



**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2012-2013)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2012-13)

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report
of the Committee on Agriculture (2011-2012)}**

FORTY-THIRD REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

February, 2013/Phalguna, 1934 (Saka)

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of the Committee on Agriculture (2011-2012)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 26.02.2013

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 26.02.2013



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

February, 2013/Phalguna, 1934 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2012-13)

Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman

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3. Shri Sanjay Singh Chauhan
4. Shri H.D. Devegowda
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28. Shri Rajpal Singh Saini
29. Shri Shivanand Tiwari
30. Shri S. Thangavelu
31. Shri Darshan Singh Yadav

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Agriculture (2012-2013) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Forty-third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2011-12) on Demands for Grants (2012-13) pertaining to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries).

2. The Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee was presented to the Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 30 April, 2012. The Action Taken Replies on the Report were received from the Government on 23 July, 2012.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 22 February, 2013.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee is given in **Annexure II**.

NEW DELHI
22 February, 2013
3 Phalguna, 1934 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA
Chairman,
Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER 1

REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2011-12) on Demands for Grants 2012-13 pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) which was presented to Lok Sabha on 17 May 2012 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 18 May 2012.

1.2 The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 18 Observations / Recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorized as under:

(i) Observations / Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government: Recommendation Nos. 1.4, 3.54, 3.56, 3.57, 3.59, 3.61, 3.62 and 3.63.

(ii) Observations / Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

Recommendation No.: 2.38.

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

Recommendation Nos. 2.33, 2.34, 2.35, 2.37, 2.39 and 3.55.

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

Recommendation Nos. 3.58 and 3.60.

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations/Recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases, where it is not possible for the Department to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Final Action Taken Replies to the Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them within a period of three months.

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

Implementation of Committee Recommendations

(Recommendation Para No.1.4)

1.5 Having noted 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 and deeply perturbed to note that the Minister

concerned has not made the Statement under Direction 73-A on the status of implementation of Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Committee within the stipulated six months, the committee had desired that the statement be made without any further delay in the ongoing Budget Session (2012) itself.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.6 In their Action Taken Note the Government have stated that the recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee have been taken note of. In future, the Department will ensure submission of Action Taken Report and laying the status of implementation of the Recommendations of the Report in the Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha within the stipulated time.

It may be noted that the status of implementation of recommendations of the Report, It is submitted that the Department had laid the Statement by Minister in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) on Demands for Grants (2011-12) in Lok Sabha on 17 May, 2012 and Rajya Sabha on 18 May, 2012. The requisite number of copies of above statement was also sent to Lok Sabha Secretariat on 22nd May 2012. The Department had also submitted further Action Taken Notes by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-First Report of Committee of Agriculture (2011-12) on the Action Taken by the Government on

the Twenty-Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2011-12) pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries) to Lok Sabha Secretariat on 22nd May 2012.

1.7 The Committee note with satisfaction that in pursuance of their Recommendation, the Statement of Minister under direction 73A in the context of Twenty-fourth Report has been made during the Budget Session (2012). They further note with satisfaction the timely submission of further Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-first Report of the Committee which was a sequel to their Twenty-fourth Report. The Committee expect the Government to always adhere to laid down stipulations of reporting and feedback to Parliament and its institutions in further to facilitate them to discharge their responsibility of oversight.

Budgetary Allocations

RECOMMENDATION SERIAL NO. 2

PARAGRAPH NO. 2.33 & 2.34

1.8 Having observed during the course of examination of Demands for Grants of the Department for the Eleventh Plan period huge variation between the initially approved amount of Rs.8,174 crore and the actual allocation of Rs.5,910 crore by the Planning Commission, the Committee, keeping in view the importance of the sector in providing sustenance to the economically weak farming community, had desired the Government to have a fresh look on this

aspect during the Twelfth Plan and ensure that full quota of allocated funds are actually provided to the Department in the annual allocations in the Twelfth Plan.

The Committee noting further with regret that their repeated recommendations regarding enhancement of Plan allocation of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF) so as to increase its share in comparison to the other two Departments of the Agriculture sector viz. Department of Agriculture (DAC) and Cooperation and Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), had not yielded any positive result and that the share of the Department continued to remain much lower compared to its sister Departments, the Committee while empathizing with the Department on this issue had once again urged 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.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.9 In their Action Taken Notes, the Government have stated that Planning Commission has informed that the allocation of funds to this Department is determined by the following criteria:

- Over all resource position,
- Absorption capacity of the Department,

- Unspent balances, and
- Financial support available through other major programmes like RKVY.

The year-wise allocation of DADF has increased substantially as per the table given below. However the actual expenditure was less, though it has gone up in Financial Year 2010-11 and 2011-12. The Plan allocation of this Department for the year 2012-13 is 19.38% higher than the allocation for 2011-12.

