnel", the scheme of merit promotions and advance increments to deserving scientific workers sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already been extended to all the three Fisheries Research Institutes.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Recommendation (Serial No. 7) Para 2.21

The Committee feel that centralisation of administration work relating to pay, allowances, leave, promotion etc. of the staff employed in the Sub-Stations/Units/Centres, at the headquarters of the Institute at Mandapam may lead to certain amount of delay resulting in hardships for the staff. The Committee would suggest that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research may examine how best an improvement can be brought about in the present situation. The Committee consider that the financial powers of the officer-in-charge of the Sub-stations are inadequate. They suggest that the question of enhancing these powers may be considered so that officer-in-charge may be able to take decisions on the spot and approve items of expenditure without referring to the headquarters every small item.

Reply of Government

After the Institute has been taken over by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the payments are arranged by the Director, out of funds placed at his disposal in a Bank account. The delay in disbursing monthly salary etc. to the staff has therefore been avoided by the early despatch of salary drafts to outstations. The heads of officers of the following Sub-Stations/Units of the Institute have been allotted funds to incur contingent expenditure annually to the extent indicated below subject to the observance of rules :

	Rs.
1. Ernakulam Sub-Station	5,000
2. Other Research Sub-Station	2,500
3. Research Units . . .	2,000

Further delegation of powers to the officer-in-charge will be considered when additional competent ministerial staff are sanctioned for each subordinate establishment. The officer-in-charge have at present certain financial powers. Enhancing of these powers is also under consideration.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Recommendation (Serial No. 8) Para 3.8

The Committee have no doubt that the research programmes already approved by the Ministry for execution by the Institute would be continued by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. They, however, would suggest that the economic of those projects which have continued for more than three years should be worked out to see whether it is worthwhile to continue them.

Reply of Government

The Achievement Audit Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, which will go into the working of all the Institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, will also look into the question of the Continuance of schemes running for more than 3 years.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Recommendation (Serial No. 8) Para 3.9

The Committee feel that the need of the hour is "coordinated research" and its application and they hope that it will be possible for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to associate the State Departments of Fisheries in an ample and effective measure with the Central projects.

Reply of Government

Noted. The matter is under active consideration in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee may be apprised of the final outcome.

Recommendation (Serial No. 8) Para 3.10

In view of the fact that initial training in basic research should continue to be with the universities and academic institutions, the Committee would like to suggest that universities of the maritime States may be persuaded to put increased emphasis on the training of researchers in the field of marine biology and, in fact, all fields of research pertaining to fisheries. The question of introduction of courses in fisheries in the curricula of the universities may be taken up with the University Grants Commission/Inter-University Board.

Reply of Government

Noted. The matter is under active consideration in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968]

Comments of the Committee

Final decision may be communicated to the Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 8) Para 3.11

The Committee hope that the Council would see to it that the progress of research is not retarded due to paucity of funds.

Reply of Government

Noted for guidance.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 9) Para 3.16

It appears from the information furnished to the Committee that some of the research work being done by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute at Mandapam Camp *e.g.*, survey of fisheries resources, researches on marine biology, oceanography, etc., are also being done in some of the maritime States. The Committee would suggest, therefore, that a thorough study of the work being done at the institutes set up by some of the States should be made so as to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts and expenditure on identical schemes. Since the basic idea in transferring the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and two other research institutes to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is to have integrated and coordinated research work under one organisation, the Committee trust that the Council would look into the matter of coordination of research work undertaken by the Central and State Research Institutes. The Committee hope that the State Research Institutes would also be provided with adequate finances by way of timely grants and loans so that there is all-round development of research relating to fisheries.

Reply of Government

Noted. The suggestions are under active consideration in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

Committee may be informed of the final decision.

Recommendation (Serial No. 10) Para 3.20

The Committee would urge that a suitable method should be devised for channelising the grants through one agency, *i.e.*, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, so that the unnecessary duplication and overlapping in the research work could be avoided and proper control exercised over the progress of various research schemes.

Reply of Government

Noted. The suggestions are under active consideration in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

Committee may be apprised of the final decision.

