

35

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2011-2012)

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2012-13)

THIRTY FIFTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

APRIL, 2012 / VAISAKHA, 1934 (SAKA)

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(2012-13)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 30.04.2012

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 30.04.2012



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NEW DELHI

APRIL, 2012 / VAISAKHA, 1934 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2011-12)

Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Narayansingh Amlabe
3. Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba'
4. Shri Thangso Baite
5. Smt. Shruti Choudhary
6. Smt. Ashwamedh Devi
7. Shri Biren Singh Engti
8. Shri Anant Kumar Hegde
9. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
10. Shri Sk. Nurul Islam
11. Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia
12. Shri Premdas
13. Shri Surendra Singh Nagar
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20. Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav
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RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Shashi Bhusan Behera
- *23. Vacant
- \$24. Vacant
25. Shri A. Elavarasan
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27. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
28. Shri Upendra Kushwaha
29. Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar
30. Shri Rajpal Singh Saini
31. Shri S. Thangavelu

\$ Vice Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi who ceased to be the Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha on 02 April, 2012.

^ Vice Shri Vinay Katiyar who ceased to be the Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha on 02 April, 2012.

* Vice Shri Narendra Budania who ceased to be the Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha on 03 April, 2012.

SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-fifth Report on the Demands for Grants (2012-2013) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries).

2. The Committee under Rule 331 E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha considered the Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, which were laid on the table of the House on 27 March, 2012. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and the Planning Commission at their Sitting held on 13 April, 2012. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and the Planning Commission for appearing before the Committee and for furnishing the information they desired in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Department.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 26 April, 2012.

4. For facility of reference, the Observations / Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters at the end of each Chapter of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
26 April, 2012
6 Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA
Chairman,
Committee on Agriculture

ABBREVIATIONS

AI&T	Animal Identification & Traceability
ART	Animal Recording and Traceability
AS	Additional Secretary
ASCAD	Assistance to State for Control of Animal Diseases
ASRB	Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board
BE	Budget Estimate
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DADF	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries
DMS	Delhi Milk Scheme
DoPT	Department of Personnel and Training
ESVHD	Establishment and Strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals / Dispensaries
FA	Financial Adviser
FAO	Food & Agriculture Organization
FMD	Foot & Mouth Disease
FMD-CP	Foot & Mouth Disease Control Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GBS	Gross Budgetary Support
GVA	Gross Value Addition
ICAR	Indian Council for Agriculture Research
IIL	Indian Immunological Ltd.
IOTT	Input Output Transaction Table
IFD	Internal Finance Division
NDC	National Development Council
NDP	National Dairy Plan
NE	North East
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
NGO	Non Government Organisation
NMPS	National Mission for Protein Supplements
RE	Revised Estimate
RKVY	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
UPSC	Union Public Service Commission
WPI	Wholesale Price Index

CHAPTER – I

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Twenty-fourth Report of Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2011-12) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 29 August, 2011. The Report contained 21 Observations / Recommendations.

1.2 The Minister concerned is required to make a Statement under Direction 73-A of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha about the status of implementation of Recommendations contained in the Original Report of the Committee within six months of the presentation of the Report to the Parliament. However, till date the Statement under Direction 73-A in the context of Twenty-fourth Report has not been made by the Minister concerned.

1.3 On the basis of Action Taken Replies received on 23 December, 2011 from the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) in respect of the above Report, the Committee presented their Thirty-first Action Taken Report to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 1 March, 2012 and thereafter it was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 29 March, 2012. Out of the 21 Recommendations of the Committee, 16 have been accepted by the Government. The Committee commented upon the Action Taken Notes furnished by the Government in respect of Recommendations at Para

Nos.2.30, 2.31, 2.32, 2.33, 2.34, 3.27, 3.28, 3.29, 3.34 and 3.37 in the Original Report.

1.4 The Committee note that the Action Taken Replies regarding the action taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Committee were not furnished by the Government within the stipulated three months. The Committee further note that in pursuance of Direction 73-A of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, the Minister concerned is required to make a Statement on the status of implementation of Observations / Recommendations contained in the Original Reports of the Committee within six months of their presentation to the Parliament. The Committee are deeply perturbed to note that the Minister concerned has not made the Statement under Direction 73-A in the context of Twenty-fourth Report of the Committee till date. The Committee take strong exception to the failure of the Ministry to adhere to stipulations laid down in Direction 73-A in respect of Statements to be made by the Minister concerned and the inordinate delay in furnishing Action Taken Replies to them. They expect that there will not be a repeat of such lapses in future and the Statement on the status of implementation of Observations / Recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report is made without any further delay in the ongoing Budget Session itself. The analysis of the action taken by the Government reveals that 76% Recommendations have been

implemented. 19% Recommendations have not been implemented and 5% of Recommendations are in various stages of implementation. The Committee desire the Government to take conclusive action in respect of the ten Recommendations commented upon in their Thirty-first Action Taken Report and furnish further action taken notes to the Committee expeditiously.

CHAPTER – II

OVERVIEW OF DEMANDS

(i) STRUCTURE

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries' is one of the three Departments under the Ministry of Agriculture. It came into existence on February 1, 1991 by merger of two Divisions of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation viz. Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development into a separate Department. The Fisheries Division of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and a part of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries was later transferred to this Department on October 10, 1997.

(ii) FUNCTIONS

2.2 The Department is responsible for matters relating to livestock production, preservation, protection & improvement of stocks, dairy development, matters relating to the Delhi Milk Scheme and the National Dairy Development Board. It also looks after all matters pertaining to fisheries, which includes inland and marine sectors and matters related to the National Fisheries Development Board.

(iii) ROLE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES SECTORS

2.3 Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries sectors play an important role in the national economy and in the socio-economic development of the Country. These sectors also play a significant role in

supplementing family incomes and generating gainful employment in the rural sector, particularly among the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers and women, besides providing cheap nutritional food to millions of people. Livestock are the best insurance against the vagaries of nature like drought, famine and other natural calamities.

(iv) OVERVIEW OF DEMANDS

2.4 Demand No. 3 which relates to Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture was laid in the Lok Sabha on 27 March, 2012. The Demand provides for implementation of various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes both for Plan and Non-Plan activities. The details of Revenue as well as Capital expenditure under the Plan and Non-Plan sides of Demand No. 3 are given hereunder:-

Demand No. 3

(Rs. in Crore)

	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
Revenue			
Voted	1887.20	451.37	2338.57
Charged	-	-	-
Capital			
Voted	22.80	-	22.80
Charged	-	-	-
Grand Total	1910.00	451.37	2361.37

2.5 The total allocation for the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is Rs.2,361.37 crore for the fiscal 2012-13. Out of this Rs.1,887.20 crore and Rs.451.37 crore are on the Plan and Non-plan

sides respectively under the Revenue Section. Similarly, Rs.22.80 crore is on the Plan side under the Capital Section.

(v) Budgeted Outlay

2.6 The Central Plan Outlay for the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan is Rs.8,93,183 crore and Rs.21,56,571 crore respectively. Plan Allocation for the three Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture for Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan are given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Department	Tenth Plan	Eleventh Plan
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	13,200.00	66,577.00
Department of Agriculture Research and Education	5,368.00	12,589.00
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	2,500.00	8,174.00

Above table shows that the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries gets the least of funds as compared to the other two Departments of the Ministry.

2.7 When queried about the reasons for this recurring phenomena year after year inspite of the Committee having recommended higher allocation for the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, the Department stated that it is the youngest and smallest of the three Departments in the Ministry. From comparatively smaller amounts, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is now securing larger allocations. The exercise on Five Year Plan allocation of funds to various Ministries/ Departments is being carried out by Planning

Commission based on the overall funds position, prioritization among sectors, rate of expenditure during the previous years, etc. Accordingly, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries had been allocated Rs.8,174.00 crore for the Eleventh Five Year Plan which is an increase of 227% compared to the funds allocated under the Tenth Five Year Plan. The percentage increase is also higher than in the case of the Department of Agriculture Research & Education.

(vi) Budgetary Allocations

2.8 The details of proposed / approved BE, RE and actual expenditure for the Eleventh Five Year Plan and proposed / approved BE for the year 2012-13 are given in the table below :-

Year	Proposed BE	Approved BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
11th Plan (2007-2012)	17,695.12	8,174.00		
2007-08	1,435.10	910.00	810.00	784.09
2008-09	1,891.25	1,000.00	940.00	865.27
2009-10	1,889.07	1,100.00	930.00	873.38
2010-11	1,829.38	1,300.00	1,257.00	1,104.68
2011-12	1,952.91	1,600.00	1,356.52	893.92*
TOTAL	8,997.71	5,910.00	5,293.52	4,521.34
12th Plan (2012-2017)	25,639.24			
2012-13	3,497.50	1,910.00		

* As on 10.02.2012.

From the above table, it is noted that there is a difference between the proposed BE and the approved BE during all the five fiscals. Further, the BE amount was always pruned at RE stage and actual expenditure

was still lower in comparison to the RE during all the five fiscals of the Eleventh Plan.

2.9 For the entire Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Department got Rs.8,174 crore, when asked whether the entire amount was released and how much is lying unspent out of Rs.8,174 crore, the witness revealed during oral evidence as follows :-

“Out of Rs.8,174 crore, the actual amount which was budgeted was Rs.5,910 crore. That was revised at the Revised Estimates stage to Rs.5,293.52 crore. The actual expenditure was Rs.4,897.57 crore. Now the utilisation with reference to BE was 82.87 per cent. The utilisation with reference to RE was 92.52 per cent and as I mentioned earlier, the amount that is pending with the States, that is, the unspent balance is Rs.854 crore as on 31st December and the figure as on 31st March is expected and we will submit it to the Committee as soon as we get it.”

2.10 When asked to explain the reasons for not allocating enough funds for this Department inspite of their strong recommendation in successive Reports on Demands for Grants for the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 for higher allocation for this Department, the representative of the Planning Commission stated during oral evidence as follows :-

“This is one of the sectors which is very much in the priority of the Planning Commission. Even in the Approach Paper, there are two specific paragraphs which refer to the Government’s resolve to put more investments in this particular sector.

You are aware that when we decide plan allocation for different sectors, different criteria are kept in view and they are as follows; expenditure over the previous year or previous years, absorption capacity of the Department and unspent balance. The second criteria that the Planning Commission takes into account is if there are strategic initiatives and programmes that have been proposed by the Department, sectoral priorities, inter-sectoral priorities and

more than that the overall position of the resources available with the Government. Also, I must bring to your notice, apart from the regular Budget of the Department we also take into account the kind of financial support that is given to the Department from other major programmes.

I was submitting that apart from regular Budget, we also take into account the money that is given from important sources like RKVY of which the hon. Secretary has just mentioned. If you kindly see the net allocation over the years, starting from 2007-08 as the first year of the Plan to 2011-12 as the last year of the Plan, it has been progressively moving up. It may not be to the extent of what the Planning Commission desires or what the Department desires but as I mentioned, when we allocate, the unspent balances, the expenditure levels, the absorption capacity, the initiatives—these are the factors which are taken into account.

I must also mention here that RKVY is one of the very important sources of funding for allied sector like animal husbandry, dairy, fishery. We had provided approximately Rs.5,000 crore for animal husbandry, dairy and fishery sector. Coming back to your major concern that we should have invested more, we go along with your concern. For 2012-13, the allocation is Rs.1910 crore from the regular GBS. We expect a good amount of support from RKVY. But nevertheless I must submit here that the size of the Plan is yet to be worked out.

The Working Group report on Animal Husbandry and Fisheries has recommended some amounts. The Steering Committee is examining those amounts. Secretary is also member of the Steering Committee. Within couple of months we will have a final view on the overall investment for the Twelfth Plan as such. At this point of time, I must mention that this is one of the very priority sectors and we are trying to get support from RKVY, from National Dairy Plan, from State Plans through their Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fishery Programmes. We are also trying to see that this sector gets augmented allocation both through Centrally sponsored schemes and through State Government schemes.”

