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**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2011-2012)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)**

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2011-12)

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendations contained in the Twenty Third Report
of the Committee on Agriculture (2010-2011)}**

TWENTY NINTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

February, 2012/Magha, 1933 (Saka)

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Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Third Report
of the Committee on Agriculture (2010-2011)]**

Presented to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on	16.02.2012
Presented to Lok Sabha on
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2012/Magha, 1933 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2011-12)

Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman

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3. Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba'
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SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Deepak Mahna - Joint Secretary
2. Shri P. V. L. N. Murthy - Director
3. Shri P.C. Koul - Additional Director
4. Shri R.S. Negi - Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Agriculture (2011-2012) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2011-12) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

2. The Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2010-2011) on Demands for Grants (2011-12) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 29 August, 2011. The Action Taken Replies on the Report were received on 28 November, 2011.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 10 February, 2012.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Twenty-third Report of the Committee is given in **Annexure.**

NEW DELHI;
10 February, 2012
21 Magha, 1933 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA
Chairman,
Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER-I

R E P O R T

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Twenty-Third Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2010-2011) on "Demands for Grants 2011-12" pertaining to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 29 August 2011.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 13 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorized as under:

- . Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government:
Recommendation Para Nos. 1.4, 2.30, 2.31, 3.23, 3.25, 3.27 and 3.30
- . Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:
Recommendation Para Nos. NIL
- . Observations/Recommendations in respect of which action taken replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:
Recommendation Para Nos. 2.32, 3.22, 3.26, 3.28 and 3.29
- . Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited :
Recommendation Para No. 3.24

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the observations/recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases, where it is not possible for the Department to implement

the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Notes on the Observations / Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Final Action Taken Replies to the Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

ELEVENTH PLAN ALLOCATION
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 2.30)

1.5 The Committee noted that the Working Group for the Eleventh Plan had proposed a sum of Rs. 37,672 crore for Department of Agricultural Research and Education for the Eleventh Plan. During the currency of the Plan, the Department had proposed on an year to year basis, allocations amounting to Rs. 17,127 crore (approx) to the Planning Commission. Against this, the Planning Commission made an allocation of Rs. 12023 crore. However, on perusal of the budgetary documents furnished by DARE, the Committee observed that the actual releases by the Planning Commission was to the tune of Rs. 10054 crore only. The Committee were unable to comprehend the frugal approach adopted by the Planning Commission while allocating funds to DARE whose fund utilization had always crossed 90% during the first four fiscals of the current Plan period. The Department were also very candid in informing that scarcity of funds had negatively impacted all the Schemes being implemented by them by slowing down the pace of completion. They were further disconcerted to observe that a Scientific Department was being subjected to severe insensitivity because of the severe apathy of all concerned. DARE is not only mandated with developing scientific, area specific and economically viable agricultural practises but also the National Agriculture Research System (NARS) which is responsible for ensuring the food security of the nation and the prosperity and well being of the farmer. The Committee, inspite of sounding repetitive for the umpteenth time, urged the

Government to mend their heaven may care attitude towards the Agriculture Sector and ensure that this sector was not starved of funds in future. They further recommended that for the ongoing Fiscal, DARE take up the issue of enhancement of funds at the highest level with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) for a quantum jump at RE stage to ensure that the total allocation earmarked for the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the actual allocation made were in sync with each other.

1.6 The Government in its action taken reply stated that the recommendation of the Committee was referred to Planning Commission which submits that “the GBS provision is broadly decided by the parameters like; (i.) Overall resources position, (ii) competing sectoral demands / priorities, (iii) utilization of funds and absorptive capacity; and (iv) unspent balances. Keeping these in view an outlay of Rs. 1620, 1760, 1760, 2300 and 2800 crores have been provided to the DARE/ICAR as BE on an yearly basis.

1.7 The Committee are deeply perturbed to note that the Department have restricted themselves to simply referring the recommendation to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission, as is their wont, have cited the often repeated alibi of competing sectoral demands/priorities to mix this very genuine requirement of funds of the Department. The basic intent of the Committee while recommending this measure was to ensure a quantum jump of funds at RE stage so that the total allocation earmarked for the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the actual allocations made are in sync with each other. It is pertinent to reiterate here again that the position of the Department in respect of utilisation of funds/the absorptive capacity thereof as brought out in the Twenty Third Report did not warrant such an approach by the Planning Commission. Now that this phase is over and a golden opportunity has been lost with regard to enhancement of funds for the Department in the Eleventh Plan. They expect the Department to be more vigilant and result oriented while pursuing the recommendations of the Committee with all concerned authorities.

ALLOCATION FOR AGRICULTURE RESEARCH
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 2.31)

1.8 The Committee having found that inspite of DARE and the Planning Commission having concurred with the recommendation of the Committee for allocation of 1% of Agriculture GDP for Agricultural Research, the allocations for DARE from the Central Plan Outlay for the duration of the Eleventh Five Year Plan had never ever been more than a fraction of it had expressed their anguish over the fact that the allocation for the current Plan period was also a mere 0.46% of the Central Outlay. The Committee strongly deprecated this sordid state of affairs which was endemic of the shortcomings plaguing the prevalent system of planning in the Country. The Committee had, therefore, exhorted the Department as well as the Planning Commission to ensure allocation of 1% of Agriculture GDP for Research right from the inaugural year of the Twelfth Five Year Plan and ensure that it remains constant.

1.9 The Government in their Action Taken Note have stated that the recommendation of the Committee was referred to Planning Commission which submits that “this issue is under consideration of Planning Commission. The allocation for Research and Education would be suitably increased taking into consideration the performance of previous years and resource availability.”

1.10 The Committee take the assurance of the Planning Commission as a gesture in the right direction as the Commission have concurred with the recommendation of the Committee for allocation of 1% of Agricultural GDP for Agriculture Research. They would, however, exhort the Planning Commission not to forget that amongst the various competing claims the allocation of funds for Agricultural Research ought to be accorded the highest priority as the food security of the Country would depend on it to a large extent in the coming years. The Committee further desire the Department of Agricultural Research and Education to pursue the issue vigorously with the Planning Commission at all levels to fructify this long overdue benchmark.