Year	Approved outlay	RE	Actual Expenditure
11th Plan (2007-2012)	8,174.00		
2007-08	910.00	810.00	784.09
2008-09	1,000.00	940.00	865.27
2009-10	1,100.00	930.00	873.38
2010-11	1,300.00	1,257.00	1,104.68
2011-12	1,600.00	1,356.52	1270.15
TOTAL	5,910.00	5,293.52	4897.57
2012-13	1,910.00		

In addition, the livestock and fisheries sector is also getting the funding support under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) which is implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) which results in the enhancement of the share of plan allocation of this Department. The details of

Year wise / sector wise summary of approved projects in the 11th Plan for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries under RKVY for activities in animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sector is given in the following table:

Rs. in crore

Year	Animal Husbandry	Dairy Development	Fisheries
11th Plan (2007-2012)			
2007-08	104.80	56.76	63.69
2008-09	666.31	203.45	142.16
2009-10	712.02	154.85	109.12
2010-11	734.71	333.36	278.96
2011-12	847.31	281.58	390.60
TOTAL	3065.15	1030.00	984.53

Apart from the above, National Mission on Protein Supplements (NMPS) was launched in the year 2011-12 in 22 identified States as a part of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, with an outlay of Rs. 300 Crore. The objective of this programme is to increase production of animal protein like milk, meat and fish etc in order to meet rising demand for these products. In the current year 2012-13, an amount of Rs. 500 crore has been allocated under different components of NMPS.

Thus, under RKVY and NMPS, an amount of about Rs. 5,379.68 crore was allocated for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (AHDF) Sector

during Eleventh Plan in addition to the approved outlay of Rs. 5,910 crore for this Department.

1.10 The Committee are fully aware of the criteria followed by Planning Commission for determining the allocation of funds. Overall resource position, absorption capacity of Department and unspent balances have been the major reasons adduced for reduced/curtailed allocation for all these years. Financial support available through other major programmes like RKVY is, however, a recent phenomenon. The Committee note from the Action Taken Note that apart

from the Rs. 5910 crore plan Allocation of the Department during the Eleventh Plan a sum of about Rs. 5380 crore allocated to activities in animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sectors and the National Mission on Protein Supplements under RKVY is also been shown as allocation for the AHD&F Sector during the Eleventh Plan. The Committee find this logic of the Department strange. RKVY is an additional Central Assistance Scheme operated by DAC which has nothing to do with the schemes of DAHD&F. By no means can the intervention under RKVY be a substitute to the specific schemes of the Department. Going by this logic the Department may someday also cite the allocation made to Military Farms Directorate and Remount and Veterinary Corps as allocation for the AHDF sector. The Committee's limited concern was about the curtailing of funds to the Department for its specific schemes from the initially approved Rs.

8174 crore to Rs. 5910 crore as actual allocation, which was further slashed down to Rs. 5293 crore at RE stage. The Committee are not at all happy with these efforts of the Department to digress from the point raised by the Committee. They, therefore, reiterate that the Department should earnestly strive for securing funds for their approved schemes rather than justifying their failure in doing so. The animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sector are the only constant in rural economy since agriculture is a seasonal vocation. It is, therefore, but imperative that the schemes of Department for the purpose ought not languish just because the Department remains smug about funds for schemes of other department taking care of this crucial sector.

Central Funds for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Sector

RECOMMENDATION SERIAL NO. 3

PARAGRAPH NO. 2.35, 2.36, 2.37

1.11 The Committee had impressed 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. They had desired that all the bottlenecks should be thrashed threadbare during the course of free and frank discussion wherein both parties put forth their views candidly and then arrived at a common ground. The Committee were 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.

Noting further 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. This had resulted in the current level of the unspent balances with the States at Rs.854 crore. The Committee had already recommended in their earlier Report on Demands For Grants (2011-12) that this situation could 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 had again impressed 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.

Further noting that another reason for less expenditure was lack of critical manpower, especially scientists and technicians and 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 had felt that this genuine problem could 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. They had accordingly advised the Department to prepare a roadmap in a time bound manner to overcome this situation.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.12 In their Action Taken Notes, the Government have stated that the schemes of the Department are basically intended to assist the States in the development of infrastructure and provide policy directives for promotion of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (AHDF) sectors. The department is constantly taking up the matter with States for effective utilization of funds. The Department is also regularly monitoring the full utilization of funds and progress of the schemes through video conferencing with the States and State visits by the senior officers of this department from time to time.

In order to liquidate to unspent balances, the Department is constantly taking up the matter with the States through D.O letter from Secretary to Chief Secretaries of respective States. Recently, a D.O. letter from Hon'ble Agriculture Minister has been issued to Hon'ble Chief Ministers / Administrators of all States/UTs on 30th April 2012 in respect of unspent balance of funds released by Union Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister has also written to the Chief Minister's emphasizing that the size of the unspent balance is a matter of concern, since it

affects the further release of funds to States, delaying the implementation of critical schemes and projects alongwith request to the States/Uts to take urgent action to reduce the unspent balance otherwise it will be difficult to release central funds in the current financial year 2012-13.

In respect of lack of critical manpower, it is stated that the recruitment of all technical posts, whether through direct recruitment or promotion or deputation, is strictly guided by the Recruitment Rules of the post which are of statutory nature. Relaxation to these recruitment rules is solicited if there is a change in the guidelines of DOPT, etc. Union Public Service Commission and Staff Selection Commission are the nodal agencies to make recruitment to the technical posts of this department. The Department has already initiated exercise to fill up all the vacant technical posts as per the prescribed procedure.