2.11 During the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans there was a reduction in allocations by the Planning Commission. The Department had projected an Outlay of Rs.25,639.24 crore for the entire Twelfth Five Year Plan, however, the Planning Commission reduces it drastically.

2.12 When asked the procedure of pruning of funds, the representative of the Planning Commission replied during oral evidence as under :-

“Let me answer this proposition in two parts. In part one, I would tell about the figures for 2012-13. In 2012-13, the demand was Rs.3,497 crore and what has been allocated is Rs.1,910 crore. But, as I mentioned earlier, we are also expecting some good flow of support to Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries from Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. Second, the stream, which would directly support this sector, would be National Dairy Plan. Third, as I mentioned earlier also, is the State Plans for 2012-13, which are also examined in the Planning Commission and there also we have supported Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries sectors. If you see the allocation for the previous year, that is 2011-12, it was Rs.1,600 crore against that for 2012-13 it is Rs.1,910 crore, approximately Rs.310 crore extra. The demand of the Department for Twelfth Plan as a whole is in the range of Rs.25,000 crore and my submission at this stage would be that let the Steering Committee take the final view on the investments on the programmes for the remaining four years. I personally feel that for the Agriculture Division the Planning Commission will press for better allocation for this sector. This is what I submit at this stage.”

2.13 When asked to furnish the reasons for low expenditure during the year 2011-12 and Eleventh Five Year Plan in general and to state the number of schemes of the Department whose implementation was hampered due to low absorption of funds, the Department stated as follows:-

“The Department is implementing a variety of schemes to strengthen & expand infrastructure to promote activities in these critical areas. The schemes of this department are demand driven. The funds are released to States / Implementing Agencies based on the proposals submitted by them after examining and appraised as per the financial norms of the respective schemes. The DADF is hampered by lack of critical manpower, especially scientists and technicians. The States are handicapped by poor infrastructure in respect of both veterinary and extension staff and hospitals/dispensaries, and have generally accorded less priority to this sector compared to crop husbandry. The large unspent balances in states have also restricted release of central funds. While the extent of central funding has risen substantially, the above factors have hampered the ability of states to absorb funds.

Despite this the DADF has been able to release substantially more funds during 2011-12 than in any previous year due to constant monitoring and review.

Schemes whose implementation was substantially hampered due to low absorption of funds are given below:

- National Animal Disease Reporting System
- Establishment/Modernization of Rural Slaughter Houses
- Salvaging and Rearing of Male Buffalo Calves
- Utilization of Fallen Animals
- Control and Containment of Avian Influenza”

2.14 On the point of unspent balances with the State Governments, the Secretary of the Department deposed before the Committee during oral evidence as follows :-

“I would now like to touch upon the question of unspent balances, which have been a problem from the very beginning. You may kindly recall that in earlier sessions, you had asked us to give the details of unspent balances, which we have done. Now, in 2010-11, out of Rs. 1,300 crore, we were able to release about Rs.1,100 crore to the States and other implementing agencies. This is the maximum we have spent earlier.

The bulk of it went to the State Governments. Now, the good thing was that we were able to release so much money. The problem is that many States, because of the infrastructural problems that I mentioned earlier, were unable to utilise it to the extent possible. The result is even now the unspent balance of the States is Rs.854 crore. Now, Parliament does not authorise us to release the money to the States for the purpose of keeping it unspent or parking it somewhere. The instruction from the Department of Expenditure also is that we should ensure that utilisation takes place on a regular basis. Unfortunately, there again our experience has been mixed. Some States are able to go forward and spend quickly. Other States are not able to do so. This is the amount now pending. This is again preventing us from ensuring that we are able to release the money as quickly as we would like, to the States. This is one point which you may kindly like to keep in mind.”

2.15 On the point of poor infrastructure and shortage of competent, technically qualified, excellent scientists to go to the field, to ensure that the right kind of advice is given to the States, to examine the proposals received from the States and monitor them and above all to help the Department to prepare Schemes, the Secretary of the Department deposed before the Committee during oral evidence as follows :-

“Now, Sir, while increasing the funds substantially for the Department, not as much attention has been given to the infrastructure through which these schemes are implemented. In fact, to put it very bluntly, the infrastructure is rickety. I will start off by talking about my Department. Then I will tell you what the condition of the Departments in the States is. I think this is important because the schemes are implemented through Departments. If the Departments are not equipped with the wherewithal to implement the scheme effectively, then naturally the results expected will be below what is actually expected of them or what is desirable.

Now, Sir, I come to my Department. I am confining my remarks to technical staff. Now, the sector – Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries – by its very definition is a highly technical area. Therefore, the presence of competent people, technically qualified, excellent scientists is very necessary. Now, Sir, as far as Group A posts are concerned, 20 of the 54 posts I have in my Department are vacant, and they include Joint Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners. These are the cutting edge. So, it is extremely difficult for this Department to prepare schemes, to examine the proposals that are received, to monitor them, to go to the field, to ensure that the right kind of advice is given to the States, and so forth. This has severely crippled our functioning.

Now, similarly in Group B posts, out of 17 posts, eight are vacant, and these include important posts like Senior Technical Officer, Fisheries Research and Investigation Officer, etc. The one point I would like to make and also the point for the consideration of this Committee is that the recruitment to these staff mostly take place through UPSC. UPSC does its very best but with the best will in the world, filling up any post takes at least one year, if not more. There are times also when a person has been selected but then by the time that person is no longer available because he or she has found something better. Now, there is an organisation under the Ministry called ‘Agricultural Services Recruitment Board’ and they

are recruiting scientific and technical personnel for ICAR institutions. So, I would like this Committee to consider whether this agency should be entrusted with the task of recruiting technical people and scientific people, only these categories, for our Department. They work much faster. They focus on only one area. Therefore, they are more effective, and the recruitment is quick. We had, in fact, made a proposal to this effect. I understand that the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation had also done so. But it was not accepted by DoPT which felt that UPSC is the right organization to do all these. Now, Sir, so long as the process of recruitment is open, transparent and based on merit, I do not think it should make any difference whether UPSC does it or ASRB does. I would, therefore, request that this Committee may kindly consider recommending this more seriously as a reform that would help to ensure that this Department has the necessary technical staff, which will ensure that we are able to function effectively.”

(vii) Growth Rate in Livestock and Fisheries Sector

2.16 When asked to furnish the growth rate in Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries sector for the last three years and expected rate for this year, the Department furnished as follows :-

The Growth rates of GDP at current prices in livestock and fishing sectors as per the new series is given below for the years 2007-08 to 2010-11.

Statement of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Current Prices

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Total GDP	GDP from Agri. & Allied Sector	GDP from Livestock sector	GDP From Fisheries	GDP from Livestock + Fisheries sector	Growth rate in Livestock + Fisheries Sector (%)
2006-07	39,53,276	7,22,984	1,42,695	35,182	1,77,877	
2007-08	45,82,086	8,36,518	1,69,296	38,931	2,08,227	17.06
2008-09	53,03,567	9,43,204	2,00,440	44,073	2,44,513	17.43
2009-10	60,91,485	10,79,365	2,32,815	52,363	2,85,178	16.63
2010-11	71,57,412	12,69,888	2,60,300	62,594	3,22,894	13.23
Source: Central Statistics Office						

The expected growth rate from livestock and fisheries sector separately is not available.

2.17 When further asked to furnish the reasons for decreasing trend as observed in the above table, the action taken by the Department to stop this trend and the system of calculating growth rate as per the New Series, the Department stated that the CSO has informed that based on production data for milk, meat, wool and eggs, gross value of outputs were worked out using 2004-05 prices for the Gross Value Addition (GVA) under Constant Price and WPI (2010-11) deflators of the relevant items used to estimate the Gross Value of Outputs under current prices for the year 2010-11.

In the absence of detailed firm figure on inputs, viz. (a) repairs and maintenance; (b) feed of livestock; (c) market charges and (d) imputed bank charges, the value of inputs are estimated using appropriate growth rates and latest Input Output Transaction Table (IOTT) for the livestock sector. For instance, feed of livestock for the year 2010-11 is worked out based on the growth rate of food grain crops in the year 2010-11. This growth rate is applied on the previous year's value of feed of livestock (2009-10) to derive the current year value feed of livestock (2010-11). This input is a combined input for both agricultural and livestock sector. As per the latest IOTT, the percentage of feed for the livestock sector is 67.02. Using this percentage value, feed of livestock for the year 2010-11 is estimated at Rs 1,23,218 as against Rs. 1,04,196 compiled for the year 2009-10 at current prices. Similarly, under constant prices, feed of livestock is estimated at Rs. 67,032 crore for the year 2010-11 as against Rs. 60667 crore compiled for the year 2009-10. The percentage of growth

rate works out to be 10.5%. Though the value of output remained at 4.2%, due to high consumption rate of input, the GDP has declined. The value of GDP is obtained by deducting the value of inputs from the Gross Value of Output.

2.18 The Planning Commission has explored two alternative targets for economic growth in the Twelfth Plan. The first is a restatement of Eleventh Plan Target of 9% of growth which has yet to be achieved. The second is an even higher target of 9.5% average growth rate for the Twelfth Plan. Considering the 9% and 9.5% growth rate for the Twelfth Plan, the 4% and 4.5% growth rate has been fixed for Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector for the Twelfth Plan.

2.19 When asked about the growth rate in the year 2011-12, the Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries deposed before the Committee during oral evidence as follows :-

“We do not have the figures for 2011-12. We are hoping to get them soon. We will submit it to the Committee as and when we get it.”

2.20 On the aspect of the projection of growth rate in the year 2011-12, the witness further clarified :-

“We do not have any projections as yet.”

2.21 When asked the reason for deceleration of growth rate in 2010-11, how the implementation of projects is monitored at the Central level and the system being followed, and how in the absence of projections the

Department be able to achieve growth, the witness clarified during oral evidence :-

“I review the position of funds on a weekly basis. In fact, the meeting is held every Tuesday with my Divisional Officers and whenever necessary, the AS & FA is requested to attend the meeting. The review is done in quite some detail. In addition to that, we conduct regular reviews with State Governments. Either the meetings are held on a regional basis or we have video conferencing with a number of States in order to save their time and ensure that they do not have to come back and forth. I have made numerous visits to States. My officers are constantly on the move and are reporting back. I am in touch with Chief Secretaries as well as the Secretaries of the Departments concerned on a regular basis. We are also regularly writing to the State Governments and whenever necessary we have letters sent from the Hon’ble Minister also to the concerned Chief Minister pointing out any specific problem that we feel is there in terms of implementation in any area. I would like to state that the response from the States has been good in the sense that whenever I bring a problem to their notice, they try to do something about it. I get a response. They point out what their difficulties are.

Our monitoring is constant. In fact, almost on a daily basis we are in touch with State Governments to ensure that they are able to use our money effectively to send schemes to us. In fact, what happens very often is when a proposal is received, my people look at it; we identify the difficulties; we get in touch with the State Governments concerned on the telephone and ask them to send their officials here; they will sit with our people here; we will help re-write the report, so that it is in the manner prescribed and we will clear it as early as possible. That ensures quicker disposal of proposals.

We have a number of project committees which meet on a regular basis where the schemes of the State Governments are considered. The representatives of the State Governments are Secretaries themselves or the Directors or the Departments concerned. They take part in these meetings and whatever problems are there are sorted out and discussed there itself and we will give a decision that this is what is agreed to and this is the amount we release and we go ahead and release the money. This will ensure quicker disposal of projects.