TWELFTH PLAN PLANNING
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 2.32)

1.11 During the Eleventh Plan the Committee had observed that the first two to three years of the Plan were spent on obtaining approvals of various Schemes of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education from various agencies, thereby leaving precious little time for their proper implementation which admittedly impacted negatively the implementation of the Schemes leading to substantial cost and time overruns, staggering/curtailing of targets, reduced allocations, etc. They further noted that advance exercise for finalizing requirements and projections for the Twelfth Plan had been initiated by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education on the advice of the Planning Commission and the major thrust areas had been identified. A draft Approach Paper for the Twelfth Plan (2012-17) had been presented before the full Planning Commission and the issues highlighted in the Approach Paper were in the public domain, the Committee desired the Department to initiate timely action for preparation of SFC/EFC Documents so that the experience of Eleventh Plan does not recur in the Twelfth Plan and implementation of Twelfth Plan starts in time. They had further desired that the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance and other agencies involved in according approvals to a project reduce their time frame so as to ensure prompt implementation of Schemes and thereby avoiding staggering of timelines and increase viability of the Scheme(s). The Committee had strongly recommended the Planning Commission and the Government to ensure that all formalities relating to the Twelfth Plan are completed well in advance so that the Plan is conveyed to the Ministries/Departments latest by December 2011 so that they are able to start proper implementation of their Schemes from day one of the Twelfth Plan.

1.12 The Department in their Action Taken Note have stated that they had referred the Recommendation of the Committee to Planning Commission which submits that “the scheme approval moves through well established procedures viz EFC/SFC/CCEA etc.” They have further stated that the Department will try their best to expedite the process of EFC, etc.

1.13 The Committee are shocked by the casual and incomplete reply of the Planning Commission to a Recommendation which rather than addressing the issue of reduction of time frame for approval of schemes and related matters attempts to educate the Committee about the soundness of the well established procedures of EFC/SFC/CCEA etc. which they were more than aware while recommending so. In their considered opinion this recommendation if not implemented in right earnest and with utmost professionalism would thereby render the Twelfth Plan also to meet the same fate of Eleventh Plan with no work being done on any of the schemes almost through the entire first two years and the remainder of the Plan year being rendered virtually ineffective due to the staggered start. The Planning Commission cannot shrug from their responsibility of working out and emerging with a Plan Document well before the Plan commences by citing procedural alibis, however, well established such procedures may be. With January, 2012 also gone by and the first Budget of the Twelfth Plan an anvil, the Committee reiterate their Recommendation and desire that the Plan be conveyed to Ministries/Departments without any further delay. They expect that the Parliament should discuss the DFGs 2012-13 in the light of and under the policy and framework of the Twelfth Plan Document so that a purposeful, more effective and meaningful scrutiny of the Demands for Grants is ensured unlike in the previous Plan.

NEW SCHEMES
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.22)

1.14 The Committee had noted that the ills besetting the extant system of according clearance/approvals to a Scheme by the various agencies involved which the Committee had highlighted unequivocally on numerous occasions in their earlier Reports seems to be falling on deaf ears, as was evident in the extant case. The New Schemes of the Department, namely, National Institute of Agriculture Biotechnology and National Institute of Biotic Stress Management held up since the inception of the Eleventh Five Year Plan till date while the Plan itself was in its terminal stage. The Committee had empathized with DARE on this issue as for no fault of theirs they were

facing the wrong end of the stick. The Committee while strongly deprecating this sordid state of affairs had called for a complete overhaul of the extant system of planning when the Planning Commission and the Government sat together to sort out the modalities for the soon to be implemented Twelfth Five Year Plan. The Committee had also exhorted the Department to play a pro-active role in this matter and take up this issue with all concerned at the highest level to ensure that all New Schemes were accorded clearances by all concerned in good time, thereby ensuring timely implementation, timely review and ultimately achieving their assigned target in the next Plan period. As regard the two Schemes in question, the Committee had desired that a time bound schedule of implementation be worked out by DARE and presented to them within three months of presentation of the Report in question to Parliament.

1.15 In their Action Taken Note the Government have stated that the EFC proposals for setting up the (i) Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (IIAB), Ranchi, Jharkhand and (ii) National Institute of Biotic Stress Management (NIBSM), Raipur, Chhattisgarh was held on 26 July, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Govt. of India which considered the EFC proposals for setting up of the IIAB, Ranchi, Jharkhand and NIBSM, Raipur, Chhattisgarh and decided that “HRD Ministry needs to be consulted as these institutes are proposed to be ‘deemed’ universities”.

Accordingly, the modified proposals along-with a copy of the EFC minutes held on 26 July, 2011 were forwarded to the Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) for their comments.

In response, the Ministry of Human Resource Development requested ICAR to ask the institutes to submit their proposal for seeking status of deemed to be University in accordance with UGC Regulations (Institutions deemed to be Universities), 2010.

1.16 The Committee feel that this particular instance is a glaring lapse on the part of the Department. It is beyond comprehension as to how the Department have not taken such as elementary step of seeking status of deemed to be University under the relevant UGC Regulations while mooted the proposals for these two Institutes of higher learning. They condemn this serious lapse of the

Department in unequivocal terms for its has contributed to the delay in commissioning of these two Institutes of immense importance which they were all along trying hard to impress upon the Government to reduces. The Committee expect that at least now the Department would take up this matter with the urgency it deserves so that the operationalization of these two Institutes is not delayed even for a day.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION PROJECT
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.24)

1.17 The Committee had noted that to achieve excellence, enhanced relevance, and high efficiency in higher agricultural education system, and the agricultural universities to offer enhanced services to benefit farmers, rural women and other stakeholders, the Department of Agricultural Research and Education were trying to formulate the National Agriculture Education Project (NAEP). Under this Project it was proposed to attract young talent to agricultural education sector, major reforms in governance for bringing efficiency in the system, embedding system for attracting and retaining talented faculty continued emphasis on capacity building through quality improvement programmes nationally and internationally, development of Centres of Excellence, developing public-private partnership for curriculum delivery and educational research, partnership with foreign universities for sandwich programmes, inviting international faculty for capacity building, etc. In addition to these, there was a proposal to start non-formal education with the objective of reaching the untapped sections for tapping agricultural potential in disadvantaged regions.