1.13 The Committee appreciate the various efforts made by the Department in the direction of mitigation the various causes of unspent balances, diversion of funds, delay in furnishing of utilisation certificates, etc. They are, however, hugely perturbed to note that these initiatives and effort of the Department are not yielding the desired results. The unspent balances with States are mounting; the pendency of utilisation certificate is not improving a bit; the continued and abject lack of infrastructure including human resource is unabatedly leading to sub-optimal utilisation of previous funds. The Committee, therefore, strongly feel that since the efforts of the Department have not really made a dent in financial mess of

the present, a paradigm shift in the approach to this long standing problem is immediately required. The Committee desire that the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Programme Implantation and Statistics should collectively find out a solution in the matter after vigorous consultation with the States.

Twelfth Five Year Plan

(RECOMMENDATION SERIAL NO 5)

PARAGRAPH NO. 2.39

1.14 Concerned on the account of the cascading effects of delay in finalizing the Twelfth Plan Document on implementation of the Schemes of the Department, the Committee had reiterated their recommendation 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.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.15 In their Action Taken Notes the Government have stated that in respect of finalization of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, Planning Commission has informed that the Approach Paper to the 12th Plan which broadly outlines the overall framework and directions of the 12th Plan, has already been approved by the National Development Council (NDC). The Approach Paper also gives the resource allocation priorities of the Plan.

Various Working Groups and Steering Committees were constituted for preparing the Twelfth Plan. Ministries/Departments were represented in Working

Groups/Steering Committees concerning their respective sectors. Therefore, Ministries/Departments are aware of the Plan priorities as well as the sectoral goals, targets and objectives of the Plan.

Even though the 12th Five Year Plan has not yet been approved, the priorities of the Plan are duly taken care of in the allocation for the first year of the Plan, by taking due cognizance of the approved Approach Paper to the 12th Plan as well as discussions of the Steering Committees of the 12th Plan. In any case, the first year's allocations are dominantly those for 11th Plan schemes. New schemes are typically formulated and approved during the first year of the Plan.

Planning Commission has informed that it is in an advanced stage of preparing the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The Plan document is expected to be finalized soon.

1.16 The Committee note with extreme concern that inspite of they having sounded the alarm, time and again, things are not moving at the desired pace. Though in the inter-regnum some progress has been made towards finalisation and approval of the Twelfth Plan Document by the National Development Council, the purpose of this entire exercise would be served only when it is presented to the Parliament and the Parliament and its entities, thereafter, examine the Demands for Grants in the light of the Plan Document Last Fiscal this could not happen due to non-finalisation of the Plan Document. The Committee are sure that the Government will lay the Twelfth Plan Document in the Parliament at the soonest in the forthcoming

Budget Session so that the Demands for Grants (2013-14) are examined amongst at this in the light of Plan Document.

Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme

RECOMMENDATION SERIAL NO. 7

PARAGRAPH NO. 3.55

1.17 Noting 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 and the Department intends to cover all the 660 districts in the country under this Scheme during the Twelfth Plan. Further noting that 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, the Committee keeping in view the paramountcy of this programme in ridding the Nation of this epidemic, had desired the Department to prepare a road map to work on this Scheme for the entire Nation in a time bound manner.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.18 The Department in their Action Taken Note stated that they are implementing Foot & Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) since 10th Plan period. The programme has been expanded from 54 districts to 221

districts in August 2010 during 11th Plan period and now covers whole of southern peninsula including Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and 16 districts of UP. It envisages for vaccination in targeted animals i.e. 110 million cattle and buffalo in the identified States/Uts at 6 monthly intervals. The remaining districts in the country will be taken up during 12th Plan and beyond in phased manner so as to cover whole of India under FMD-CP. Accordingly, FMD-CP programme in 12th Plan will dovetail the expansion of FMD-CP in the remaining districts of the country. Simultaneously, the monitoring of the programme is being strengthened to improve efficacy of the programme towards achieving the objective of eradication of FMD.

1.19 Having been previously assured by the Department about all 660 districts of the country being covered made the Programme during the Twelfth Plan, the Committee are surprised by the present Action Taken Report as it states that the remaining districts will be covered during the Twelfth Plan and beyond in a phased manner. The foot and mouth disease exacts a huge cost in the form of economics losses to the livestock rearers. Therefore, it requires to be eradicated at the soonest. The Committee, therefore, desire the Government not to vacillate on this crucial issue for whatever reason and stick to then originally envisaged target of covering the entire country during the Twelfth Plan itself.

ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING VETERINARY HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

RECOMMENDATION SERIAL NO. 8

PARAGRAPH NO. 3.56

1.20 Keeping in view the acute shortage of veterinary hospitals / dispensaries in the country and the lack of basic infrastructure in terms of building, equipment and adequate staff and based on the admission of the representative of the Department that there is a need of 10,000 more veterinary hospitals / dispensaries in the country, the Committee, had recommended that the allocation for the Scheme 'Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries' be augmented appropriately so that it is able to provide the much needed shot in the arm to the existing veterinary Hospitals / Dispensaries and strengthen them further. They had further desired 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.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.21 In their Action Taken Note the Government have stated that under Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospital and Dispensaries (ESVHD), a sum of Rs.97.26 crore has been provided to the States/Uts for new construction/strengthening of veterinary hospitals/dispensaries as against the BE of Rs.68.90 crore during 2010-11. Similarly, a sum of Rs.98.81 crore as against BE of Rs.90.00 crore has been released to the States/UTs during 2011-12. It is also mentioned that during 2012-13, BE of Rs.91.00 crore has been provided. Additional funds will be sought at RE stage as per the requirement in light of proposals received from the

State Governments. As regards to the shortage of veterinary doctor and other staff, it is stated that the veterinary hospital/polyclinic and dispensaries, etc. are set up by the States. The Department is providing financial assistance to the States/UTs to set up new veterinary hospitals/dispensaries and to strengthen the existing ones as per the project proposal received from them under the scheme. In the proposal of sanction of ESVHD, the State Government are required to provide the required number of veterinary doctors and other staffs.

1.22 The Committee while taking note of the effort of the Government towards finding a solution to this vexed problem feel that a lot is still required to be done for reviving the mechanism of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in the Country. A shortage level of 10000 cannot by any means be expeditiously attended to by the present level of infusion of funds. In fact, if a turn around is to be achieved and the Government is serious about it, then a massive dose of funds is the need of the hour. The Committee, therefore, exhort the Government to at least now think in terms of finding solution to this problem by not only providing adequate funds for establishing new veterinary hospitals and dispensaries on war footing but also with a view to finding a lasting solution to the acute shortage of qualified human resource to man these installations.

Livestock Insurance

RECOMMENDATION SERIAL NO. 9

PARAGRAPH NO. 3.57

1.23 Observing 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 and that the Department intended 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, had desired the Department to not restrict its role to that of a mere banker but also ensure that the targeted audience is actually able to avail the benefits of their Scheme. The Committee had further desired 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.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.24 The Government in their Action Taken Note have informed the Committee that the Department ensure through its their periodical review that the targeted audience is actually able to avail the benefits of their Livestock Insurance Scheme

and have accordingly constituted National, State and District Monitoring Committee for more inclusive, realistic, effective and farmer friendly implementation of scheme. During Twelfth Plan, the scheme is proposed to be modified for insuring 5 animals per beneficiary per household instead of 2 animals per beneficiary per household so as to ensure more indigenous/crossbred milch cattle and buffaloes under the ambit of this scheme. The procedure for claim has been also simplified as only three documents are required as per guidelines of scheme for settlement of claim within 15 days after submission of required documents namely (1) Policy (2) FIR with the company and (3) Post Mortem Report.

1.25 The Committee are glad to note that the Department in pursuance of their Recommendation have not only increased the number of animals insured from 2 to 5 per household but have also simplified the procedure for claims. As of now only three document viz. policy, FIR and post mortem report are required to be submitted and the claim is settled within 15 days of submission of these documents. The Committee desire the Department to continue its good work in this regard by further user friendly initiatives and constant monitoring for further improvisation.

Central Minikit Testing Programme on Fodder Crops

RECOMMENDATION SERIAL NO. 10

PARAGRAPH NO. 3.58

1.26 Noting the acute shortage of green and dry fodder in the country and anguished over the fact that inspite of distribution of 12.67 lakh fodder seed

minikits of legume and non-legume variety to the farmers, the Department are not in a position to ascertain the increase in the quantum of fodder crops / grasses / legumes produced in the country, the Committee, had recommended 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 had further desired 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 Organisations, so as to enhance the viability of this Scheme and ultimately help in increasing the quantity of precious yet scarce fodder in the country.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.27 In their Action Taken Note, the Government have stated that the Recommendations of the Committee have been noted for necessary action. It is clarified that the Central Sector Scheme - The Central Fodder Development Organizations, of which the Minikit Testing Programme is a component is demand driven and has no geographical restrictions. The Fodder Minikit Programme aims to demonstrate the benefits of rising high yielding fodder seeds in different agro-climate regions.

The Department has awarded a study to the National Productivity Council for evaluation of the Central Minikit Testing Programme. The evaluation study includes an assessment of the impact of the scheme on different categories of

beneficiaries and performance of the distributed seeds in terms of both productivity and yield. Getting feedback from the beneficiaries is also included in the terms of reference of the evaluation study.

1.28 The Committee note with satisfaction that rather than going for suo-moto modification of the scheme – Central Fodder Development Organisation, the Department have entrusted the evaluation of Central Minikit Testing Programme to the National Productivity Council. The evaluation would very aptly include an assessment of the impact of the scheme on different categories of beneficiaries and also performance of the seeds so distributed in terms of productivity and yield. The Committee feel that this is a long awaited step in the right direction. They desire that the evaluation be completed expeditiously and the outcome be shared with them at the earliest along with information about the necessary correctives put in place in the existing scheme and the its execution mechanism.