The point is that we do the monitoring on weekly basis and we have been able to ensure that in very many cases, things, which were stuck in the State Governments, have been pushed. Now, on a number of occasions when there were some real defects in the proposal, we have also ensured that the concerned Secretary comes and meets the AS and FA and clarifies his doubts in person

and provides the necessary documentation so that clearance of IFD is also received on time.

From our side, I can assure the Committee that we take every effort to ensure that the State Governments are able to use their money in an effective manner. As I brought to your notice a little earlier, there are certain genuine problems of the State Governments in terms of infrastructure. If these infrastructure problems are addressed, I am confident that absorption will be much better than it is now and we will also be in a position to release more funds and have them utilise in an effective manner.”

(viii) Twelfth Five Year Plan

2.22 The Department has forwarded proposals to the Planning Commission involving a sum of Rs.25,639.24 crore (including Rs.1,656.20 crore as External Aid) for the Twelfth Plan. This includes an amount of Rs.14,303.75 crore for Animal Husbandry, Rs.6,834.22 crore for Dairy Development and Rs.4,409.80 crore for the Fisheries sector, Rs.40.00 crore for Secretariat and Economic Services and Rs.51.47 crore for Special Package for Development of Kuttanad Eco System and Mitigation of Agrarian Distress in Idukki district in Kerala. In connection with the preparation for the Twelfth Plan, Planning Commission had constituted two Working Groups namely “Working Group on Animal Husbandry and Dairy Sector” and “Working Group on Fisheries Sector”. Further, various sub-groups had been formed under the Working Group on Animal Husbandry & Dairy Sector. Both the Working Groups had submitted the report to the Steering Committee on Agriculture and Allied Sectors constituted by Planning Commission. The report of the Steering Committee on Agriculture and Allied Sectors is under finalization.

2.23 When asked as to why the Department is running little late in respect of planning and preparation for Twelfth Five Year Plan, the Department furnished in a written reply that they have taken action on time, and the entire exercise of plan formulation is being done by the Planning Commission.

2.24 The Department stated that the Report of the Steering Committee on Agriculture and Allied Sectors is expected to be finalized shortly. When asked why the Report of the Steering Committee on Agriculture and Allied Sectors could not be finalized which probably would also cause delay in finalization of Outlays for Twelfth Plan for the Department, the Department stated that primarily the Working Group reports (Eleven Working Group in Agriculture and allied Sectors) form the basic input for the Steering Committee. The Working Group reports in the final form were available to the Planning Commission by December 2011 / January 2012. In parallel, the Steering Committee exercise did move satisfactorily through series of consultations, meetings, interfaces with the States and other stakeholders. The draft report has been circulated to the members for their final comments.

2.25 When asked about the steps taken by the Department in the context of funds demanded by the Department for Twelfth Five Year Plan to ensure that allocation of funds is commensurate with their requirements, the Department furnished that they have participated in a number of discussions with the Planning Commission where its needs have been clearly spelt out. The Working Groups of the Planning

Commission, namely “Working Group on Animal Husbandry and Dairy Sector” and “Working Group on Fisheries Sector”, have also supported allotting more funds to DADF. Based on the recommendations contained in the two Working Groups report the Department has prepared a Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) proposal and submitted to the Planning Commission for approval. The needs of the DADF were strongly projected at all forums including Planning Commission. The Department has projected an outlay of Rs. 25,639.24 crore for the Twelfth Plan to Planning Commission. The Department has already initiated action to ensure that maximum possible funds are utilized during 2012-13. The Department initiated action to issue administrative approvals in respect of continuing schemes. The Department will continue to keep in close touch with State Governments and other implementing agencies. Regional review meetings will be held, and the officers of the Department will tour the States to monitor the progress of the schemes. Hence the Department is confident of achieving good progress during the current year and also in the Twelfth Plan.

2.26 When asked how the problem of delay in sanctioning, delay in finalizing the project and delay in sanctioning the funds, can be resolved; lesser the time taken for discussion, deliberation, meeting to a great extent and the time taken by the Planning Commission be reduced, the representative of Planning Commission informed the Committee during the oral evidence as under:-

“At the outset I note very sincerely your concerns. Let me carry it back to my system. However, I would like to submit that the formulation of the Plan is a very long drawn process. In agriculture

and allied sectors we had 11 Working Groups. All these Working Groups had started their exercise about a year before. Out of 11, two Working Groups were directly concerned with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, one Working Group was on Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the other one was on Fisheries. Working Group final reports are available with the Planning Commission. Even the Steering Committee had also started its work much earlier. As the output of the Working Group was available, it was submitted to the Steering Committee and the Steering Committee had met not less than five to six times at different locations in the country. I must bring it to your kind notice that the draft report of the Steering Committee is ready; it has been circulated to the hon. Members of the Steering Committee for their final views in terms of investment, in terms of programmatic interventions, in terms of States' performance, etc., and then my rough estimates goes that within a month or so we shall be able to obtain the final report of the Steering Committee.

Much more than that, as I mentioned to hon. Chairman and other Members of the hon. Committee yesterday also, respective members concerned are developing their own paragraphs, own chapters. In Agriculture and allied sector, Prof. Sen, Dr. Kasturirangan are working on it. Hopefully we should be able to go to the NDC with firmed up figures on programmes, firmed up figures on investments by end of July. That is the likely scenario. I do appreciate your concern. It can be sandwiched that the planning process itself to such a point that we launch major initiatives in the first year of the Plan. I note your concern and let me see how I could follow it up with my system."

2.27 During Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Central Plan outlay stands at Rs.21,56,571 crore. Out of which, the approved outlay for the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is Rs.8,174 crore, which is 0.38% of Central Plan outlay. Thus, there is an increase in the share of this Department from the total Central Plan outlay during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. A comparative statement of the Plan allocation of this Department vis-à-vis other important Departments of social sector are given below :-

Comparative statement of Plan allocation of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries vis-à-vis other two Departments of Agriculture Sector

	Particulars	10th Plan	11th Plan	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Central Plan Outlay of Govt. of India	Budgetary Resources	4,05,735	10,96,860	1,54,939	1,79,954	2,39,840	2,80,600	3,35,521
	IEBR	4,87,448	10,59,711	1,65,053	1,95,531	2,08,081	2,43,884	2,56,936
	Total	8,93,183	21,56,571	3,19,992	3,75,485	4,47,921	5,24,484	5,92,457
Departments		Plan Allocation (Budgetary Resources)						
		10th Plan	11th Plan	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	Amount	2,500	8,174	910	1,000	1,100	1,300	1,600
	% of total Outlay	0.28%	0.38%	0.28%	0.27%	0.25%	0.25%	0.27%
Department of Agriculture and Coop.	Amount	13,200	66,577	5,520	6,900	7,200	8,280	9,262
	% of total Outlay	1.48%	3.09%	1.73%	1.84%	1.61%	1.58%	1.56%
Department of Agriculture Research and Education	Amount	5,368	12,589	1,620	1,760	1,760	2,300	2,800
	% of total Outlay	0.60%	0.58%	0.51%	0.47%	0.39%	0.44%	0.47%

The share of the Department in the Plan allocation out of the Central Outlay during the Eleventh Plan vis-à-vis other important Departments of the social sector hovered around 0.28% in 2007-08 to 0.27% in 2011-12.

(ix) Annual Plan 2012-13

2.28 Asked why the Department have not been able to persuade Planning Commission to allocate the amount proposed, the Department submitted that they made out a strong case for an allocation of Rs.3497.50 crore being made to it. However, an outlay of Rs.1910 crore was communicated by the Planning Commission with an increase of 19.38% over BE 2011-12 and 40.80% over RE 2011-12.

2.29 When asked how the Department will be able to manage with less than 55% of the funds and the plan / strategy being adopted by the Department to convince the Planning Commission to allocate higher allocations at RE stage and impact of the curtailed allocation of the various Schemes under implementation during the current fiscal, the Department in a written reply stated that they have scaled down the allocation in the schemes and also a token provision has been made in respect of new schemes proposed. The Department will take all steps to ensure that funds allocated are utilized to the maximum extent and take necessary action for approval of new schemes in the Annual Plan 2012-13. Based on the pace of expenditure incurred, the Department will put the case to Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance to enhance the allocation at the RE stage.

Sector-wise Annual Plan allocations and expenditure

(Rs. in crore)

Sector	Outlay 11 th Plan	2009-10			2010-11			2011-12			2012-13
		BE	RE	Exp	BE	RE	Exp	BE	RE	Exp*	BE
Animal Husbandry	4323.00	558.29	459.20	435.84	792.15	776.30	668.75	874.36	798.51	511.05	1135.30
Externally Aided Project – Avian Influenza	120.00	61.11	29.16	12.27	56.00	10.53	8.89	72.20	6.72		
Dairy Development	580.00	101.10	89.24	85.93	87.76	87.56	84.77	250.25	205.16	144.42	392.00
Fisheries	2776.00	298.50	271.40	272.51	262.44	280.96	291.17	298.00	309.63	203.42	340.70
Sectt. & Eco. Services	35.00	6.00	6.00	4.80	5.80	5.80	4.38	6.50	6.50	3.69	7.00
Spl. Package	340.00	75.00	75.00	62.03	95.85	95.85	46.72	98.69	30.00	13.79	35.00
Grand Total	8174.00	1100.00	930.00	873.38	1300.00	1257.00	1104.68	1600.00	1356.52	876.37	1910.00

* till 3.02.2012

The above table shows that the BE has been decreased at RE stage every year and expenditure during the year 2011-12 is less than 55% of BE.

2.30 When asked the reasons for the decrease of Annual Plan Allocation at RE stage year after year, the Department submitted that the Revised Estimate (RE) is determined by the Department of Expenditure keeping in view performance of the Department and overall availability of resources against the requirements of various sectors.

2.31 On the question of justifying the reasons for more than double increase in BE 2012-13 as compared to expenditure for the year 2011-12, the Department stated that the 19th Livestock Census will take place in 2012-13. Hence an enhanced provision Rs.15, 000 lakh has been made. In the Dairy sector, the budgetary allocation has increased from Rs.400 lakh incurred during 2011-12 to Rs.13, 000 lakh under the scheme National Dairy Plan Phase-I.

2.32 When asked about the strategy prepared / adopted by the Department to fully utilize the BE allocated for the year 2012-13 and the measures proposed to be taken to ensure this trend of reduced allocation at RE stage and low utilization of funds in the Twelfth Plan is eliminated, the Department stated that they have already initiated action to ensure that maximum possible funds are utilized during 2012-13. The Department will quickly issue administrative approvals in respect of continuing schemes. The Department will also keep in close touch with State Governments and other implementing agencies. Regional review

meetings will be held, and the officers of the DADF will tour the States to monitor the progress of the schemes. Hence the DADF is confident of achieving good progress during the current year and also in the Twelfth Plan. However the DADF wishes to emphasize that our schemes are demand driven, and much depends on the initiative shown by states, as well as the strength of their infrastructure.

Budgetary Allocations

2.33 During the course of examination of Demands for Grants of the Department for the Eleventh Plan period the Committee observed that there was a variation in figures between the amount initially approved of Rs.8,174 crore and the actual allocation of Rs.5,910 crore by the Planning Commission, thus leaving a gap of about Rs.2,264 crore. This realignment of figures by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) bewilders the Committee. This being so as the Planning Commission after having undertaken a detailed exercise would have earmarked the funds for the Department at the start of the Eleventh Plan. In spite of numerous pleas to the concerned agencies to give the Department their full allocation and to help them carry out their mandate successfully, no positive outcome has been witnessed. Keeping the importance of this sector in view of providing sustenance to the economically weak farming community, the Committee desire the Government to have a fresh outlook on this aspect during the Twelfth Plan and to ensure that full quota of

allocated funds are actually provided to the Department in the annual allocations in the Twelfth Plan.