The Committee while appreciating that the Department had consulted a large number of stakeholders, experts, scientists, industries and their associations etc. and incorporated their valuable suggestions in the National Agriculture Education Project had found inexplicable the reasons stalling the implementation of the said project and had desired the Department to get the approval for NAEP expedited in a stipulated time frame, thereby, clearing the decks for implementation of a project of vital importance without any further delay.

1.18 The Government in their Action Taken Note have stated that this project has been prepared for implementation sometime in the XIIth Plan, and has to go through a process of approvals, including consideration of the funding agency.

1.19 The Committee are glad to note that the Department of Agricultural Research and Education finally decided to initiate action with a view to implement this project in the XII Five Year Plan. They however, hope that the project would be finalised after obtaining all requisite clearances and approvals expeditiously and a decision on funding agency would also be arrived well in time so that the project will become a reality at the beginning of Twelfth Plan.

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.26)

1.20 The Committee had noted that Agriculture Extension consisting of Plan Schemes - KVK, DRWA, AICRP on Home Science and DIPA for which an outlay of Rs. 2102.74 crore was earmarked for the Eleventh Plan had been allocated Rs. 1378.50 crore during the first four years of Eleventh Plan and BE for 2011-12 was Rs. 432 crore. The Department had been able to spend Rs. 1140.76 crore in first four years and with Rs. 432 crore as anticipated expenditure in the Fiscal 2011-12 the total spending set to reach Rs. 1572.76 crore. The Committee were not at all convinced with the plea of the Department that due to less allocation of funds prioritization of activities and the infrastructure had to be made and accordingly infrastructural facilities like farmers' hostels, staff quarters, equipments and demonstration units could not be provided in certain KVKs which did not affect the mandated activities. The Committee had found it inexplicable that if such shortcomings in certain KVKs did not/do not affect the mandated activities then why the Department had made provisions for such activities in the KVKs in the Country. They had, therefore, recommended the Department to rework on their priorities in the KVKs and strengthen the system so that funds allocated for the Scheme could be fully utilized in future. Since KVKs are the bulwark of agriculture extension network in the Country, the Committee had also desired the Department to

work out reasonable fund requirements for them in the Twelfth Plan and make all out efforts to get them approved from the Planning Commission.

1.21 In their Action Taken Note the current position has been given as under by the Government:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Funds allocated (BE)	Funds allocated II (RE)	Funds Utilized I	Percentage utilization against RE
2007-08	288.53	320.50	288.52	90.02
2008-09	315.31	315.00	313.52	99.52
2009-10	328.41	328.00	327.79	99.93
2010-11	440.80	636.30	635.46	99.86
Total		1599.80	1565.29	97.33

It is clear from the above table that for the last four years, Agricultural Extension Division was allocated Rs. 1599.80 crore of approved RE. Out of this, the Actual Expenditure during the last four years comes to Rs. 1565.29 crore which is around 97.33% of allocated budget.

1.22 The following figures were provided about the financial performance of Agriculture Extension Scheme during the Eleventh Plan by the Department while furnishing information for and in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants 2011-12:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Funds Allocated BE	Funds Allocated RE	Funds Utilised
2007-08	281.00	320.50	256.17
2008-09	301.00	315.00	273.44
2009-10	307.00	328.00	327.79
2010-11	400.00	415.00	283.36 upto Jan. 2011
	1289.00	1378.50	1140.76

The fund allocation at RE stage which is normally the final allocation for the Fiscal for any Scheme, in the case of this particular scheme totals to Rs. 1378.50 crore for the first four fiscals. It may also be seen that there has been considerable underspending under the scheme in 2007-08 and 2008-09. In 2010-11 also the Department had spent Rs. 283.36 only upto January, 2011 out of RE allocation of Rs. 415.00 crore leaving a massive sum of Rs. 131 crore plus for the last two months of the Fiscal. In percentage terms, the actual expenditure, therefore, worked out to..... Based on these very figures the performance of the Department was commented upon by the Committee.

From the action taken notes furnished by DARE the Committee find that most of the figures pertaining to the financial performance of Agriculture Extension Scheme have been changed. And these changes are not restricted to updation of figures requiring updation in respect of the Financial Year 2010-11. The Department could have at i.e. the end of Fiscal best updated the Actuals of 2010-11 to March, 2011 since at the time of examination of Demands for Grants 2011-12, the final figures for that year would normally be not available. The Committee find this methodology of DARE highly disconcerting. Changing figures of years gone by with a view to improve their spending performance in order to negate the recommendations of the Committee is a deplorable practice which needs to be unequivocally condemned. In their Fourth Report also the Committee had pointed out a wrong in the accounting practice of the Department under Crop Sciences Head. After initially denying any wrong doing in the matter, the Department had after persistent queries admitted to the mistake and promised Course-Correction from the next Fiscal. The present action of DARE, however, in the view of the Committee is a very serious matter. They would, therefore, like the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance to go into the entire gamut of the matter and submit a detailed Report to the Committee through DARE within one month of presentation of this Report of the Committee to the Parliament. They further desire that DARE shall not club the report sought by the Committee from Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance with the replies of

other recommendations contained in this Report on which action by Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance is not required.