Delhi Milk Scheme

RECOMMENDATION SERIAL NO. 12

PARAGRAPH NO. 3.60

1.29 Observing with concern the continuous decline in the performance of DMS over the years and taking a serious view in regard to non-implementation of their recommendation in regard to DMS contained in their earlier Reports, the Committee had desired 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. Since 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 had reiterated 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.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.30 In their Action Taken Note the Government have stated that in principle approval for corporatization of DMS has been given by Cabinet. The Department is pursuing corporatization of DMS based on the in-principle approval of the Government. Pending Corporatization of DMS, the Department is taking action for improving its performance.

1.31 The Committee strongly decry the tendency of the Department to continuously obfuscate the issue and avoid a decision on the fate of this once flourishing institution. During the examination of Demand for Grants of the Department over the years, Committee have been informed about the in principle decision of Cabinet to corporatise DMS. The matter, however, stands frozen at that point seemingly forever. The Committee exhort the Government to shake its inertia on this vital matter and come up with a

decision within a month of the presentation of this Report to Parliament so that DMS perform its assigned mandate and does not continue to bleed further.

Development of Freshwater and Brackishwater Aquaculture

RECOMMENDATION SERIAL NO. 13

PARAGRAPH NO. 3.61

1.35 Noting that while due to introduction of improved technology of fish farming and the efforts of FFDA's, the national average productivity of ponds and tanks covered under the programme has reached a figure of 2900 kg./ha/annum the 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 had recommended that the Department pull up their 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 to ensure a turnaround in its fortunes.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.36 In their Action Taken Note the Government have stated that Development of Freshwater and Brackishwater Aquaculture is undertaken under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Development of Inland Fisheries

and Aquaculture'. Many State Governments have felt a need for revision in the unit cost under the Scheme. The Government has taken note of the suggestion and the unit costs are proposed to be revised during Twelfth Plan. In addition, it has been observed that several FFDA's have become non-operational due mainly to financial difficulties faced by them. In order to revive the FFDA's, it is proposed to support FFDA's in the 12th Plan. The reason for reduction in the coverage of the area is due to the fact that emphasis during this period was on renovation and revival of existing ponds so as to improve its productivity. The scope of further increase in Brackishwater aquaculture is also limited.

In addition, the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) is also extending assistance in above areas through their Schemes.

1.37 The Committee note that based on the inputs received from the State Governments the Union Government are revising the unit cost under the scheme of Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture. They also note with satisfaction that the Department also intend to support FFDA's with a view to revive them. Apart from these efforts of the Department, the National Fisheries Development Board is also extending assistance its schemes. The Committee desire that all these existing and intended schemes be fructified promptly so that their benefits stand flowing to the targeted groups without any further delay.

FOOD SAFETY AND TRACEABILITY

RECOMMENDATION SERIAL NO. 15

PARAGRAPH NO. 3.63

1.38 The Committee had noted that the Department had 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 with a view to help in upgradation of various livestock species in the future and to improve 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. Noting with concern that Action Plan of the Scheme in terms of strategy report is yet to be submitted by the FAO and the Department expected to get the Action Plan from FAO by September, 2012, the Committee desired 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.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

1.39 In their Action Taken Note the Department have stated that they had approached FAO to devise a strategy for animal identification and traceability system in India. The FAO had sent to the Department a study proposal under Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on Animal Identification and Traceability (AI&T) system for India. The TCP proposal was accepted in the Department and accordingly funds have also been released to FAO for

Government of India contribution to the project. The TCP has a total outlay of Rs.1.82 crores out of which the share of Government of India is Rs.1.1 crore.

As per the TCP, FAO would carry out the study and submit a Strategy and 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. FAO is, therefore, expected to submit its Strategy and Action Plan by September 2012. Therefore, the Strategy and Action Plan submitted by FAO will be examined in the Department for formulation of a pilot project which will be initially implemented in a few selected States. The Department will make efforts to prepare the pilot project within the shortest period possible.

1.40 The Committee note that the action on the part of the Depart is primarily dependent on the timely completion of studies and evaluations by the FAO. Food Safety and Traceability has immense importance for the upgradation of livestock as well as improving the prospect of international trade in livestock. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to continue with their efforts towards fructification of this scheme with due promptitude and also furnish an update on their effort to the Committee at the earliest.

Chapter II

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee have been taken note of. In future, the department will ensure submission of Action Taken report and laying the status of implementation of the recommendations of the report in the Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha within the stipulated time.

It may be noted that the status of implementation of recommendations of the report, It is submitted that the Department had laid the Statement by Minister in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of the Parliamentary

Standing Committee on Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) on Demands for Grants (2011-12) in Lok Sabha on 17.5.2012 and Rajya Sabha on 18.5.2012. The requisite number of copies of above statement was also sent to Lok Sabha Secretariat on 22nd May 2012.

The Department had also submitted further Action Taken Report by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-First Report of Committee of Agriculture (2011-12) on the Action Taken by the Government on the Twenty-Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2011-12) pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries) to Lok Sabha Secretariat on 22nd May 2012.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

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

Allocation to Animal Husbandry Sector

(Recommendation Para No. 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 effect 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.