Recommendation (Serial No. 13) Para 3.35

The Committee note the present arrangements for collection of data regarding production of marine fish on an All-India basis. They also note that statistics are also collected and compiled by various maritime States. The Committee consider it desirable that there should be a single agency for the collection of data regarding marine fisheries and overlapping of effort in this direction should be avoided. The Committee hope that the Technical Committee on Fisheries Statistics would be able to offer constructive suggestions in the light of the review of the work done by the National Sample Survey, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and the State Governments.

Reply of Government

Noted. The suggestions are under active consideration in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

Final decision may be intimated to the Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 14) Para 3.37

The Committee however, find that the staff strength of the Fishery Survey and Statistics Division has not been augmented on the lines suggested by Dr. Hickling. The Division is still headed by a Senior Research Officer only. They suggest that the staff position of the Division may be reviewed further.

Reply of Government

Noted. The review is on hand.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 15) Para 3.42

The Committee note that liaison and coordination is being maintained by the Institute with the Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay, Indo-Norwegian Project, and other Institutes set up by Central as well as various State Governments. There is, however, need to intensify the efforts so that any overlapping or duplication of research work may be avoided in the initial stages of the operation of any scheme. The Committee also suggest that the proposal of constituting a Coordination Committee in each State, as made at the meeting of the Standing Fisheries Research Committee (1965), may be actively pursued in consultation with the State Governments.

Reply of Government

Noted. The matter is under active consideration in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

Final decision may be intimated to the Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 16) Para 3.45

The Committee regret to note that although Dr. Hickling submitted his report on the working of the Institute as far back as 1962, the Government have not yet taken action on some of the recommendations contained in the report. The Committee also regret that the decisions arrived at by the Government on the recommendations made by Dr. Hickling were not formally communicated to the Director of the Institute resulting in unnecessary confusion and misunderstanding. The Director being the head of the Institute should have been taken into confidence and consulted in the matter of the implementation of the recommendations. The Committee hope that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research will pay due attention to such of the recommendations of Dr. Hickling as have not yet been implemented.

Reply of Government

Noted. for compliance.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 16) Para 3.46

The Committee also stress the need for periodical evaluation of work of the Institute by an Achievement Audit Committee consisting of specialists. In this connection, the Committee would like to invite the attention of the Ministry to the recommendation made by them in para 9 of their 76th

Report (Third Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture)—Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

Reply of Government

All our Institutes are evaluated by Achievement Audit Committee once in five years and Fisheries Institutes also come under that system as the Institute has come now under Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 17) Para 3.52

The Committee are glad to learn that important work that is being carried out by the Marine Biological Association of India at Mandapam Camp, which, it appears to the Committee, is being solely run with the active help and initiative of the Director and staff of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. In view of the importance of the work being done by the Association, which needs no emphasis, the Committee would suggest that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research should give suitable encouragement and financial assistance to this Association which is stated to have already earned international recognition.

Reply of Government

Noted. There is already a scheme in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for financial assistance to Scientific Societies in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry under which this Association will also be eligible for assistance.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 18) Paras 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8

Para 4.6—The Committee need hardly point out that mere collection of useful information without disseminating it to the users serves no purpose. They regret to note in this connection that “except for casual information, the Institute does not maintain direct liaison with the Industry.” They would, therefore, urge that all the Central Fishery Institutes should maintain close liaison and coordination with the users organisations, associations and industry and pass on the fruits of research and investigations freely to them as well as to fish farmers, fishery operatives, and fish processors so that the information could be utilised for the development of India’s fisheries.

Para 4.7—The Committee consider it unfortunate that as a measure of economy the ten Fisheries Extension Units started by the Ministry in 1956-57 had to be wound up on 31st March, 1967. Now that the Government is considering the question of strengthening extension work, the Com-

mittee would stress the need for establishment of Central Government Extension Units at the earliest possible opportunity, wherever necessary. They would also recommend that a scheme may be worked out by which close liaison and coordination could be maintained between the Central Extension Units and State Extension Units on the one hand and between the State Extension Units *inter se* on the other.