ICAR HQ
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.27)

1.23 The Committee had noted that the Department had failed to fulfil their assurance regarding utilisation of allocation under the Major Head ICAR Headquarter Plan Head during 2009-10. They had found that the construction of Auditorium planned for could not be started for want of clearances from MCD, Delhi Fire Service and Delhi Urban Art Commission, etc. The Department had submitted Layout Plan to Town Planning Division of MCD on 27 June, 2010 and approval was received on 17 February, 2011. Thereafter, it was submitted to Building Section of MCD on 4 March 2011 for examination and also seeking approval from Delhi Urban Art Commission and Delhi Fire Service. In the meantime, this dilly dallying had led to the revised cost getting escalated from Rs. 35 crore to Rs. 101.90 crore, of which Rs. 66.90 crore was ascribed to additional items. Surprised to note that the Department allocated Rs. 2 crore for construction of Auditorium during 2009-10 when the basic requirements viz. Layout Plan, Building Plan, etc. for construction were not completed the Committee while expressing their disapproval of such practices desired the Department to strengthen their internal planning mechanism so that the cases of non-utilisation are avoided in future. They had also desired the Department to expedite the clearance of the project from various local civic authorities, so that the further cost escalation of the project can be avoided.

1.24 In their Action Taken Note the Government have stated that the revised estimate amounting to Rs. 101.90 crores has been approved in the Revised EFC of ICAR Headquarters which was held on 24 August, 2011. Revised layout plan of National Agricultural Science Complex including auditorium has been approved by Delhi Urban Arts Commission on 24 August, 2011. Pre-engineering works for auditorium is in

process and process for finalization of construction agency is underway. The construction agency is also being mobilized at site.

1.25 The Committee appreciate that the Government have been able to get the revised lay out plan of the National Agriculture Science Complex approved from the Delhi Urban Arts Commission. The Committee are, however, unhappy to note the silence of DARE in regard to strengthening their internal planning mechanism to avoid non utilisation of funds. Furthermore, the Committee observe some contradiction from the Action Taken Note of DARE on the instant Recommendation. At one place it has been mentioned that process for finalisation of construction agency is underway. However, on the other, it has been stated that the construction agency is also being mobilised at site. How the construction agency is being mobilised at site without being finalised needs to be clarified by the Department.

AGRICULTURE ENGINEERING
(RECOMMENDATION PARE NO. 3.28)

1.26 Under the Major Head Agriculture Engineering, the Outlay for Eleventh Plan was Rs. 262.20 crore. SFC/EFC approved an amount of Rs. 274.03 crore. Rupees 11.83 crore was taken into account while preparing the Eleventh Plan SFC/EFC document for the Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums (INRG) to strengthen the infrastructure and other research contingencies of Institute. The Committee had found that the Department had not utilized their original outlay of Rs. 262.20 crore under the Head. They had further found that during the current Five Year Plan the Department would be able to utilise Rs. 176.33 crore (first four years RE plus Fifth Year BE Rs. 67.40 crore totalling to Rs. 243.73 crore) thereby resulting in underutilisation of more than Rs. 30 crore under the Head. Previously also the Committee in their Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) had already recommended the Department to ensure that both the cost and timelines of the Schemes under this Head are not staggered. Therefore, deprecating this sordid state of affairs the Committee had impressed upon

the Department to review the reasons leading to under-utilization of allocated funds and Plan their fund utilisation in a more even spread and proper manner so that under-utilization of precious funds could be avoided in future.

1.27 The current position as submitted to the Committee by the Government is as under:

Year	Allocation	Expenditure	(Rs. In crore)
			Percentage utilization against RE
2007-2008	40.00	34.06	85.13
2008-2009	42.00	41.87	99.68
2009-2010	43.00	43.00	99.99
2010-2011	52.63	52.62	99.97
Grand Total	177.63	171.54	96.56

It is clear from the above table that for the last four years, Agricultural Engineering Division was allocated Rs. 177.63 crore. Out of this, the Actual Expenditure during the last four years comes to Rs. 171.54 crore which is around 96.56% of allocated budget.

1.28 The Table below shows the figures submitted by the Department while Demands for Grants 2011-12 were examined in respect of Agriculture Engineering:-

Year	Allocation	(Rs. In crore)
		Expenditure
2007-2008	40.00	32.30
2008-2009	42.00	48.40
2009-2010	43.00	42.99
2010-2011	52.63	36.90

As the case of Agricultural Extension, in respect of Agriculture Engineering also the Department have indulged in changing figures of previous fiscals while

submitting the Action Taken notes on the Recommendations made in the context of Demands for Grants 2011-12. The changed figures (actual) are at variance with what were (Table above) submitted to the Committee at the time of examination of Demands for Grants 2011-12. Obviously, these changes have again resulted in negation of the Recommendation of the Committee. The Committee, therefore, desire a Report on this aspect as well from the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance within one month of presentation of this Report to the Parliament.

ANIMAL SCIENCE
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.29)

1.29 The Committee having observed that out of the earmarked outlay of Rs. 920.83 crore approved by SFC/EFC for animal sciences, the Department have been able to utilize only Rs. 374.69 crore during the first four Years of the Plan, which in percentage terms amounted to a mere 40.7% of the approved amount during the period. On finding that the last year of the current Plan, a provision of Rs. 165.30 crore, which was 17.95% of the EFC/SFC had been allocated as BE they had felt that even if the Department were able to utilize the entire BE amount, the total utilization during the current Plan period would be only Rs. 540 crore. In percentage terms this amounted to 58.64% of the Outlay. They had, therefore, opined that this particular Scheme is a poor reflection on the overall utilization of DARE which is otherwise in the range of 90% and above. The consistent under performance of the Animal Science Sector does diminish the overall gloss of a high performance Department like DARE as here the blame fell squarely on their shoulders. The Committee, therefore, desired DARE to put their house in order and improve the implementation of Schemes under the Animal Science Sector so as to ensure optimum utilization of allocated funds and thus escape the chopping scissors of Ministry of Finance at RE stage.

1.30 In their Action Taken Note the Department have furnished the current position in this regard as follows:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Proposed BE	Approved BE	Approved RE	Actual expenditure	Percentage utilization against RE
2007-08	149.52	90.00	80.00	71.75	89.69%
2008-09	254.97	90.00	90.00	89.51	99.46%
2009-10	221.96	92.00	92.00	91.68	99.65%
2010-11	232.56	108.00	112.68	110.66	98.16%
Total	859.01	380.00	374.68	363.59	97.04%
2011-12	219.66	165.30			

They have further submitted that it is clear from the above table that for the last four years, Animal Science Division was allocated Rs. 374.68 crore as approved RE against the proposed BE of Rs. 859.01 crore which comes to 43.61 per cent only. Out of Rs. 374.68 crore allocated to Animal Science Division the actual expenditure during the last four years comes to Rs. 363.59 crore which is around 97.04 percent of allocated budget.