Inter-sectoral Allocations

2.34 The Committee note with regret that their repeated recommendations that Plan allocation of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries be increased so as to increase its share in comparison to the other two Departments of the Agriculture sector viz. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Department of Agricultural Research and Education, have not yielded any positive change in that, the share of the Department remains much lower compared to its sister Departments. The Committee do not buy the argument of the Department that compared to the Tenth Plan, the allocation for the Department in the Eleventh Plan exceeds the amounts allocated to DARE in terms of incremental increase. Irrespective of the fact that though DAHDF is the youngest constituent to share the Plan allocation it need not be the least, as is evident currently. The Committee empathize with the Department on this issue and once again urge the Planning Commission to quantitatively enhance the share of DAHDF in the Plan allocation as this sector provides additional means of sustenance to the farming community mostly comprising of small and marginal farmers residing in the rural areas. The Committee are confident that the Twelfth Five Year Plan would probably usher in a

change of fortunes for the Department with increased Plan allocations.

2.35 Simultaneously the Committee also impress upon the Department to get their own house in order and address the issues immediately due to which States / UTs are not coming up to avail Central Funds. All these bottlenecks should be thrashed threadbare during the course of free and frank discussion wherein both parties put forth their views candidly and then arrive at a common ground. They are of the strong belief that if both Central and State Governments are truly interested in invigorating the AHDF sector they would strive to work towards convergence of ideas which in the present scenario seems to be bordering on the divergent. The Committee are pretty sanguine that if the States / UTs are taken up as equal partners, then they would be motivated to avail Central Funds in increased quantities thereby furnishing timely fresh proposals as well as utilization certificates thus taking care of unspent balances. This would also ensure unhindered flow of funds, so that the last in the chain i.e. the beneficiary is benefitted in the true sense. This will further lead to increased allocation, optimum utilization of allocated funds and ultimately spur this sector towards the growth it presently craves for. They desire to be apprised of the steps taken in this direction.

2.36 The Committee note that another area of concern for the Department is that many State Governments were unable to utilize

their funds to the extent possible due to infrastructural problems leading them to routinely park their funds to help them in their ways and means position. The result of this is reflected in the current level of the unspent balances with the States at Rs.854 crore. The Committee had recommended in their earlier Report on Demands For Grants (2011-12) that this situation can also be overcome by regular online monitoring of the funds released by the Department which would ensure that they are utilized only for the designated purposes. The Committee again impress upon the Department to issue unambiguous instructions at the highest level to all State Governments pointing out how the unspent balances, ultimately lead to the curtailing of their future funding and also to desist them from venturing into parking the funds allocated by the Department for other purposes. They therefore desire that effective steps be taken to bring down the level of unspent balances in the Twelfth Plan at least.

2.37 Another reason attributed by the Department for less expenditure was due to lack of critical manpower, especially scientists and technicians. The States are handicapped by poor infrastructure in respect of both veterinary and extension staff and hospitals / dispensaries, and have generally accorded less priority to this sector compared to crop husbandry. The Committee feel that this is a genuine problem which can be resolved by giving one time relaxation at the time of recruitment. Also, a tie-up with UPSC may also help the Department to tide over this problem. The Committee

would like the Department to prepare a roadmap in a time bound manner to overcome this situation and fully espouse its cause as well. The Committee, therefore desire to be apprised of the action taken on this aspect at the earliest.

Growth Rate of Livestock and Fisheries Sector

2.38 The Committee note with concern that growth rate in Livestock and Fisheries sector is declining year after year which in their opinion does not augur well for a country like India historically wealthy in livestock and fisheries. The Committee further observe that growth rate of this sector in the year 2007-08 was pegged at the level of 17.06% has slid down to 13.23% in the fiscal 2010-11. The growth rate of this sector is being monitored by Central Statistics Office (CSO) and based on the production data for milk, meat, wool and eggs, the gross value of outputs using 2004-05 prices for the Gross Value Addition under Constant Price and WPI (2010-11) deflators of the relevant items is used to estimate the Gross Value of Outputs under current prices for the year 2010-11. It is also a signal that the production of milk, meat, wool and egg are also decreasing in the country. The Committee are of the firm opinion that the extant morass can be overcome, if all concerned parties are serious in their intent to redress this downslide of growth rate. The first step here would be to attain convergence of ideas. This can be arrived at by regular reviews with the State Government, regional meetings, conferencing with States, visits to States, constant monitoring of

Schemes and identification and solution of the difficulties found, etc. This would help in arriving at a common ground and infuse a sense of participation amongst the States / UTs as the Centre would no longer be looked up as the Big Brother. This would then help the States / UTs to channel all their resources in the right direction and strive for firstly stabilizing the declining growth rate and then work towards its increase in the years to come. They would like to be apprised of the steps taken in this direction alongwith outcome thereof.

Twelfth Five Year Plan

2.39 The Committee note with concern that inspite of their having espoused the cause of initiating corrective measures in the terminal phase of Eleventh Plan by the Planning Commission / Department well before the commencement of the next Plan so to avoid procedural delays in according clearances to a Scheme which results in staggering of timelines and reduced allocations, as was evident during the Eleventh Plan period, no concrete action has been initiated in this regard. Though the Department have complied with their end of the bargain but as usual everything is stuck at the end of the Planning Commission. This fact was confessed to before the Committee by the representative of the Planning Commission during the course of his oral deposition in connection with examination of Demands for Grants of the Department (2012-13). In spite of the assurance given by the representative of the Planning Commission

that all concerns raised by the Committee will be resolved by the end of July, 2012, the Committee apprehend that their worst nightmare might just come true and a repeat of the situation prevalent in the Eleventh Plan may resurface the Twelfth Plan. Taking into account the cascading effects of delay in finalizing the Twelfth Plan document on implementation of the Schemes of the Department, the Committee once again recommend that all agencies entrusted with the task of the planning process expedite clearances to the Twelfth Plan document so that it can be implemented at the earliest. They further desire that the progress achieved may be communicated to them at the earliest.

CHAPTER III
SECTORAL AND SCHEMATIC ANALYSIS

(i) Animal Husbandry

The Department has been operating 18 Central Livestock Organizations and allied institutions for production and distribution of superior germplasm to the State Governments for cross-breeding and genetic upgradation of the stocks. Besides, the Department is implementing various central sector and centrally-sponsored schemes for the development of requisite infrastructure and supplementing efforts of the State Governments in achieving accelerated growth of animal husbandry sector.

(ii) Allocations to Animal Husbandry Sector

3.2 Following is the fund allocation to Animal Husbandry Sector during the last three years and BE for 2012-13 :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actuals
2009-10	558.29	459.20	435.84
2010-11	792.15	776.30	668.75
2011-12	874.36	798.51	511.05 *
2012-13	1063.10	--	--

* till 3.02.2012

(iii) Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme

3.3 To prevent economic losses due to Foot and Mouth Disease and to develop herd immunity in cloven-footed animals, a location specific programme called 'Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP)' is being implemented in 221 specified districts of the country with 100% central funding as cost of vaccine, maintenance of cold chain and other logistic support to undertake vaccination. The State Governments are providing other infrastructure and manpower. The FMD Control Programme was initiated during Tenth Plan (2003-04) in 54 identified districts spread over eight states and five union territories in the country. The programme showed desired results in terms of reduction in the incidence of disease compared to other areas. Therefore, the programme was expanded to another 167 districts since August 2010, covering all the districts in the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and 16 districts in Uttar Pradesh. During 2010-11, about 689.90 lakhs vaccinations were carried out in the districts covered under FMD-CP and about 60,100 (pre and post vaccination) serum samples have been collected. During 2011-12, as against target of 110.00 million vaccinations, about 650.00 lakhs vaccination have been carried out up to 31st December, 2011.

It has been observed that day by day the demand for vaccination to control FMD is increasing.

3.4 When asked how the Department is proposed to meet the increasing demand of the necessary vaccination for this FMD disease in the country in 2012-13 and the steps taken to totally eradicate this disease in the country to prevent the economic losses, the Department in a written reply stated that they intend to ultimately eradicate FMD from India. However, it is likely to be a long journey. The current efforts of the DADF are to minimize losses from FMD through an FMD control programme which is in line with FAO's "Progressive Control Pathway for FMD". The later provides for control of the disease in steps to ultimately eradicate it.

3.5 On the question of the status of other remaining districts of the country and how and by when other States / Districts of the country would be covered to provide vaccination, the Department submitted in a written reply that during the Twelfth Plan, DADF envisages to cover all the 660 districts in the country under the FMD-CP. However, during 2012-13, 63 districts of Rajasthan and Odisha will be added to the FMD-CP programme raising the total number of districts being cover from the current 221 to 284 in 2012-13. That would mean coverage of about 36 million additional population of bovines to be vaccinated. The total number of FMD vaccine doses required to cover this population of animals would be 72 millions.

The remaining districts in the country are undertaking need-based FMD vaccination programme supported under another disease control programme of the DADF i.e. "Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD)".

As regards to the availability of FMD vaccine, at present there are four manufacturers of this vaccine having a projected capacity of vaccine production of about 395 million doses per year. Therefore, there will be no constraint in meeting the demand of the FMD vaccination in the country during 2012-13. As the FMD Control Programme would expand in a phased manner during Twelfth Plan and beyond the manufacturers are expected to raise their production to keep pace with the targets. It is estimated that to cover the entire bovine population in the country, total requirement of FMD vaccine will be about 610 million doses per year

3.6 When asked to furnish the reasons for not achieving the targets fixed for the year 2011-12, the Department stated that about 1,158.62 lakh FMD vaccinations have already been carried out during 2011-12, against the target of 1,100 lakh FMD vaccination.

3.7 The target for FMD vaccination for 2012-13 has been fixed as 1,100 lakh doses. However, the target is expected to increase after expansion of the programme in the current financial year 2012-13. The Department has already made budget provision of Rs.190 crore.

3.8 FMD is one of the chronic disease commonly in livestock. The loss due to FMD is very high in economic terms and much worse is the fact that the direct loser is the poor farmer / landless labourers who owns the animal. As of now 221 districts are being covered under this Scheme. It has also been observed from the different views that this disease spread from one area to another where a particular area is not vaccinated.

3.9 When asked to detail the steps taken to cover the whole country under this scheme and to eradicate FMD from the country, the witness during oral evidence submitted the following :-

“Sir, the points which both the hon. Members have raised are absolutely valid. FMD is the biggest problem facing us. The loss due to FMD is huge in economic terms and much worse is the fact that the direct loser is the humble farmer who owns the animal. Till 2010-11, the FMD control programme was implemented in 54 districts. It was quite successful there and the incidents of FMD had gone down. But we decided that this was certainly no way in which to carry forward this programme given the seriousness of the disease. Therefore, we took up with the Planning Commission on the expansion of the programme so that the entire country could be covered in phases. So, in 2010-11, from 54 districts, we went to cover a total 221 districts and here, the whole idea is to vaccinate the entire animal population of the area and in phases extend this inoculation programme to the rest of the country. The first problem that we have faced here is that there are just four suppliers of FMD vaccine in the country. The largest one is the IIL, the Indian Immunological Ltd. which is in Hyderabad. The first problem they faced was that they were unable at one stroke to ramp up the production to ensure that we got quality FMD vaccine on time. There is no point in just getting any vaccine. It has to be vaccine of the best quality. FMD vaccine is given twice in a year. It is a trivalent vaccine so that it can handle all three strains of the disease. IIL had been trying to stabilise it. In fact, it took several months. It is only now that they are in a position where they can supply and manufacture about 20 million doses in a month. There are three other manufacturers. Our experience with them has been mixed. At times, the batches are very good and at times, we have found that they are below expectations. In fact, last year, we had to confiscate the entire security deposit of one of the manufacturers because having said he would supply so much vaccine, he was unable to do so. We seized the entire security deposit and it was a big loss for him. We are simultaneously also ensuring that out of every batch, samples are taken, tested to make sure that the vaccine is upto standard. Here again, we found that IIL product is excellent, and in two companies, it was below expectations. So, we have given them a notice and we will expect them to take back that batch and supply vaccine as per the expected standard.