Para 4.8—The Committee hope that the Extension aspect of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute will be looked after adequately now that the Institute has gone under the control of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Reply of Government

Paras 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8—The suggestion is noted and suitable action to ensure closer liaison with Industry and for dissemination of results of research of the Institute will be taken.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 19) Para 4.15

The Committee need hardly stress that timely publication of Bulletins, News Letters and other periodical publications on technology can go a long way in bringing home the results of research and investigations made by the various Research Institutes to the users. The Committee commend the efforts made by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in this behalf. They, however, feel that there is much leeway yet to be made in this matter. They suggest that Government should take suitable steps in this direction early so that the results of research could be brought to the level of people engaged in fishing in an easily assimilable form. One of the ways in which this could be done is to bring out publications in simple regional languages and make them accessible to all concerned. The Committee suggest, therefore, that this question be taken up with the concerned State Governments so that the results of researches and investigations made by various Fisheries Research Institutes are taken advantage of by the fishermen, fish processors, etc.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted for guidance. The question of bringing about publications in the regional languages and making them accessible to all concerned will be taken up with the concerned State Governments.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 19) Para 4.16

The Committee recommend that provision of a Rotaprint Press for the Institute should be expedited.

Reply of Government

The question of the provision of a Rotaprint Press for the Institute is under consideration by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

Committee may be apprised of the final decision.

Recommendation (Serial No. 19) Para 4.17

With regard to the suggestions that the Institute be provided with facilities to bring out its own journal, the Committee would suggest that the matter may be examined by the Publication Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in all its aspects.

Reply of Government

The Scientific Panel for Publications of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, at its meeting held on 15th July, 1968, considered the above recommendation of the Estimates Committee. It was decided that this should be examined against the earlier recommendations of the Estimates Committee and the Committee of Secretaries as a result of which certain journals were discontinued and others were merged. The Estimates Committee had desired in its 75th Report (Third Lok Sabha) that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research should carefully examine the question of multiplicity of publication media with a view to deciding which of the journals should be discontinued, etc., so that wasteful expenditure could be avoided. The proposal of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute to be provided with facilities to bring out its own journals will be placed before the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Before this is done, it will be necessary to have a full picture of the publicity media available with the Institute. The comments of the Director of the Institute have accordingly been called for and the case will be processed on receipt of the required information.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 20) Para 4.23

The Committee feel that very few universities in India are taking advantage of the facilities provided at the Institute for research leading to the award of Ph.D. and D.Sc. Degrees. They are not aware of the reasons why Madras University has not recognised the Institute as a centre for carrying out research leading to award of Ph.D. and D.Sc. degrees. The Committee suggest that concerted efforts should be made to attract more and more researchers for conducting research at the Institute. They also

suggest that the Ministry may take up with the State Government of Madras and the University of Madras the question of according recognition to the Institute as a centre for research on marine biology leading to the award of doctorate degrees.

Reply of Government

Noted. The matter is under examination.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68-AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

The final decision taken may be communicated to the Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 20) Para 4.24

The Committee note that only 35 scientists and research workers had come to the Institute from foreign countries for doing research work (23 in 1962, 10 in 1964 and 2 in 1966). The Committee suggest that appropriate steps may be taken to attract a larger number of researchers from foreign countries for doing research work at the Institute, after fully catering to the needs of Indian research workers.

Reply of Government

During the short period of 2 years from the latter half of 1966 and March 1968 a total of 16 foreign scientists visited the Institute apart from a few Indian scientists and other visiting parties and more foreign scientists are expected by the end of 1968 and early in 1969 at the time of the proposed Symposia on Corals and Coral Reefs which would enable wider publicity of the facilities available and of the working of the Institute.

As decided in the Directors' meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research the scheme of Inter-Institutional training proposed for scientific staff would also, when implemented in the near future, promote visits of more scientists to the Institute.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 21) Para 4.29

The Committee are concerned to note that the Library of the Institute which is claimed to be the best Library in fisheries and marine sciences in South-East Asia is poorly equipped and inadequately staffed for the last several years. They are unhappy to learn that Govt. have not taken any action to equip and staff the Library adequately even though the matter has been on several occasions referred by the Institute to them. The Committee hope that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research will take immediate and adequate steps in this behalf.