1.31 The following figures were submitted by the Department to the Committee at the time of examination of Demand for Grants 2011-12 in regard to Animal Sciences:-

(Rs. In crores)

Year	Proposed BE	Approved BE	Approved RE	Actual expenditure
2007-08	149.52	90.00	80.00	79.49
2008-09	288.92	90.00	90.00	104.31
2009-10	337.00	92.00	92.00	91.68
2010-11	341.45	108.00	112.68	74.02
2011-12	342.02	165.30		

Under the head also the Department have resorted to changing of figures of previous years which is inexplicable. As in the case of some of the previous replies of the Department, the Committee desire Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance to report to them in the context of this Head as well within a month of presentation of this Report to the Parliament.

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CHAPTER-II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 1.4

The Committee are deeply perturbed to note that the Minister of Agriculture is yet to make a Statement under Direction 73-A of Direction by Speaker, Lok Sabha in the context of Eighth Report of the Committee. The Statement which is to be mandatorily made within six months of the presentation of an Original Report to the Parliament has not been forthcoming even after more than fifteen months have elapsed. A similar delay in making of Statement under Direction 73-A took place in the context of the Thirty-eighth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) and was adversely commented upon by the Committee in their Fourth Report. The Committee take strong exception to the repeated failure of the Ministry to adhere to stipulations laid down in Direction 73-A. They also desire that the Statement may be made during the ongoing Session itself.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture has laid a Statement on behalf of Minister of Agriculture in Lok Sabha on 30th August, 2011 regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 8th and 19th Reports of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2010-11), pertaining to the Department of Agriculture Research and Education. Further, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development and Minister of Communications and Information Technology, on behalf of Minister of Agriculture laid on the Table in Rajya Sabha on 2nd September, 2011, a statement (in English and Hindi) on the status of implementation of observations/recommendations contained in the Eighth and Nineteenth Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants, for the year 2010-11, of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

ELEVENTH PLAN ALLOCATION
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 2.30)

The Committee note that the Working Group for the Eleventh Plan had proposed a sum of Rs. 37672 crore for Department of Agricultural Research and Education for the Eleventh Plan. During the currency of the Plan, the Department have proposed on an year to year basis, allocations amounting to Rs. 17,127 crore (approx) to the Planning Commission. Against this, the Planning Commission made an allocation of Rs. 12023 crore. However, on perusal of the budgetary documents furnished by DARE, the Committee observed that the actual releases by the Planning Commission are to the tune of Rs. 10054 crore only. The Committee are unable to comprehend the frugal approach adopted by the Planning Commission while allocating funds to DARE whose fund utilization has always crossed 90% during the first four fiscals of the current Plan period. The Department were also very candid in informing the Committee that scarcity of funds has negatively impacted all the Schemes being implemented by them by showing down the pace of completion. What is further disconcerting to observe is that a Scientific Department is being subjected to severe insensitivity because of the severe apathy of all concerned. DARE is not only mandated with developing scientific, area specific and economically viable agricultural practises but also the National Agriculture Research System (NARS) which is responsible for ensuring the food security of the nation and the prosperity and well being of the farmer. The Committee, inspite of sounding repetitive for the umpteenth time, urge the Government to mend their heaven may care attitude towards the Agriculture Sector and ensure that this sector is not starved of funds in future. The Committee further recommend that for the ongoing Fiscal, DARE take up the issue of enhancement of funds at the highest level with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) for a quantum jump at RE stage to ensure that the total allocation earmarked for the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the actual allocation made are in sync with each other.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Recommendation of the Committee was referred to Planning Commission which submits that “the GBS provision is broadly decided by the parameters like; (i.) Overall resources position, (ii) competing sectoral demands / priorities, (iii) utilization of funds and absorptive capacity; and (iv) unspent balances. Keeping these in view an outlay of Rs. 1620, 1760, 1760, 2300 and 2800 crores have been provided to the DARE/ICAR as BE on an yearly basis.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.7 of Chapter I of this Report.

ALLOCATION FOR AGRICULTURE RESEARCH (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO .2.31)

The Committee are dismayed to find that inspite of DARE and the Planning Commission having concurred with the recommendation of the Committee for allocation of 1% of Agriculture GDP for Agricultural Research, the allocations for DARE from the Central Plan Outlay for the duration of the Eleventh Five Year Plan has never ever been more than a fraction of it. It anguishes the Committee no end that the allocation for the current Plan period is a mere 0.46% of the Central Outlay. The Committee strongly deprecate this sordid state of affairs which is endemic of the shortcomings plaguing the prevalent system of planning in the Country. However, the Committee are pretty sanguine that if all concerned are committed to the task at hand, the same can be achieved from the next Five Year Plan. The Committee, therefore, exhort the Department as well as the Planning Commission to ensure allocation of 1% of

Agriculture GDP for Research right from the inaugural year of the Twelfth Five Year Plan and ensure that it remains constant.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Recommendation of the Committee was referred to Planning Commission which submits that “this issue is under consideration of Planning Commission. The allocation for research and Education would be suitably increased taking in to consideration the performance of previous years and resource availability.”

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.10 of Chapter I of this Report.