Now, I fully agree that we should cover the entire country, all the district and this is our aim. I take full note of your suggestion that as in the polio plus programme, we should take advantage of the presence of a wide variety of stakeholders, including NGOs,

concerned citizens, etc. to make sure that the programme is a success. This is not something which we thought of, to say frankly. It is an excellent idea. We will now gear ourselves up to ensure that every possible person is roped into it including the farmers themselves. Many farmers have more knowledge of this than we do. We will take advantage of their knowledge and the presence of various NGOs and concerned groups and see that some campaign on the lines of this polio plus is thought of. It will take us sometime to plan and organise this.

As I told you, the biggest problem is vaccine. We are now thinking in terms of calling all the vaccine manufacturers and telling them the problems we are facing. You will appreciate that vaccine manufacturer has one thing in mind. He wants to sell a product and make his own profit. We do not mind that provided the product is good and so long as he adheres to our terms and conditions. Many vaccine manufacturers do not know what supplies they will be asked to provide year after year because we follow the tender system. What we want to tell them is we are going to cover all the animals in the country over so many years. The idea is to ensure saturation coverage so that FMD is controlled and finally in course of time eradicated. It will take a long time to eradicate FMD because this is one of the most difficult diseases to control unlike rinderpest. Rinderpest requires just one vaccine and one inoculation and it is gone. FMD requires two inoculations year after year and that will have to continue until you reach a generation where the virus has vanished or controlled and then we will say that we are free now from FMD. We will discuss all these matters and ensure that the campaign that you have suggested is brought into being and implemented.

3.10 On the question of whether the funds proposed for the purpose are sufficient or not, the witness submitted during oral evidence as per the following :-

“We can certainly do with more funds because we are exceeding the target of inoculations every year and any extra money we get will be utilised.”

“We would like more money. I forgot to add one point. We are also providing funds to the States under the Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD). This is in respect of those States which are not covered by 221 districts. They are yet to be covered. We are aware of the fact that these States cannot be neglected. So, we give them money and we say that you use it for economically important diseases including FMD. It is not as though the States that are not covered under the FMD control programme

are left out. They are also being covered under the ASCAD programme but we need more and more funds for it. I can assure you that as long as the vaccine is available, we can keep on using all the money and we will exceed our target year after year.”

(iv) **Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries**

3.11 There are only 8,732 veterinary hospitals and 18,830 veterinary dispensaries in the country. Besides being highly inadequate in number, these institutions lack basic infrastructure in terms of buildings and equipment. In order to help the States to set up infrastructure for new veterinary hospitals and dispensaries and to strengthen/equip the existing ones, the department is providing funds on 75:25 (Centre: State) sharing basis except NE States, where the grants are provided on 90:10 basis. During 2010-11 against the BE of Rs.68.90 crore, a sum of Rs.97.26 crore has been released under this component. A sum of Rs. 90.00 crore has been provided as BE for the year 2011-12 against which a sum of Rs 70.92 crore has been released to States/UTs for construction of new veterinary Hospitals/ Dispensaries and strengthening of existing ones till 31st December, 2011 under this component.

3.12 On the point of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries, their status and funds allocated etc., the Secretary of the Department during oral evidence submitted before the Committee as under :-

“.....that hospitals and dispensaries are far short of what we need. At a very conservative estimate, we need, at least, 10,000 more hospitals and dispensaries in the country. You may kindly recall that in 2010-11, with your assistance, we were able to

persuade the Planning Commission to give substantial funds for an absolutely new component. That is, setting up new veterinary hospitals and dispensaries or upgrading them. It is a 75:25 scheme. In the North-East, it is 90:10. Now, the minute the scheme was announced, there was a rush from the States to take advantage of it. Assam has the distinction of being the only State that has taken, not one, not two but three instalments of money in quick succession. I have seen the results, buildings at various stages either at basement, lintel or fully completed. This is making such a difference to small farmers, marginal farmers and landless labourers, who are the people who need actual focus as far as veterinary services are concerned. Then again, where are the mobile dispensaries? Punjab and Haryana have them. They are comparatively rich States. Assam has started last year.

Therefore, one of the new points, which we intend to include in our scheme is this. We would say that less priority should now be given to upgradation of hospitals and dispensaries. We will instead say that there should be gradual orientation towards setting up more new hospitals and dispensaries and for mobile services. Doorstep delivery of veterinary services is what will ensure that poor farmers are able to get the best benefits of all our schemes. And, I would request that the Committee may kindly support this initiative from us.”

3.13 Targets fixed for the year 2011-12 was 350 hospitals and 500 dispensaries to be strengthened / established. During the year 2011-12 funds have been provided to States to strengthen / establish the hospitals and dispensaries. When asked to furnish the reasons for low release of funds / targets achieved / not being achieved in the year 2011-12 and targets fixed for the fiscal year 2012-13, the Department in a written submission stated that during 2011-12, B.E. was Rs.90 crore against which the Department released a sum of Rs. 98.81 crore to the States/ UTs. For the financial year 2012-13, a provision of Rs.91.00 crore has been made for assistance to the States/UTs for completion of the earlier sanctioned projects and also for construction of new veterinary hospitals/ dispensaries and strengthening of existing ones.

In 2012-13, approximately 375 Veterinary Hospitals and 525 Veterinary Dispensaries will be taken for construction/renovation under ESVHD.

3.14 When asked the position of remaining States / UTs and as to why the Department failed to provide information in respect of targets met during 2011-12 including the reasons for not achieving the targets, the Department submitted in a written reply stated as follows :-

The details of funds released to the States/ UTs during 2011-12 under Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD) is as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Funds released
1.	Rajasthan	1,037.44
2.	Sikkim	143.64
3.	Bihar	1,282.575
4.	Chhattisgarh	595.575
5.	Nagaland	158.40
6.	Manipur	428.625
7.	Puducherry	30.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1,391.25
9.	Chandigarh	9.90
10.	Karnataka	414.375
11.	Assam	216.00
12.	Mizoram	233.325
13.	Haryana	382.375
14.	Kerala	768.75

15.	Punjab	780.00
16.	J&K	649.64
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	232.00
18.	HP	365.49
19.	Assam	434.00
20.	Assam	328.00
Total		9,881.36

3.15 When asked the criteria on which the above funds were allocated to different States and the targets set / achieved in 2011-12 by the above States, the Department furnished in a written submission that the scheme is demand driven. The objective was to fully release budgeted funds. The funds were released to those states whose proposals were in accordance with guidelines. Each State / UT is expected to provide the site for the building, adequate veterinary staff and its share of funds. Available funds for this scheme were exhausted in 2011-12. Eligible proposals will certainly be considered during 2012-13.

(v) Livestock Insurance

3.16 The Livestock Insurance Scheme is being implemented in all the States with the twin objectives of providing protection mechanism to the farmers & cattle rearers against any eventual loss of their animals due to death. The Government of India introduced the scheme on a pilot basis during 2005-06 in 100 selected districts. The scheme covers 300 selected districts from 10.12.2009. The scheme benefits the farmers and cattle

rearers having indigenous/crossbred milch cattle and buffaloes. Benefit of subsidy is restricted to two animals per beneficiary per household. The funds under the scheme are utilized for payment of premium subsidy, honorarium to veterinary practitioners and publicity campaign for creation of awareness. 50% of the premium of insurance is paid by the beneficiary and the rest is paid by the Government of India. An amount of Rs. 30.99 crore has been released to States and 3 lakh animals have been insured during 2011-12 up to December, 2011.

For the year 2011-12, the targets was fixed to insure 7 lakh indigenous / crossbred Milch Cattle & Buffaloes. However, only 3 lakh animals have been insured. For the year 2012-13, the targets have been fixed to insure 9.82 lakh indigenous / crossbred Milch Cattle & Buffaloes.

3.17 When asked the details of steps taken to popularise this Scheme so as to attract more and more farmers to get their animals insured and to achieve the targets fixed for the year 2012-13, the Department furnished in a written reply that the funds under the scheme are utilized for payment of premium subsidy, honorarium to veterinary practitioners and publicity campaign for creation of awareness. Pamphlets, posters, wall paintings, radio talks, TV clippings etc. were used for publicizing the messages of the scheme. Besides conventional methods of publicity campaigns were also organized during the specific animal's fairs in the states for wide publicity. The Panchayati Raj institutions were also involved in publicity in a big way. For this purpose the Chief Executive Officers are empowered to provide assistance for each intermediate Panchayat.

3.18 Insurance companies, Dairy Co-operative Societies, other agencies having direct contact with milk producers in different ways e.g. livestock Inspectors, gaumitras, traders of milk and milk products were also involved to popularize the scheme.

DADF intends to modify the scheme and extend it to cover all districts during the Twelfth Plan and the scheme is being modified to make it more inclusive and effective.

3.19 When asked the reasons and the main points on which the Department intends to modify this Scheme and as to how these modifications are going to help this Scheme to make it more inclusive and effective, the Department stated that the DADF intends to modify this Scheme in order extend coverage from 300 districts to the entire country, insure more animals and make the pattern of financial assistance more inclusive realistic and farmer friendly. All this will ensure that the true benefits of the insurance flow to the poorer sections who need them most.

3.20 When asked to state the steps to be taken to make the Livestock Insurance Scheme more farmer friendly so that farmers can get their claims easily, the witness during oral evidence submitted the following :-

“Sir, here I can assure you. I have had a series of discussions with the Secretary of the Banking and Financial Services Department. He is fully aware of the fact that animals must be insured especially animals belonging to the poorer sections of society. In fact my latest discussion with him was yesterday and he has said he is fully sympathetic to this matter. We are now in the progress of revisiting this scheme. Fifty per cent of the premium comes from the Department and the balance fifty per cent is from the proposed beneficiary. And we cover two animals. Now, what we are saying is that scale of subsidy will be made higher depending on the status

of that particular intended beneficiary. It will be greater for some and it will be less to others. We are going to increase the coverage so that more animals can be brought into the picture. Then, if you recall Sir, only 300 districts are presently covered under the livestock insurance scheme. We are going to ensure that all the entire country is covered. Now, one or two steps which the Banking Secretary has said is that he will support the case. He has said that he will convene a meeting of the Chief Executives of the Insurance Companies. We will also be present at that meeting. The hard facts which are present in every State will be discussed. Our aim will be to ensure that there is no obstructionist policy followed by insurance companies and the benefits of the scheme truly reach the persons for whom it is intended.

I can assure you that we have taken a serious note of this suggestion. We will make every effort to ensure it because we are aware of the fact that the bureaucracy can be extremely obstructionist. We are aware of the fact that simply saying yes we release so much money for livestock insurance by itself will not transform the position. We have to ascertain what is the problem faced by the average beneficiary in the field and address ourselves to settling that matter. My officers have been to the field, my Joint Secretary has been to the field, he has had discussions with people including farmers. We will be in a position to say that these are the problems they face. In fact, what we plan is that the experience that we have had so far, we will put down in writing and circulate to the Banking Department in advance and they will give it to the concerned insurance institutions so that when they come for meeting they are aware of the problems and we will expect them to say as to why we face these problems and how to get over them. The entire aim is to simplify the entire process, ensure that more beneficiaries are covered, and ensure that if an animal which is perhaps the only wealth which a poor farmer has dies for some reason he gets immediate relief. This will also ensure that the farmers are enthused into keeping more animals. The more the animals are insured, the more the tendency on the part of the farmers to take the risk of buying more animals. So, I can assure you that this will be looked after and this is our commitment to this Committee.”