Reply of the Government

In 2012-13, the department has kept a provision of Rs. 1063.10 crore at BE level under Animal Husbandry Sector which shows 26% increase over the previous year i.e., 2011-12. However, the 12th Plan is yet to be finalized by Planning Commission. The present status of utilization of funds under Animal Husbandry sector during the last three year is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Animal Husbandry Sector				
		Budgetary Estimate (BE)	Revised Estimate (RE)	Actual Exp	% of Exp. w.r.t BE	% of Exp. w.r.t RE
1	2	4	5	6	7	8
1	2009-10	558.29	459.20	435.84	78.07	94.91
2	2010-11	792.15	763.01	668.75	84.42	87.65
3	2011-12	874.36	798.51	749.14*	85.68	93.82
4	20012-13	1063.10				

*: Provisional

The department is constantly taking up the matter with States for quick absorption of funds and thus to spend the entire allocations. The department is also regularly monitoring the full utilization of funds and progress of the schemes through weekly expenditure review meetings, video conferencing with the States, visits to States by the senior officers of this department.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

Under, Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospital and Dispensaries (ESVHD), a sum of Rs.97.26 crore has been provided to the States/Uts for new construction/strengthening of veterinary hospitals/dispensaries as against the BE of Rs.68.90 crore during 2010-11. Similarly, a sum of Rs.98.81 crore as against BE of Rs.90.00 crore has been released to the States/UTs during 2011-12. It is also to mention that during 2012-13, BE of Rs.91.00 crore has been provided. Additional funds will be sought at RE stage as per the requirement in light of proposals received from the State Governments. As regards to the shortage of veterinary doctor and other staff, it is stated that the veterinary hospital/polyclinic and dispensaries, etc. are set up by the States. The Department is providing financial assistance to the States/UTs to set up new veterinary hospitals/dispensaries and to strengthen the existing ones as per the project proposal received from them under the scheme. In the proposal of sanctioned of ESVHD, the State Government are required to provide the required number of veterinary doctors and other staffs.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

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

Livestock Insurance

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

The Department ensure through its periodical review that the targeted audience is actually able to avail the benefits of their Livestock Insurance Scheme and is accordingly constituted National, State and District Monitoring Committee for more inclusive, realistic, effective and farmer friendly implementation of scheme. During Twelfth Plan, the scheme is proposed to be modified for insuring 5 animals per beneficiary per household instead of 2 animals per beneficiary per household so as to ensure more indigenous/crossbred milch cattle and buffaloes under the ambit of this scheme. The procedure for claim has been also simplified as only three documents are required as per guidelines of scheme for settlement of claim within 15 days after submission of required documents namely (1) Policy (2) FIR with the company and (3) Post Mortem Report.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

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

National Dairy Plan (NDP)

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

An amount of Rs. 4.00 crore was released for implementation of NDP-1 to NDDDB On 29th March 2012. The administrative approval of NDP-1 for the year 2012-13 has been issued on 08/05/2012. In a meeting of Project Steering Committee held on 28.06.2012, five projects have been approved under the scheme. A budget provision of Rs. 130 crore has been earmarked for implementation of NDP-I for 2012-13.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Development of Freshwater and Brackishwater Aquaculture

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

Development of Freshwater and Brackishwater Aquaculture is undertaken under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture'. Many State Governments have felt a need for revision in the unit cost under the Scheme. The Government has taken note of

the suggestion and the unit costs are proposed to be revised during Twelfth Plan. In addition, it has been observed that several FFDA's have become non-operational due mainly to financial difficulties faced by them. In order to revive the FFDA's, it is proposed to support FEDAs in the 12th Plan. The reason for reduction in the coverage of the area is due to the fact that emphasis during this period was on renovation and revival of existing ponds so as to improve its productivity. The scope of further increase in Brackishwater aquaculture is also limited.

In addition, the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) is also extending assistance in above areas through their Schemes.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.37 of Chapter I of this Report.

National Schemes of Welfare Programme of Fishermen

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

An amount of Rs. 50.00 crore has been allocated during financial year 2012-13 for the National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen. The allocation of funds for the Twelfth Plan for the Scheme has not yet been finalized.

It has also been decided by Government of India to issue uniform Biometric Identity Cards to all marine fishers. The Department had accordingly launched a “Central Sector Scheme (CSS) on Issuance of Biometric ID Cards to Coast Fishermen” at a total cost of Rs.72 crore keeping in view the welfare of marine fishers.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Food Safety and Traceability

(Recommendation Para No. 3.63)

The Committee note that as stated by the Department that they entered into a Technical Cooperation Programme with Food and Agriculture organization (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.

Reply of the Government

The Department had approached FAO to devise a strategy for animal identification and traceability system in India. The FAO had sent to the Department a study proposal under Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on Animal Identification and Traceability (AI&T) system for India. The TCP proposal was accepted in the Department and accordingly funds have also been released to FAO for Government of India contribution to the project. The TCP has a total outlay of Rs.1.82 crores out of which the share of Government of India is Rs.1.1 crore.