ATTRACTING TALENT TOWARDS AGRICULTURE SECTOR **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.23)**

The Committee express their happiness over the fact that the Department of Agriculture Research and Education have at last realised the need for making element of agriculture an attractive profession. The Committee are of the firm opinion that in order to break the now prevailing stereo-typed image of the agriculture sector and to attract the youth of the Country towards it, agriculture has to be made a viable and lucrative vocation in all aspects. Towards this end, the slew of measures being taken by DARE is indeed laudable as they have embarked upon incorporation of the latest scientific and technology development in agriculture, like Nanotechnology, biotechnology, remote sensing in the syllabi, of Agricultural Universities. This has resulted in interest being rekindled amongst the youth to take up Agriculture as a subject at graduate and post-graduate levels. In the considered opinion of the Committee, this will ultimately result in young agriculture graduates taking to agriculture

in a big way and changing the overall face of Indian Agriculture by putting their theoretical knowledge into practice in a scientific and well planned manner guided by their youthful zeal. However, the Committee caution the Department not to sit on their laurels and continue to work on this aspect as in their opinion this is a continuous process and thus requiring constant updates keeping in view the latest technological and scientific advancements taking place worldwide.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Noted.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

CENTRAL AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.25)**

The Committee have been informed that the comments from various agencies on the proposal for Expenditure Finance Committee for setting up of Central Agriculture University, Barapani were received and a revised note for EFC has been prepared. In regard to Central Agriculture University, Pusa, Bihar, the Planning Commission had sought some clarifications on the proposal received from the Government of Bihar. The modalities for transfer of manpower, infrastructure, etc. are in progress. Once all these issues are settled the EFC note will be firmed up and circulated for comments to various agencies. In case of CAU, Bundelkhand the EFC note was circulated way back in 31 December, 2009 and the EFC meeting has been held almost one and a half year later on 28 April, 2011. In the mean time, a provision of Rs. 30 crore for CAU Bundelkhand and Rs. 28 crore for CAU Barapani has been made for 2011-12. The Committee take umbrage at the tardy progress made in regard to setting up of Central Agriculture University, Barapani and CAU, Pusa, Bihar. In the considered opinion of the Committee, the Central Agricultural University at these places would be a much needed interface with the agriculture sector and allied activities in these States and act as a fillip for a holistic development of agriculture in these areas and therefore its timely sanction and implementation needs to be accorded highest priority by the Government. They, therefore, recommend the Department to take up this issue in right earnest with the

concerned agencies to ensure timely approval for setting up of CAU at Barapani, Pusa and Bundelkhand from EFC and CCEA and thereby avoid further staggering of timelines.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Noted.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

ICAR HQ **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.27)**

The Committee note that the Department have failed to fulfil their assurance regarding utilisation of allocation under the Major Head ICAR Headquarter Plan Head during 2009-10. The Committee found that the construction of Auditorium planned for could not be started for want of clearances from MCD, Delhi Fire Service and Delhi Urban Art Commission, etc. The Department have submitted Layout Plan to Town Planning Division of MCD on 27 June, 2010 and approval was received on 17 February, 2011. Thereafter, it was submitted to Building Section of MCD on 4 March 2011 for examination and also seeking approval from Delhi Urban Art Commission and Delhi Fire Service. In the meantime, this dilly dallying has led to the revised cost getting escalated from Rs. 35 crore to Rs. 101.90 crore, of which Rs. 66.90 crore is ascribed to additional items. The Committee are surprised to note that the Department allocated Rs. 2 crore for construction of Auditorium during 2009-10 when the basic requirements viz. Layout Plan, Building Plan, etc. for construction were not completed. While expressing their disapproval of such practices they desire the Department to strengthen their internal planning mechanism so that the cases of non-utilisation are avoided in future. They also desire the Department to expedite the clearance of the project from various local civic authorities, so that the further cost escalation of the project can be avoided and it can finally see the light of the day.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The revised estimate amounting to Rs. 101.90 crores has been approved in the Revised EFC of ICAR Headquarters which was held on 24.08.2011. Revised layout plan of National Agricultural Science Complex(NASC) including auditorium has been approved by Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC) on 24.08.2011. Pre-engineering works for auditorium is in process and process for finalization of construction agency is underway. The construction agency is also being mobilized at site.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.25 of Chapter I of this Report.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.30)**

The Committee note that the Indian Council of Agriculture Research have signed Memorandum of Understandings with institutions in USA, Mexico and El. Salvador for cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education Sector and the work plans for implementation of the activities by the Divisions concerned with these Memoranda are being worked out. The Committee desire the Department to expedite the finalisation of work plan for implementation of all activities under these MoUs with purposefulness and due promptitude, so that the objective of promoting co-operation in the field of agriculture research and training, exchange of scientists and technicians, exchange of genetic resources, scientific literature, information methodology can be successfully carried out, thereby forging a symbiotic relationship between the signatories to the MoUs and enriching the Indian Agriculture Sector and *vice-versa*. They desire to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Pursuant to the signing of MoUs with certain institutions in USA, Mexico and El Salvador for cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education, the work relating to formulation/finalization of Work Plans is in progress.

The Work Plan with Cornell University has already been signed. Efforts are being made to finalise Work Plans with the other universities of USA with whom MoUs have been signed. The Work Plans for cooperation with the Institutes in Mexico and El Salvador will be formulated after the requisite internal clearances from the Government appraisal agencies are obtained on the MoUs signed with them. Necessary action in this regard has already been taken and the matter is being actively pursued.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

CHAPTER-III

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

-NIL-

CHAPTER-IV

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

TWELFTH PLAN PLANNING **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 2.32)**

During the Eleventh Plan the Committee observed that the first two to three years of the Plan were spent on obtaining approvals of various Schemes of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education from various agencies, thereby leaving precious little time for their proper implementation. This has admittedly impacted negatively the implementation of the Schemes leading to substantial cost and time overruns, staggering/curtailing of targets, reduced allocations, etc. The Committee note that the advance exercise for finalizing requirements and projections for the Twelfth Plan has been initiated by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education on the advice of the Planning Commission and the major thrust areas have been identified. A draft Approach Paper for the Twelfth Plan (2012-17) has been presented before the full Planning Commission and the issues highlighted in the Approach Paper are in the public domain. The Committee desire the Department to initiate timely action for preparation of SFC/EFC Documents so that the experience of Eleventh Plan does not recur in the Twelfth Plan and implementation of Twelfth Plan starts in time. They further desire that the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance and other agencies involved in according approval to a project reduce their time frame so as to ensure prompt implementation of Schemes and thereby avoiding staggering of timelines and increase viability of the Scheme. Before concluding, the Committee would strongly recommend that the Planning Commission and the Government should ensure that all formalities relating to the Twelfth Plan are completed well in advance so that the Plan is

conveyed to the Ministries/Departments latest by December this year and they are able to start proper implementation of their Schemes from day one of the Twelfth Plan.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department has referred this Recommendation to Planning Commission which submits that “the scheme approval moves through well established procedures viz EFC/SFC/CCEA etc.” This Department will try to its best to expedite the process of EFC etc.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.13 of Chapter I of this Report.