3.21 When asked the details of steps taken to increase the number of existing 300 districts being covered under this Scheme and to enhance the budget allocation for this Scheme, the witness submitted during oral evidence as follows :-

“Sir, I think, I can answer this question right away. We have covered 300 districts so far. We are conscious of the fact that it has to cover the entire country and so during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period I can assure you that it will be spread to the entire country. In fact, what we have suggested to the Secretary of the Banking and Financial Services is that give us enough Budget so that we can cover the maximum number of districts in the first year of the Plan itself. Now, it would be ambitious on our part to say that we can cover all districts at one go, but if we get the Budget and the State Governments are serious, I think, we can do that.

We are seeking an enhanced provision for livestock insurance for the Twelfth Plan period. We are engaged in discussion with the Banking Services Department, as I said, because there are several changes we are proposing and these changes if accepted will mean a far larger allocation for the scheme than so far has been provided. Since this is in the initial stage I cannot tell you how much is the exact amount but I can assure you all the States and all the districts would be covered with the current Five Year Plan and that too not right towards the end but as early as possible. We will increase our coverage in terms of number of animals, we will ensure that the pattern of financial assistance is made more equitable so that those who are below poverty line, SC/STs and also women headed households get full benefits. We are also aware of the fact that the need for insurance is as strong in a big farm as in a small farm. We have no intention of neglecting the requirements of big farms either. We will work out what is the pattern required to ensure that insurance is made available. If insurance is available for manufacturing purposes it is equally important for the purpose of production because if you do not have food security you do not have any other security. We assure you that we will keep in mind all these.

3.22 When asked whether the Department have any Scheme to cover the entire country during Twelfth Plan, the witness submitted during oral evidence as follows :-

“Sir, we have made a commitment even earlier that the entire country will be covered in the course of this Five Year Plan. I am unable to tell you as to whether we will be able to cover all districts at one go. I think, it would be more prudent to say in the next few years to come, but as quickly as possible yes.”

(vi) Central Minikit Testing Programme on Fodder Crops

3.23 The Department have stated that Minikit demonstrations on fodder crops aim at making farmers aware through field demonstrations about latest high yielding varieties of fodder crops and improved agronomic package of practices to increase production of green fodder. Certified seeds of high yielding fodder crops/grasses/legumes produced at Regional Stations and Central Fodder Seed Farm, Hessarghatta, Milk Federations or other Govt. fodder seed producing agencies are used under this scheme. Kits are allotted to the states for distribution among the farmers, free of cost. During the year 2011-12, a total of 12.67 lakh fodder seed Minikits of legume and non-legume variety were allotted against the target of 11.00 lakh.

3.24 When asked to furnish the details of any survey conducted by the Department to assess the number of intended beneficiaries of this Scheme, the Department answered in the negative.

3.25 When further queried if the Department had observed any increase in the quantum of fodder crops/grasses/legumes produced in the country, the Department stated that no study has been conducted to ascertain increase in the quantum of fodder crops / grasses / legumes produced in the country. However, the Working Group on Animal Husbandry & Dairying, for the Twelfth Plan has reported that, "Over the last two decades (1985-86 to 2005-06) availability of various types of feed has increased. Even though availability of feed resources vary from area to area, but during this period, the country as a whole recorded 52% (240.7 to 365.8 Mt), 76.0% (19.6 to 34.5 Mt) and 1.8% (124.3 to 126.6 Mt) increase in crop residues, concentrates and green forages respectively".

3.26 When asked to furnish the State-wise details of number of farmers benefitted by way of using Minikit Testing Programme, the Department submitted that as per the information compiled by the Regional Stations from the respective States under their jurisdiction, the information is as under:-

State	No. of farmers benefitted
Andhra Pradesh	43,317
Arunachal Pradesh	145
Assam	9,335
Bihar	1,05,535
Chhattisgarh	24,710
Goa	3,000
Gujarat	44,187
Haryana	93,020
H.P	55,286
J&K	43,209
Jharkhand	37,875
Karnataka	43,716
Kerala	18,276
Madhya Pradesh	39,000
Maharashtra	48,500
Manipur	486
Meghalaya	235
Nagaland	1,340
Odisha	31,000
Punjab	22,520
Rajasthan	85,390
Sikkim	1,063
Tamil Nadu	18,341
Tripura	3,340
U.P	30,250
Uttaranchal	40,500
West Bengal	25,585

The above table shows that in some States the number of beneficiary farmers is quite low.

3.27 When asked to furnish the reasons for the same, the Department submitted that selection of beneficiaries is done by the respective State Governments and the Department only provides Minikits to the States as per their demand.

3.28 When enquired about the steps taken by the Department to increase the number of beneficiary farmers by implementation of Minikit Testing Programme, the Department in their written reply informed that the Department is proposing major modifications in the Central Sector Scheme - 'The Central Fodder Development Organisations', of which the Minikit Testing Programme is a component in order to increase the number of beneficiaries and increase fodder supply.

3.29 When asked about the targets fixed for the fiscal year 2012-13 and as to how many farmers will be benefited by the Minikit Testing Programme, the Department stated that the targets will depend upon the demands received from the State Governments. Moreover, as stated above, the programme is being modified for the Twelfth Plan, and details would be firmed up after securing necessary approvals on the proposed modifications.

Demand and Availability of feed and fodder

(Dry matter in million tonnes)

S.No.	Feed	Demand	Availability	Gap
1.	Dry Fodder	416	253	163 (40%)
2.	Greens	222	143	79 (36%)
3.	Concentrate	53	23	30 (57%)

3.30 When asked to state the steps taken to develop and increase the availability of feed and fodder in the country, the Secretary submitted the following during oral evidence :-

“I fully agree that there is need on the part of the State to understand the importance of this and to earmark these pastures in every village. I do not know the extent to which the State Governments would have the will to do this but it is certainly something which I would support because, no matter how good the breed of the animal is, if basic feeding is not ensured then obviously the milk yield is not going to rise to our expectations. That is one point that I would like to stress. I would also like to say that we are going to make a big change as far as our fodder development scheme is concerned from the current year and onwards. We hope that this will have a good effect.

Sir, as you know, we have about eight different fodder stations. I believe that the extent to which they have been utilised for the purpose of fodder development is much less than there should be. They are doing some demonstration work and some training, etc. What we plan is that we will get breeder seed from ICAR and other institutes; we will grow them in our fodder stations; and we will provide the resulting seed to the States. They, in turn, either in their own farm or in private farms, will grow it; they will buy back the seed from there and make sure that seed is provided to farmers free of cost. This will be a quality seed and it will ensure that there is a huge increase in the fodder availability in the country. This is one thing we plan. We have also contacted State Governments. There are large numbers of Government farms which are presently lying fallow. There is nothing being done there. We have said these farms should be used for the purpose of growing fodders so that the fodders is made available to farmers.”

3.31 When queried about the plan of the Department for this Scheme during Twelfth Five Year Plan and whether the funds allocated are

sufficient, the witness deposed before the Committee during oral evidence as follows :-

“Sir, what we plan to do is to modify the Scheme during the Twelfth Plan so that it is made more effective. Certainly we want more funds. We would regard it as a priority sector.

There is one more point here. You may kindly recall that last year an Accelerated Fodder Development Scheme was also announced and that is implemented through the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. A sum of Rs. 300 crore was provided to them. I understand that the entire amount has also been released for the purpose of fodder development and I think this scheme is now been brought under NFSM so that it has got an importance which was not there earlier.

I am confident that because of all this, fodder development will get a new impetus and more fodder will be made available to farmers.”

DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

(i) National Dairy Plan (NDP)

3.32 To improve productivity of milch animals, this Department and National Dairy Development Board, envisages implementation of the National Dairy Plan-I (NDP-I) to meet the projected national demand of 150 million tonnes of milk by 2016-17 with assistance of the World bank.

The objectives of the proposed scheme are :-

(a) To launch a focused scientifically planned multi state initiative to lay the path for new processes, supported by appropriate policy and regulatory measures leading to increasing the productivity of milch animals and thereby increase milk production to meet the rapidly growing demand for milk.

(b) Provide rural milk producers with greater access to the organised milk-processing sector.

The National Dairy Plan, Phase-I has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 16-02-2012. NDP-I is prepared to be implemented during the period 2011-12 to 2016-17.

3.33 When asked the current status of this Scheme, the Department furnished in a written reply that the proposal for NDP-Phase I was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 16.02.2012 with a total investment of about Rs.2,242 crore as detailed below :-

Agency	Investment (Rs. In Crore)
Government of India	176.00
IDA Credit from the World Bank	1,584.00
End Implementing Agencies	282.00
National Dairy Development Board	200.00
Total	2,242.00

The World Bank approved IDA Credit of USD 350 Million (Rs.1, 584 crore) on 15.3.2012. The Administrative Approval for the Scheme (NDP-I) was issued on 16.3.2012. An amount of Rs. 4 crore has been released to NDDB during 2011-12.

(ii) Delhi Milk Scheme

3.34 Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) was set up in 1959 with the primary objective of supplying wholesome milk to the citizens of Delhi at reasonable prices as well as for providing remunerative prices to milk producers. The initial installed capacity of DMS was for processing / packing of 2.55 lakh litres of milk per day. However in order to meet

increasing demand for milk in the city, the capacity was expanded in phases to the level of 5.00 lakh litres of milk per day.

Performance of DMS

Year	Capacity utilization (%)	Milk Sale (lakh Ltrs)	Variable cost (Rs. per ltr)	Fixed cost (Rs. per ltr)	Total cost (Rs. per ltr)
2008-09	76.0	1,371.72	18.10	2.60	20.70
2009-10	73.1	1,322.77	19.86	3.05	22.91
2010-11	65.2	1,183.49	21.75	3.24	24.99
2011-12 (upto Dec.11)	62.4	855.97	25.59	3.47	29.06

The targets and achievements regarding procurement of milk, production/sale of milk and milk products (ghee & butter) for 2010-11 and 2011-12 are given below:

Targets and Achievements of DMS

Sl. No	Major Component of the Scheme	2010-11		2011-12	
		Targets	Achievements	Targets	Achievement (upto Dec. 11)
1.	Procurement of milk (in lakh Kgs)	1,230.00	792.05	1,200.00	588.25
2.	Sale of Milk (in lakh litres)	1,642.50	1,183.49	1,332.25	855.97
3.	Production of (i) Ghee (in M.T)	650.00	449.34	725.00	342.72
	(ii)Table Butter (in MT.)	35.00	41.26	35.00	24.44

The activities of DMS are purely commercial in nature and therefore, in order to run it as a commercial entity and make it financially viable, the Union Cabinet has given 'in principle' approval to this Department's proposal to corporatize DMS to make it autonomous. After completion of all formalities, the DADF will bring a comprehensive

proposal for Corporatization of DMS before the Union Cabinet for formal approval.

The above table indicates that during the year 2010-11 and 2011-12 DMS was not able to achieve the targets fixed.

3.35 When asked to furnish the reasons for not achieving the targets fixed for the year 2010-11 and 2011-12, the Department furnished in a written reply that DMS was not able to achieve its targets during 2010-11 & 2011-12 mainly on account of progressive loss of milk shed areas with increasing urbanization around the city. DMS does not have village level infrastructure on the lines of dairy cooperatives for procurement of milk. This has affected liquid milk procurement and increasing dependence on reconstitution of milk.