As per the TCP, FAO would carry out the study and submit a Strategy and 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. FAO is, therefore, expected to submit its Strategy and Action Plan by September 2012. The Strategy and Action Plan submitted by FAO will be examined in the Department for formulation of a pilot project which will be initially implemented in a few selected States. The Department will make efforts to prepare the pilot project within the shortest period possible.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.40 of Chapter I of this Report.

CHAPTER III

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

Growth Rate of Livestock and Fisheries Sector

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation has informed that Central Statistics Office (CSO) is entrusted with the responsibility of compilation of Gross Value of Output (GVO) and Gross Domestic product (GDP) of all sectors of the economy including that of Livestock and Fishery Sector. CSO

compiles the GDP of the economy including that of livestock sector which is based on the production data in respect of milk, egg, meat and wool supplied by DADF and is not maintaining the growth rate of any sector in the economy including that of Livestock & Fishery.

The Department has no specific comments on the methodology being adopted by Central Statistical Office in estimating the GDP from the Livestock Sector.

The year-wise production of milk, meat, eggs and wool from 2007-08 to 2010-11 is given below. The production estimates compiled by this Department does not show decline in the production of milk, meat and egg. However, there is marginal decline in the estimates of wool production.

Year	Milk in million tonnes	Meat in million tonnes	Egg in million nos.	Wool in million kgs.
2007-08	107.9	4.0	53583	43.9
2008-09	112.2	4.2	55562	42.8
2009-10	116.4	4.5	60267	43.1
2010-11	121.8	4.9	63024	43.0

However, the department is taking necessary steps to increase the production and growth of the (AHDF Sector by regularly monitoring with States for full utilization of funds and progress of the schemes through review meetings,

video conferencing with the States and visits to States by the senior officers of this department. Whenever, any deficiencies have been found, States have been requested to take the necessary steps to take corrective measure to remove the deficiencies. Further, the additional investment in the AHDF sector through RKVY and National Mission on Protein Supplements (NMPS) would help in improving the overall growth rate of this sector.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

CHAPTER IV

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

Budgetary Allocations

(Recommendation Para No. 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

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

Planning Commission has informed that the allocation of funds to this department is determined by the following criteria:

- Over all resource position,
- Absorption capacity of the department,
- Unspent balances, and
- Financial support available through other major programmes like RKVY.

The year-wise allocation of DADF has increased substantially as per the table given below. However the actual expenditure was less, though it has gone

up in Financial Year 2010-11 and 2011-12. The Plan allocation of this department for the year 2012-13 is 19.38% higher than the allocation for 2011-12.

Year	Approved outlay	RE	Actual Expenditure
11th Plan (2007-2012)	8,174.00		
2007-08	910.00	810.00	784.09
2008-09	1,000.00	940.00	865.27
2009-10	1,100.00	930.00	873.38
2010-11	1,300.00	1,257.00	1,104.68
2011-12	1,600.00	1,356.52	1270.15
TOTAL	5,910.00	5,293.52	4897.57
2012-13	1,910.00		

In addition, the livestock and fisheries sector is also getting the funding support under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) which is implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) which results in the enhancement of the share of plan allocation of this Department. The details of Year wise / sector wise summary of approved projects in the 11th Plan for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries under RKVY for activities in animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sector is given in the following table:

Rs. in crore

Year	Animal Husbandry	Dairy Development	Fisheries
11th Plan			

(2007-2012)			
2007-08	104.80	56.76	63.69
2008-09	666.31	203.45	142.16
2009-10	712.02	154.85	109.12
2010-11	734.71	333.36	278.96
2011-12	847.31	281.58	390.60
TOTAL	3065.15	1030.00	984.53

Apart from the above, National Mission on Protein Supplements (NMPS) was launched in the year 2011-12 in 22 identified States as a part of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, with an outlay of Rs. 300 Crore. The objective of this programme is to increase production of animal protein like milk, meat and fish etc in order to meet rising demand for these products. In the current year 2012-13, an amount of Rs. 500 crore has been allocated under different components of NMPS.

Thus, under RKVY and NMPS, an amount of about Rs. 5,379.68 crore was allocated for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (AHDF) Sector during Eleventh Plan in addition to the approved outlay of Rs. 5,910 crore for this Department.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

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

(Recommendation Para No. 2.35, 2.36 and 2.37)

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.

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.

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.

Reply of the Government

The schemes of the Department are basically intended to assist the States in the development of infrastructure and provide policy directives for promotion of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (AHDF) sectors. The department is constantly taking up the matter with States for effective utilization of funds. The department is also regularly monitoring the full utilization of funds and progress of the schemes through video conferencing with the States and State visits by the senior officers of this department from time to time.

In order to liquidate to unspent balances, the Department is constantly taking up the matter with the States through D.O letter from Secretary to Chief Secretaries of respective States. Recently, a D.O. letter from Hon'ble Agriculture Minister has been issued to Hon'ble Chief Ministers / Administrators of all States/UTs on 30th April 2012 in respect of unspent balance of funds released by Union Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister has also written to the Chief Minister's emphasizing that the size of the unspent balance is a matter of concern, since it affects the further release of funds to States, delaying the implementation of critical schemes and projects alongwith request to the States/UTs to take urgent action to reduce the unspent balance otherwise it will be difficult to release central funds in the current financial year 2012-13.