NEW SCHEMES **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.22)**

The ills besetting the extant system of according clearance/approvals to a Scheme by the various agencies involved which the Committee have highlighted unequivocally on numerous occasions in their earlier report seems to be falling on deaf ears, as is evident in the extant case. The New Schemes of the Department, namely, National Institute of Agriculture Biotechnology and National Institute of Biotic Stress Management have been held up since the inception of the Eleventh Five Year Plan till date while the Plan itself is in its terminal stage. Though the Committee are well aware that majority of the New Schemes have staggered timelines for their implementation, this procrastination of the Government, however, in these two cases is totally bewildering. The Committee empathize with DARE on this issue as for no fault of theirs they are facing the wrong end of the stick. The Committee strongly deprecate this

sordid state of affairs and call for a complete overhaul of the extant system of planning when the Planning Commission and the Government sit together to sort out the modalities for the soon to be implemented Twelfth Five Year Plan. The Committee exhort the Department to play a pro-active role in this matter and take up this issue with all concerned at the highest level to ensure that all New Schemes are accorded clearances by all concerned in good time, thereby ensuring timely implementation, timely review and ultimately achieving its assigned target in the next Plan period. As regard the two Schemes in question, the Committee desire that a time bound schedule of implementation be worked out by DARE and presented to them within three months of presentation of this Report to Parliament.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The EFC proposals for setting up the (i) Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (IIAB), Ranchi, Jharkhand and (ii) National Institute of Biotic Stress Management (NIBSM), Raipur, Chhattisgarh was held on 26.7.2011 under the Chairmanship of Secretary(Expenditure), Govt. of India which considered the EFC proposals for setting up of the IIAB, Ranchi, Jharkhand and NIBSM, Raipur, Chhattisgarh and decided that “HRD Ministry needs to be consulted as these institutes are proposed to be ‘deemed’ universities”.

Accordingly, the modified proposals along-with a copy of the EFC minutes held on 26.7.2011 were forwarded to the Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development (Higher Education) for their comments.

In response, the Ministry of Human Resource Development requested ICAR to ask the institutes to submit their proposal for seeking status of deemed to be university in accordance with UGC Regulations (Institutions deemed to be Universities), 2010.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.16 of Chapter I of this Report.

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.26)**

The Committee note that Agriculture Extension consists of Plan Schemes - KVK, DRWA, AICRP on Home Science and DIPA for which an outlay of Rs. 2102.74 was earmarked for the Eleventh Plan. Out of the earmarked outlay Rs. 1378.50 crore has already been allocated during the first four years of Eleventh Plan and BE for 2011-12 is Rs. 432 crore. The Department have been able to spend Rs. 1140.76 crore in first four years and with Rs. 432 crore as anticipated expenditure in the current Fiscal the total spending will reach to Rs.1572.76 crore. The Committee are not at all convinced with the plea of the Department that due to less allocation of funds prioritization of activities and the infrastructure had to be made and accordingly infrastructural facilities like farmers' hostels, staff quarters, equipments and demonstration units could not be provided in certain KVKs which did not affect the mandated activities. The Committee find it inexplicable that if such shortcomings in certain KVKs did not/do not affect the mandated activities then why the Department have made provisions for such activities in the KVKs in the Country. They, therefore, recommend the Department to rework on their priorities in the KVKs and strengthen the system so that funds allocated for the Scheme can be fully utilized in future. Since KVKs are the bulwark of agriculture extension network in the Country, the Committee also desire the Department to work out reasonable fund requirements for them in the Twelfth Plan and make all out efforts to get them approved from the Planning Commission.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The current position is as under:

Year	(in lakh)			
	Funds allocated (BE)	Funds allocated (RE)	Funds Utilized	Percentage utilization against RE
2007-08	28852.5	32050.00	28852.20	90.02
2008-09	31531.34	31500.00	31351.71	99.52
2009-10	32841.27	32800.00	32778.79	99.93
2010-11	44079.65	63630.00	63546.20	99.86
Total		159980.00	156528.90	97.33

It is clear from the above table that for the last four years, Agricultural Extension Division was allocated Rs. 159980.00 lakhs of approved RE. Out of this, the Actual Expenditure during the last four years comes to Rs. 156528.90 lakhs which is around 97.33% of allocated budget.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.22 of Chapter I of this Report.

AGRICULTURE ENGINEERING **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.28)**

Under the Major Head Agriculture Engineering the Outlay for Eleventh Plan was Rs. 262.20 crore. SFC/EFC approved an amount of Rs. 274.03 crore. Rupees 11.83 crore was taken into account while preparing the Eleventh Plan SFC/EFC document for

the Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums (INRG) to strengthen the infrastructure and other research contingencies of Institute. The Committee found that the Department have not been able to utilize their original outlay of Rs. 262.20 crore under the Head. They further find that during the current Five Year Plan the Department will be able to utilise Rs. 176.33 crore (first four years RE plus Fifth Year BE Rs. 67.40 crore totalling to Rs. 243.73 crore) thereby resulting in underutilisation of more than Rs. 30 crore under the Head. The Committee in their Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) had already recommended the Department to ensure that both the cost and timelines of the Schemes under this Head are not staggered. The Committee deprecate this sordid state of affairs and impress upon the Department to review the reasons leading to under-utilization of allocated funds and Plan their fund utilisation in a more even spread and proper manner so that under-utilization of precious funds can be avoided in future.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The current position is as under:

(in lakh)			
Year	Allocation	Expenditure	Percentage utilization against RE
2007-2008	4000.00	3405.56	85.13
2008-2009	4200.00	4186.77	99.68
2009-2010	4300.00	4299.59	99.99
2010-2011	5263.00	5261.73	99.97
Grand Total	17763.00	17153.65	96.56

It is clear from the above table that for the last four years, Agricultural Engineering Division was allocated Rs. 17763.00 lakhs. Out of this, the Actual Expenditure during the last four years comes to Rs. 17153.65 lakhs which is around 96.56% of allocated budget.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.28 of Chapter I of this Report.