Reply of Government

Proposals are under the active consideration of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for strengthening the staff of the Library of the Institute.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 22) Para 4.33

The Committee note that the Laboratory is now well equipped.

Reply of Government

No comments.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 23) Paras 4.38, 4.39 and 4.40

Para 4.38—The Committee have also been informed that the Institute has an Aquarium with continuous supply of circulating sea and fresh water and a pair of dugongs or the so called "Mermaids" has been living in the aquarium tank for the past seven years which is the longest period on record in the world for these animals in captivity.

Para 4.39—About the preservation of the two dugongs (mermaids), the representative of the Institute has stated that the tank in which they were kept is small. Actually, the work on this side does not form a regular activity of the Institute. But as these are the only two in captivity and they are extremely interesting and rare species, they are kept at the Institute. It has been further stated that it would be useful to have an aquarium, but financially it would be beyond the capacity of the Institute to provide that. Asked, whether they could not be transferred to the Delhi Zoo the representative of the Institute, has stated that they must have salt water. The representative of the Ministry has assured the Committee that he would look into this matter.

Reply of Government

Paras 4.38 and 4.39—Proposals for the construction of a suitable aquarium tank to afford better living conditions to the two dugongs (mermaids) are under consideration. They are still the only ones in captivity in the world.

Comments of the Committee

The matter [construction of a suitable aquarium tank for the two dugongs (mermaids)] should be decided early.

4.40. The Committee need hardly emphasise the desirability of staffing the General Museum of the Institute adequately. They apprehend that if it is not staffed and maintained properly the exhibits may deteriorate for lack of proper care and be lost to the posterity due to neglect. They would also urge that a guide lecturer should be provided for the Museum so that he could explain the exhibits contained therein to the students and visitors who visit the Museum in large numbers.

Reply of Government

4.40. Staff proposals for the Museum have been included in the Fourth Five Year Plan proposals.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 24) Para 5.5

The Committee have already commented on the 'Decentralisation of work, as between the Headquarters of the Institute and its various sub-stations/units/centres in para 2.21 of the Report. The Committee feel that the question of greater delegation of financial and administrative powers to the various officers-in-charge should be gone into thoroughly so as to eliminate unnecessary delays.

Reply of Government

This has been dealt with in the answer to para 2.21 which may kindly be referred to.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 25) Para 5.13

The Committee feel that expansion of the activities of the Madras Sub-Station of the Institute is closely linked with the provision of permanent buildings for the Sub-Station. The Committee are concerned to note that no staff expansion has been made purely on the ground that there is paucity of accommodation and working space. They apprehend that the work on the Fourth Plan Schemes, when approved would seriously lag behind, if simultaneous steps are not taken to provide permanent buildings for the Sub-Station, especially in view of the difficulty in obtaining rented accommodation in Madras. Now that the Institute has gone under the control of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Committee hope that immediate steps will be taken in this direction for concerted action both with regard to personnel and equipment on the one hand and accommodation on the other.

Reply of Government

Proposals for acquiring land for the construction of buildings for the sub-station at Madras are under consideration. This question is also linked

up with the proposal to shift the headquarters of the Institute from Mandapam Camp to a central place to examine for which a Committee has been set up *vide* answer of paras 1.21 and 1.22. Proposals for additional staff for the station are also under examination.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

Final decision in the matter may be intimated to the Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 26) Para 5.19

The Committee regret to note that the administrative set-up of the Ernakulam Sub-Station is inadequate. They need hardly point out that an adequate administrative set-up is a prerequisite for smooth and efficient functioning of the Institutes. They would urge that the matter be examined thoroughly and an early decision taken.

Reply of Government

The question of strengthening the administrative set-up of the Ernakulam Sub-Station is under active consideration.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 26) Para 5.20

The Committee also feel that proper supervision over sub-station is difficult in view of the fact that it is housed in two separate buildings quite at a distance, from one another. The Committee would like the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to look into this question immediately and decide if the premises of the former Indian Coconut Research Institute could be allotted to the Sub-station for the time being pending construction of its own building.