3.36 When further asked to furnish the details of targets fixed for the fiscal year 2012-13, the Department submitted the following :-

S. No	Major component of the scheme	Target
1.	Procurement of Milk (in Lakh Kgs)	900.00
2.	Sale of Milk (in Lakh Litres)	1275.00
3.	Production of : i) Ghee (in MT) ii) Table Butter (in MT)	600.00 60.00

3.37 When asked the steps taken by the Department to stop such a decreasing trend in targets fixed / achievements in respect of procurement and sale of milk and the reason for scaled down targets for the year

2012-13, the Department submitted in a written reply that the targets have been scaled down to commensurate with the achievements of previous years. The targets for 2012-13 have been fixed realistically taking into account the achievements of the previous year and providing for a growth in the next year keeping in view the agreements made as well as the constraints faced by DMS for procuring raw milk.

3.38 When asked to furnish the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Department to achieve the targets fixed for 2012-13 and if an exercise has been initiated to make the targets realistic, the Department submitted that DMS has entered into agreements with additional suppliers for procurement of sufficient quantity of raw milk during 2012-13. This is expected to help DMS achieve the targets for 2012-13.

Effort has been made to fix a realistic target for procurement of raw milk in the context of present scenario. The targets for processing, production and sales have been fixed based on the expected procurement of raw milk.

3.39 On the question of the manner in which the DMS is going to control the quality of milk since it is being procured from the different milk suppliers and to check adulteration in milk, the Department stated that the milk brought by the suppliers is tested for quality before acceptance by DMS. Milk is accepted only if it meets the prescribed quality parameters; otherwise it is rejected. This system is already in place and strictly

enforced to ensure that the quality of milk accepted by DMS is as per the prescribed standard.

The Committee in their 7th and 24th Reports on Demands for Grants 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively, as also in relevant Action Taken Reports have recommended the Department to quickly take a final call on the long vexed issue of corporatization of DMS. However, the matter is still hanging fire. When asked in what time frame a final decision is expected, the Department stated that the proposal will be put up to the Union Cabinet for a decision during 2012-13.

FISHERIES SECTOR

(i) Development of Freshwater and Brackishwater Aquaculture

3.40 During 2010-11, an additional area of 12,651 hectare was brought under fish culture and 30,655 fishermen were trained in improved practices. The scheme has benefited about 14.17 lakh persons since inception. Due to introduction of improved technology of fish farming and the efforts of FFDAs, the national average productivity of ponds and tanks covered under the programme has reached a figure of 2900 kg/ha/annum. Since inception of the scheme of Brackishwater Aquaculture till 2011-12, about 42,721 *ha* water area has been brought under shrimp culture and the number of beneficiaries covered under the programme is about 32,524, while the productivity has reached to 1,200 kg/ha/annum.

3.41 The Scheme has been under implementation since 1973-74. When queried about the targets fixed for both components for the year 2012-13,

the Department submitted that it has been proposed to cover the water area of 25,000 ha for Development of Fresh water aquaculture and 2,000 ha for brackish water aquaculture for 2012-13. Component on training has been dropped from Eleventh Plan as this aspect is being separately covered in another centrally sponsored Scheme and the Schemes of National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).

3.42 When asked to furnish the details of total area covered under Fresh water and Brackish water aquaculture during each year of the Eleventh Plan alongwith achievements, the Department submitted that a target of 1,50,000 ha of water body for freshwater and 10,000 ha for brackishwater was set for the Eleventh Plan period. The details of area covered –year wise is as below”

Year	Water Area covered under Freshwater Aquaculture (ha)	Water Area covered under Brackishwater Aquaculture (ha)
2007-08	26,420	2,338
2008-09	25,087	2,317
2009-10	13,933	1,223
2010-11	13,125	1,471
2011-12	25,000 (P)	2,000
Total for 11th plan	1,03,565	9,349

P: Provisional

3.43 On the question of the increase in area for Fresh water and Brackish water aquaculture in the year 2012-13, the Department informed that a target of 25,000 ha for freshwater aquaculture and 2000 ha for brackish water aquaculture is set for 2012-13.

3.44 In response to query on the international average production per hac, per annum in Freshwater and Brackishwater Aquaculture, the Department submitted that the national average production is about 2.9 tonnes per hectare per annum in Freshwater Aquaculture. In Brackishwater aquaculture, the average productivity of *Penaeus monodon* (Black tiger shrimp) is approximately 1.2 tonnes per hectare per annum and for *Litopenaeus vannamei* (White leg shrimp) it is about 8 tonnes per hectare per annum. However, the average production per hectare depends upon various factors such as (a) species, (b) culture practices, (c) quality of seed (d) feed quality (e) water quality etc. The International average production is not available as the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) statistics do not capture this data.

3.45 When asked to furnish the details about the scheme / plan of the Department to increase the production of Freshwater and Brackishwater Aquaculture production / hac / per annum, the Department in their written submission informed that enhancement of production and productivity is one of the primary objectives of the scheme - 'Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture'. The Department through the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the schemes of National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has taken the following measures: (a) Intensive aquaculture, (b) Training of fish farmers in intensive culture practices (c) Intensive stocking of reservoirs, (d) Diversification of species (e) Introduction of cage culture under National Mission for Protein Supplements (NMPS) (f) Cluster farming under NMPS.

National Schemes of Welfare Programme of Fishermen

3.46 The Committee have been informed that National Schemes of Welfare Programme of Fishermen has a component of Saving-cum-Relief Scheme. The objective of this component is to provide financial assistance to fishermen during lean fishing season. Under this component, beneficiary has to contribute a part of the earnings during non-lean months. A contribution of Rs.600/- in 9 months of fishing period is being made by fisherman and Rs.1,200/- are being contributed by the Centre and the State on 50:50 basis. The total sum of Rs.1,800/- is distributed to fisherman @ Rs.600/- per month for three months of lean period.

3.47 During the course of examination of Demands for Grants (2012-13), when asked about the Welfare Schemes for the fishermen, the Secretary of the Department deposed as under :-

“This again is a scheme where the more money I get, the more money I need because the scheme as such has a direct benefit. All the States are repeatedly asking for more funds under this scheme. The more money the Planning Commission gives, the happier will I be.

As far as fisheries are concerned, under the Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme, 4,39,770 beneficiaries were covered in 2011-12. In the insurance scheme, 39 lakh beneficiaries were covered. In housing, 3,041 houses were constructed. The total amount which was released for training was Rs.44.56 crore. I would request this Committee to make a strong plea that the funding for the welfare scheme should be enhanced very substantially because housing is a very specific requirement. Fishermen are the poorest of the poor. Irrespective of whether it is a coastal State or an inland State, the condition of the fishermen remains very difficult. Fishing also, especially the marine fishing, is an extremely risky occupation. So, there is a need to ensure that in some cases if something happens to the breadwinner of the family, the family gets immediate relief. Therefore, I would seek the good offices of this Committee to ensure that funding for this is substantially enhanced. We keep on requesting the Planning Commission for money. Perhaps, the

Committee would be kind enough to support this request so that we can be of genuine benefit to these sections.”

(ii) Food Safety and Traceability

3.48 Food Safety and Traceability is an entirely new area for the country for which neither requisite expertise nor experience is available. Hence, the Department entered in to a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) with FAO to devise a strategy for animal identification and traceability system in India.

The TCP with FAO has been approved. FAO has started the project to draft a strategy and an action plan for an animal identification and traceability system in India. The recommendations in terms of the strategy and action plan for AI&T are expected to be available in seven months period and scheme in the form of a pilot project is now expected to be formulated. The scheme shall be implemented in a phased manner over a period of ten years. It is proposed to continue the scheme during 2012-13 of the Twelfth Plan. For this, the Twelfth Plan allocation for this scheme is proposed at Rs. 50.00 crores. The Budget outlay of Rs. 5 crore has been provided for 2012-13.

3.49 When asked to furnish the salient feature of this Scheme, the Department replied that the scheme aims at establishing a strong Animal Recording and Traceability (ART) system so as to achieve following two main objectives:

- Identification of elite animal, record their performance and promote their propagation. This will help in developing a strong Progeny Testing Programme for upgradation of various livestock species in the future.
- The ART system will also improve the India's prospects for International trade of disease-free animals and animal products.

3.50 When asked to furnish the names of the States in which the Food Safety and Traceability has been started as a pilot project, the Department stated that the pilot project has still not been formulated and no State has yet been earmarked for its implementation.

3.51 This is a new Scheme initiated in Eleventh Plan on which the Committee in their 7th and 24th Reports on Demands for Grants 2010-11 and 2011-12 have desired the Department to expeditiously take steps to implement the important scheme. However, the pilot project has still not been formulated and action plan is not yet ready. When further asked to furnish the action plan of the Department to implement the Scheme in the year 2012-13, the Department furnished that no action plan is yet ready. The FAO is working on it.

3.52 When asked whether any time frame was given to FAO to furnish the Action Plan, the Department replied that as per the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), FAO would conduct the study and submit the action plan in terms of strategy report to the Department within 7 months. The Inception workshop for the project was held by FAO on 8th February, 2012. Therefore, FAO is expected to submit its Action Plan by September, 2012.

3.53 When asked in what time frame, the pilot project would be ready for implementation, on receipt of Action Plan, the Department furnished that the Action Plan from FAO will be examined in the Department for formulation of a pilot project which will be initially implemented in a few selected states. DADF will make efforts to prepare the pilot project within the shortest period possible.

Allocation to Animal Husbandry Sector

3.54 The Committee are perturbed to note that the Animal Husbandry Sector is not getting its due in terms of monetary allocations and this is hampering the implementation of various important schemes of the Department. In the ongoing fiscal it has been allocated a sum of Rs.1,063.10 crore out of the total allocation of Rs.1,910.00 crore. In percentage terms this works out to less than 56% of the total allocation of the Department. In the previous three financial years from 2009-10 to 2011-12 this sector was allocated Rs.558.29 crore, Rs.792.15 crore and Rs.874.36 crore respectively. These allocations have been, as usual, curtailed further at the RE stages and the total actual expenditure during these three years (upto 3 February, 2012) has been to the tune of Rs.435.84 crore, Rs.668.75 crore and Rs.511.05 crore which is at 78%, 84% and 59% of the BE respectively. This has hampered the implementation of the schemes of this sector. The Committee note with concern that if the Department continues to be served in the same manner, this would have a detrimental affect on the performance of the Department and

they would not be able to achieve their targets. The Committee, therefore, desire the planners and policy makers to provide the allocation to this Sector as per its needs to avoid the situation of hampered implementation of the Schemes of this Sector year after year. They further desire the Department to tone up the implementation apparatus so that they are in a better position to absorb the allocated funds resulting in attainment of set targets.

Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme

3.55 The Committee note with concern that FMD control programme is being implemented in 221 specified districts of the country with 100% central funding as cost of vaccine, maintenance of cold chain and other logistic support to undertake vaccination. The main aim of this programme is to prevent economic losses due to Foot and Mouth Disease and to develop herd immunity in cloven-footed animals. It is a location specific programme. They further observe that day by day the demand for vaccination to control FMD is increasing in operative and non-operative areas since the programme showed desired results in terms of reduction in the incidence of disease. The Committee are happy to note that Department intends to cover all the 660 districts in the country under this Scheme during the Twelfth Plan. During the year 2012-13, the Department plan to cover 63 more districts of Rajasthan and Odisha raising the total number of districts covered from the current 221 to 284 with total coverage of about 36 million additional population of

bovines to be vaccinated. Keeping in view the paramountcy of this programme in ridding the nation of this epidemic, the Committee, desire the Department to prepare a road map to work on this Scheme for the entire nation in a time bound manner. They further desire to be apprised of the details of the road map so drawn at the earliest.

Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries

3.56 The Committee note with concern that there is an acute shortage of veterinary hospitals / dispensaries in the country and these institutions lack basic infrastructure in terms of building, equipment and adequate staff. The representative of the Department himself admitted that veterinary hospitals / dispensaries are far short of what we need and there is a need of 10,000 more veterinary hospitals / dispensaries in the country. The situation is further aggravated due to shortage of manpower in the existing veterinary hospitals / dispensaries year after year. The Committee are happy to be informed that during the year 2011-12, the Department have released Rs.98.81 crore as against the BE of Rs.90.00 crore under this Scheme. The Committee feel that this a Scheme from which the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers, i.e. the people who need focused attention as far as veterinary services are concerned. The Committee strongly recommend that this is the right time for the Department to buckle up and provide succor to the needy people of the country who are living in far flung areas by

Establishing and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries to provide veterinary services. Keeping in view the demand of the Scheme, the Committee, recommend that the allocation for this Scheme 'Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries' be augmented appropriately so as to be able to provide the much needed shot in the arm to the existing veterinary Hospitals / Dispensaries and strengthen it further. They further desire that the shortage of veterinary doctors and other staff in the existing hospitals and dispensaries should also be bridged at the earliest to improve the veterinary services.

Livestock Insurance

3.57 The Committee observe that the Livestock Insurance Scheme of the Department covers 300 selected districts and benefits the farmers and cattle rearers having indigenous / crossbred milch cattle and buffaloes. Benefit of the subsidy is restricted to two animals per beneficiary per household. Premium of insurance is on the 50:50 basis – beneficiary and the Government of India. The Department have also informed the Committee that they intend to modify this Scheme in order to extend coverage from 300 districts to the entire country, insure more animals and make the pattern of financial assistance more inclusive, realistic, effective and farmer friendly. The Committee share the same opinion that the benefit of the

Scheme should percolate down to the weaker sections of the society that owns majority of livestock. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department to not restrict its role to that of a mere a banker but also ensure that the targeted audience is actually able to avail the benefits of their Scheme. The Committee further desire that while revising / modifying this Scheme, the extant restriction of two animals per farmer per household should be done away with, so as to bring large number of farmers having indigenous / crossbred milch cattle and buffaloes under the ambit of this Scheme and the process of obtaining the claims from the insurance company be also simplified to the extent that the farmers are not made to run from pillar to post for their claim which otherwise forces them to knock at the doors of the unscrupulous moneylenders. They desire to be informed of the progress made in this direction.

Central Minikit Testing Programme on Fodder Crops

3.58 From their examination of Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Department, the Committee note that there is a shortage of green and dry fodder in the country. Though a lot of work has already been done and still a lot remains to be done by the Department for increasing the production / availability of green and dry fodder in the country. They further note that in order to improve the quality of fodder and to increase the production of fodder, the Department have allotted fodder minikits to the States for distribution among the

farmers, free of cost. The Committee, however, are anguished to note that inspite of distribution of 12.67 lakh fodder seed minikits of legume and non-legume variety to the farmers, the Department is not in a position to ascertain the increase in the quantum of fodder crops / grasses / legumes produced in the country. It has been brought to their notice that Department is proposing major modifications in the Central Sector Scheme –The Central Fodder Development Organisations, of which the Minikit Testing Programme is a component in order to increase the number of beneficiaries and increase fodder supply. The Committee share the view of the Department that the benefits should percolate down to farmers who are actually engaged in production of fodder. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should not only free the Scheme of its present geographical restrictions but also ensure that the targeted beneficiaries are actually able to avail the benefits of the Scheme. The Committee further desire that while distributing fodder minikits for testing they should keep in mind the objective of the Scheme and get feedback from the beneficiaries which needs to be taken into consideration while modifying in the Central Sector Scheme –The Central Fodder Development Organisation. This would enhance the viability of this Scheme and ultimately help in increasing the quantity of precious yet scarce fodder in the country. They desire to be apprised of the progress made in this direction.

National Dairy Plan (NDP)

3.59 The Committee note that the demand for milk in the country is growing day by day. The Department with the help of National Dairy Development Board envisages implementation of the National Dairy Plan-I to meet the projected national demand of 150 million tonnes of milk by 2016-17 with assistance of the World Bank. The objective of the NDP-I is to launch a focused and scientifically planned multi state initiative to lay the path for new processes, supported by appropriate policy and regulatory measures leading to increase in the productivity of milch animals and thereby increase milk production to meet the rapidly growing demand for milk and provide rural milk producers with greater access to the organised milk-processing sector. The Committee have been informed that NDP, Phase-I was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 16 February, 2012 and Administrative Approval for the Scheme was issued on 16 March, 2012. Being well aware of the pivotal role to be played by this Scheme in bolstering the overall milk production in the country, the Committee desire that the Department start implementing this Scheme without any further delay so that the objective of the Scheme can be achieved by the year 2016-17 and the increasing demand of the milk in the country be matched with appropriate supply of the same.

Delhi Milk Scheme

3.60 The Committee note that initial installed capacity of DMS was for processing / packing of 2.55 lakh litres of milk per day. However in order to meet increasing demand for milk in the city, the capacity was expanded in phases to the level of 5.00 lakh litres of milk per day. They further observed that the capacity utilization has never been full and rather the utilization of its capacity of processing / packing of milk is reducing year after year. This is resulting in the fixation of low targets, their achievements continues to make losses year after year. The Committee take a serious view in regard to non-implementation of their recommendation in this regard contained in their earlier Reports. The Committee desire that instead of wasting their time any further on the vexed and controversial issue of corporatization, the Government should immediately improve the infrastructure and wherewithal of DMS with state-of-the-art machinery and equipments, so that it is able turn around and start making profits like other such industries in the profitable Dairy Sector. A lot of precious time and resources of the DMS have already been wasted in taking decision and proposal to be put up to the Union Cabinet. The Committee, therefore, once again reiterate that needful be done urgently by the Government so as to ensure that DMS is restored as a flourishing, profit making entity like Mother Dairy and others.

Development of Freshwater and Brackishwater Aquaculture

3.61 The main objective of the Scheme Development of Freshwater Aquaculture is to popularize modern fish farming, creating employment opportunities and diversifying aquaculture practices and providing assistance to fish farmers engaged in aquaculture. The Committee note that due to introduction of improved technology of fish farming and the efforts of FFDAs, the national average productivity of ponds and tanks covered under the programme has reached a figure of 2900 kg./ha/annum. They are anguished to note that water area covered during the fiscal 2011-12 had fallen down to 13,125 ha from 26,420 ha in 2007-08. Similarly, during the same period water area cover under the Scheme Brackishwater Aquaculture was 2,338 ha which came to the level of 1,471 ha. Deeply concerned at this alarming state of affairs, the Committee recommend that the Department pull up its socks and ensure that the due attention is paid to the proper implementation of the Scheme and the objectives of the Scheme be kept in the forefront. If done, they are positive that this Scheme will surely witness a turnaround in its fortunes.

National Schemes of Welfare Programme of Fishermen

3.62 Fully endorsing the Department's stand that the Government needs to do a lot more for the welfare of the fishermen who are engaged in an extremely risky occupation, the Committee urge the Government to give this sector its due finally and quantumly enhance the allocation for this Scheme in the Twelfth Plan so as to mitigate the risk encountered by the fishermen and thereby contribute towards enhancement of their overall well being. They desire to be informed of the progress made in this direction.

Food Safety and Traceability

3.63 The Committee note that as stated by the Department that they entered into a Technical Cooperation Programme with FAO to devise a strategy for animal identification and traceability system in India as they were venturing into uncharted territory. This will not only help in upgradation of various livestock species in the future but also improve the India's prospects for International trade of disease-free animals and animal products. The Committee were informed by the Department that during the Twelfth Plan Rs.50.00 crore have been proposed for this Scheme and the Budget Outlay of Rs.5.00 crore has been provided for the fiscal 2012-13. The Committee note with concern that Action Plan of the Scheme in terms of strategy report is yet to be submitted by the FAO. The Department expects to get the Action Plan from FAO by September, 2012. The Committee desire the Department to finalise all procedural formalities like approvals,

sanctions, etc. at their end in connection with this novel Scheme so as to be ready to implement the same from October, 2012. They further desire to be apprised of the latest development achieved therein.

NEW DELHI;
26 April, 2012
6 Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA
Chairman,
Committee on Agriculture

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2011-12)

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY NINTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Friday, the 13 April, 2012 from 1100 hours to 1345 hours in Room No. '53', Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Narayansingh Amlabe
3. Shri Thangso Baite
4. Smt. Ashwamedh Devi
5. Shri Sk. Nurul Islam
6. Shri Premdas
7. Shri Surendra Singh Nagar
8. Shri Devji M. Patel
9. Shri Laxman Tudu
10. Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

11. Shri Shashi Bhusan Behera
12. Shri Upendra Kushwaha
13. 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

WITNESSES

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES)

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>NAME OF THE OFFICER</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>
1.	Shri Rudhra Gangadharan	Secretary (ADF)
2.	Shri Ashish Bahuguna	Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser
3.	Dr. A.S. Nanda	Animal Husbandry Commissioner
4.	Shri Tarun Shridhar	Joint Secretary (FY)
5.	Shri Rajbir Singh Rana	Joint Secretary (LH)
6.	Shri Sanjay R. Bhoosreddy	Joint Secretary (APF)
7.	Ms. Rajni Sekhri Sibal	Joint Secretary (CDD)
8.	Dr. D. Chaudhuri	Deputy Director General (FY.)
9.	Dr. A. Batobyal	Joint Commissioner (LP)
10.	Dr. P.K. Shukla	Joint Commissioner (Poultry)
11.	Dr. K. Vijay Kumar	Joint Commissioner (LH)
12.	Dr. V.K. Arora	Joint Commissioner (Cattle)
13.	Shri B. Vishnu Bhat	Fisheries Development Commissioner

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)

Dr. Gaya Prasad

Assistant Director General

NATIONAL DAIRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

1.	Shri Dilip Rath	Managing Director
2.	Dr. S.K. Dalal	Deputy General Manager

DELHI MILK SCHEME

Dr. B.S. Beniwal

General Manager

CENTRAL STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION

Dr. S. Durairaju

Dy. Director General

NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE

Dr. M. Moni

Dy. Director General

PLANNING COMMISSION

Dr. V.V. Sadamate

Adviser

Dr. G.P. Pandey

Deputy Adviser

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members of the Committee and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) other Departments and agencies and Planning Commission to the Sitting.

3. After the witnesses introduced themselves, the Secretary, Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries briefly highlighted the activities / achievements made by the Department during the preceding Financial Year. The Committee, thereafter, took their evidence on Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Department.

4. The Chairman and members of the Committee raised queries on several issues concerning the Demands for Grants of the ongoing Fiscal. The witnesses replied, thereto.

5. The Chairman, thereafter thanked the witnesses for appearing before the Committee as well as for furnishing valuable information desired by them. He also directed them to furnish information on points on which the Department could not clarify during the Sitting, to the Committee Secretariat by 16 April, 2012.

6. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept separately .

The Committee then adjourned.

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2011-12)**

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FIRST SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 26th April, 2012 from 1000 hours to 1020 hours in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Narayansingh Amlabe
3. Shri Thangso Baite
4. Shri Sk. Nurual Islam
5. Shri Premdas
6. Shri Surendra Singh Nagar
7. Shri Vitthalbhai Hansrajbhai Radadiya
8. Shri Nripendra Nath Roy
9. Shri D. Venugopal

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Shashi Bhusan Behera
11. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
12. Shri Rajpal Singh Saini
13. Shri S. Thangavelu

SECRETARIAT

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

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

* (i) xxx xxx xxx xxx

(ii) draft Report on Demands for Grants (2012-2013) relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries).

3. After some deliberations, xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx. Thereafter, the Committee adopted the draft Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13) of Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) with some modification. They also authorized the Chairman to finalise the above Draft Reports after having got them factually verified from the concerned Ministry/Department and present them to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

* *Matter not related to this Report.*