ANIMAL SCIENCE **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.29)**

The Committee observe that out of the earmarked outlay of Rs. 920.83 crore which was approved by SFC/EFC for animal sciences, the Department have been able to utilize only Rs. 374.69 crore during the first four Years of the Plan, which in percentage terms amounts to a mere 40.7% of the approved amount during the period. Now in the last year of the current Plan, a provision of Rs. 165.30 crore, which is 17.95% of the EFC/SFC has been allocated as BE. Even if the Department were able to utilize the entire BE amount, the total utilization during the current Plan period would be only Rs. 540 crore, which in percentage terms would amounts to 58.64% of the Outlay. This particular Scheme is a poor reflection on the overall utilization of DARE which is otherwise in the range of 90% and above. The consistent under performance of the Animal Science Sector does diminish the overall gloss of a high performance Department like DARE as here the blame falls squarely on their shoulders. The Committee, therefore, desire DARE to put their house in order and improve the implementation of Schemes under the Animal Science Sector so as to ensure optimum utilization of allocated funds and thus escape the chopping scissors of Ministry of Finance at RE stage.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The current position is as under:

(in lakh)

Year	Proposed BE	Approved BE	Approved RE	Actual expenditure	Percentage utilization against RE
2007-08	14952.00	9000.00	8000.00	7174.95	89.69%
2008-09	25497.48	9000.00	9000.00	8950.97	99.46%
2009-10	22196.00	9200.00	9200.00	9167.94	99.65%
2010-11	23256.00	10800.00	11268.00	11065.50	98.16%
Total	85901.48	38000.00	37468.00	36359.36	97.04%
2011-12	21965.72	16530.00			

It is clear from the above table that for the last four years, Animal Science Division was allocated Rs. 37468.00 lakh as approved RE against the proposed BE of Rs. 85901.48 lakhs which comes to 43.61 per cent only. Out of Rs. 37468.00 lakhs allocated to Animal Science Division the actual expenditure during the last four years comes to Rs. 36359.36 lakhs which is around 97.04 percent of allocated budget.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.31 of Chapter I of this Report.

CHAPTER-V

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

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION PROJECT **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 3.24)**

The Committee note that to achieve excellence, enhanced relevance, and high efficiency in higher agricultural education system, and the agricultural universities to offer enhanced services to benefit farmers, rural women and other stakeholders, the Department of Agricultural Research and Education are trying to formulate the National Agriculture Education Project (NAEP). Under this Project it is proposed to attract young talent to agricultural education sector, major reforms in governance for bringing efficiency in the system, embedding system for attracting and retaining talented faculty continued emphasis on capacity building through quality improvement programmes nationally and internationally, development of Centres of Excellence, developing public-private partnership for curriculum delivery and educational research, partnership with foreign universities for sandwich programmes, inviting international faculty for capacity building, etc. In addition to these, there is a proposal to start non-formal education with the objective of reaching the untapped sections for tapping agricultural potential in disadvantaged regions. The Committee appreciate that the Department have consulted a large number of stakeholders, experts, scientists, industries and their associations etc. and incorporated their valuable suggestions in the National Agriculture Education Project.

The Committee however fail to comprehend the reasons stalling the implementation of the said project when the Department have already finalized all modalities. Keeping in view the potential importance of this Project, they desire the Department to get the approval for NAEP expedited in a stipulated time frame thereby

clearing the decks for implementation of a project of vital importance without any further delay.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

This project has been prepared for implementation sometime in the XIIth plan, and has to go through a process of approvals, including consideration of the funding agency.

(Ministry of Agriculture O.M. No. 7(9)/2011, dated 28th November, 2011, Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.19 of Chapter I of this Report.

NEW DELHI;
10 February, 2012
21 Magha, 1933, (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(2011-12)

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Friday, the 10 February, 2012 from 1430 hours to 1810 hours in Room No. '53', Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

32. Shri Narayansingh Amlabe
33. Smt. Ashwamedh Devi
34. Shri Sk. Nurul Islam
35. Shri Devji M. Patel
36. Shri Nripendra Nath Roy
37. Shri D. Venugopal

Rajya Sabha

38. Shri Shashi Bhusan Behera
39. Shri Narendra Budania
40. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
41. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
42. Shri Upendra Kushwaha
43. Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar
44. Shri Rajpal Singh Saini

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Deepak Mahna | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri P. V. L. N. Murthy | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri P.C. Koul | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri C. Vanlalruata | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the members to the Sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following Draft Reports for consideration : -

* (i)

(ii) Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2010-11) on Demands for Grants (2011-12) of Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education); and

* (iii) *** **

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Reports without any modifications. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalise the Reports after getting them factually verified from the concerned Ministry/Department. The Committee also decided that since the House is not in Session these Reports may be presented to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

- *4. *** **
- *5. *** **
- *6. *** **
- *7. *** **
- *8. *** **
- *9. *** **
- *10. *** **

The Committee then adjourned.

***Matter not related to this Report.**

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON
THE TWENTY THIRD REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ON
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2011-12) PERTAINING TO MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE (DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION)**

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	13
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 1.4, 2.30, 2.31, 3.23, 3.25, 3.27 and 3.30	
	Total	07
	Percentage	54%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Total	NIL
	Percentage	0%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para Nos. 2.32, 3.22, 3.26, 3.28 and 3.29	
	Total	05
	Percentage	38%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para No. 3.24	
	Total	01
	Percentage	8%