Reply of Government

Efforts are being made to locate a suitable building to house all the staff of Ernakulam Sub-Station. The premises of the former Indian Central Coconut Committee at Ernakulam are not available as they have been utilized by the Government of India to house their Regional Office, Coconut Development.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Recommendation (Serial No. 27) Para 5.22

In view of the fact that Calicut is a very important fishing centre, the Committee stress that the Sub-Station of the Institute at Calicut should be strengthened and the feasibility of providing enough landing and berthing facilities there considered.

Reply of Government

A fishing harbour is under development at Beypore 7 miles from Calicut. It will be considered if this will meet the needs of the Institute as there are natural difficulties to have a harbour at Calicut proper.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

Final decision may be communicated after a year.

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 11) Paras 3.27, 3.28 and 3.29 and (Serial No. 12) Para 3.31

Para 3.27—The Committee are constrained to observe that it has not been possible for Government to provide the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute with its own research vessel even though its need in connection with marine fisheries investigations in India was recognised from the very inception of the Institute. They are all the more unhappy to note the indifference shown by the Government, even though they were aware that 'Varuna' could not meet the requirements of the Institute fully and the present arrangement is very unsatisfactory.

Para 3.28—The Committee would like to be assured that a research vessel suitable for the purpose of the Institute will be obtained and supplied to the Institute at an early date.

Para 3.29—The Committee feel that it should be possible for the Ministry to find enough foreign exchange for importing the minimum number of research vessels required if the Government are convinced that (i) these could not be built in India, and (ii) that there is urgent need for research vessels for fisheries development in the country. The Committee strongly feel that inadequate measures of this nature in the matter of research render the whole project a waste of men and material. In any case the Committee would like to stress that the provision of a proper research vessel is an essential pre-requisite for a Research Institute on Marine Fisheries.

Para 3.31—The Committee realise that the question of constructing a research vessel for this Institute is linked up with the overall question of availability of indigenous capacity *vis-a-vis* imports. However, in the present context, they need hardly point out that the budget provisions should be made on a realistic basis as over budgeting is as bad as under-budgeting. The Committee feel that before providing the sums in the budget for the year 1966-67 and again in the year 1967-68, the Government should have ascertained whether the supply of the vessel was at all likely to materialise in the course of one year.

Reply of Government

Paras 3.27, 3.28, 3.29 and 3.31—It is recognised that the provision of a Research Vessel is an essential pre-requisite for the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. In fact Department of Agriculture has been trying to procure a research vessel for the Institute from one of the credit countries

like Sweden, France, Japan, etc. at an estimated cost of Rs. 30 lakhs. The Department of Agriculture got the approval of the Associated Finance to approach the Department of Economic Affairs for sanctioning the necessary foreign exchange provided clearance of the Director General Technical Development and the Ministry of Defence Production was obtained. When the case was referred to the Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Production), it was pointed out that the Mazagon Dock Limited, a Public Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence had indicated that they were in a position to design, build and deliver such a vessel within 24 months after finalisation of specifications and receipt of import licence at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 lakhs. It was also stated that a building berth was expected to fall vacant in February, 1969 when the company would be able to take on the order.

In the circumstances, the Ministry of Defence did not agree to the import of the vessel in question. The matter is now under further active consideration of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, letter No. F. 18-11/68AHI(I), dated the 13th November, 1968].

Comments of the Committee

The Committee hope that a building berth at the Mazagon Dock Limited has actually been made available and construction of a research vessel has been started. In case it is not possible for the Mazagon Dock Limited to undertake construction of the vessel, Government may initiate action for procurement of the vessel from abroad.

NEW DELHI;

July 31, 1969

Saravani 9, 1891 (*Saka*)

M. THIRUMALA RAO,

Chairman,

Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

(vide Introduction to Report)

*Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained the
Thirty-sixth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha)*

Total Number of recommendations	27
Recommendations which have been accepted by Government, <i>i.e.</i> recommendations Nos. 1—10, 13—27.	
Number	25
Percentage to total	92·6
Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply, <i>i.e.</i> recommendations Nos. 11 and 12	
Number	2
Percentage to total	7·4

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