In respect of lack of critical manpower, it is stated that the recruitment of all technical posts, whether through direct recruitment or promotion or deputation, is strictly guided by the Recruitment Rules of the post which are of statutory nature. Relaxation to these recruitment rules is solicited if there is a change in the guidelines of DOPT, etc. Union Public Service Commission and Staff Selection Commission are the nodal agencies to make recruitment to the technical posts of this department. The Department has already initiated exercise to fill up all the vacant technical posts as per the prescribed procedure.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

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

Twelfth Five Year Plan

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

In respect of finalization of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, Planning Commission has informed that the Approach Paper to the 12th Plan which broadly outlines the overall framework and directions of the 12th Plan, has already been approved by the National Development Council (NDC). The Approach Paper also gives the resource allocation priorities of the Plan.

Various Working Groups and Steering Committees were constituted for preparing the Twelfth Plan. Ministries/Departments were represented in Working

Groups/Steering Committees concerning their respective sectors. Therefore, Ministries/Departments are aware of the Plan priorities as well as the sectoral goals, targets and objectives of the Plan.

Even though the 12th Five Year Plan has not yet been approved, the priorities of the Plan are duly taken care of in the allocation for the first year of the Plan, by taking due cognizance of the approved Approach Paper to the 12th Plan as well as discussions of the Steering Committees of the 12th Plan. In any case, the first year's allocations are dominantly those for 11th Plan schemes. New schemes are typically formulated and approved during the first year of the Plan.

Planning Commission has informed that it is in an advanced stage of preparing the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The Plan document is expected to be finalized soon.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

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

Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

The Department is implementing Foot & Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) since 10th Plan period. The programme has been expanded from 54 districts to 221 districts in August 2010 during 11th Plan period and now covers whole of southern peninsula including Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and 16 districts of UP. It envisages for vaccination in targeted animals i.e. 110 million cattle and buffalo in the identified States/Uts at 6

monthly intervals. The remaining districts in the country will be taken up during 12th Plan and beyond in phased manner so as to cover whole of India under FMD-CP. Accordingly, FMD-CP programme in 12th Plan will dovetail the expansion of FMD-CP in the remaining districts of the country. Simultaneously, the monitoring of the programme is being strengthened to improve efficacy of the programme towards achieving the objective of eradication of FMD.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER V

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

Central Minikit Testing Programme on Fodder Crops

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted for necessary action. It is clarified that the Central Sector Scheme - The Central Fodder Development Organizations, of which the Minikit Testing Programme is a component is demand driven and has no geographical restrictions. The Fodder Minikit Programme aims to demonstrate the benefits of rising high yielding fodder seeds in different agro-climate regions.

The Department has awarded a study to the National Productivity Council for evaluation of the Central Minikit Testing Programme. The evaluation study includes an assessment of the impact of the scheme on different categories of beneficiaries and performance of the distributed seeds in terms of both productivity and yield. Getting feedback from the beneficiaries is also included in the terms of reference of the evaluation study.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

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

Delhi Milk Scheme

(Recommendation Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

In principle approval for corporatization of DMS has been given by Cabinet. The Department is pursuing corporatization of DMS based on the in-principle approval of the Government. Pending Corporatization of DMS, the Department is taking action for improving its performance.

[Letter No.25-5(1)/2012-AHD (Coord) dated 23rd July, 2012]

Comments of the Committee

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

NEW DELHI
22 February, 2013
03 Phalguna, 1934, (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(2012-13)

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Friday, the 22 February, 2013 from 1000 hours to 1025 hours in Room No. '62', Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Narayansingh Amlabe
3. Shri Sanjay Singh Chauhan
4. Shri Premdas Katheria
5. Dr. (Smt.) Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi
6. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Libra
7. Dr. Jyoti Mirdha
8. Shri Jagdish Singh Rana
9. Shri Patel Kishanbhai V.
10. Shri Hukamdeo Narayan Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

11. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
12. Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao
13. Shri Rajpal Singh Saini
14. Shri Shivanand Tiwari
15. Shri S. Thangavelu

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri P.C. Koul | - | Director |
| 2. | Shri T.H. Rao | - | Deputy Secretary |

*2. At the outset the Chairman welcomed the members to the Sitting of the Committee.

xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up Memorandum No. 07 regarding draft Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries).

4. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Reports without any modifications.

*5. xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE - II

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2012-13) PERTAINING TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	18
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 1.4, 3.54, 3.56, 3.57, 3.59, 3.61, 3.62 and 3.63.	
	Total	08
	Percentage	44.44%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Para No. 2.38.	
	Total	01
	Percentage	5.55%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para Nos. 2.33, 2.34, 2.35, 2.36, 2.37, 2.39 and 3.55	
	Total	07
	Percentage	38.9%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para Nos. 3.58 and 3.60	
	Total	02
	Percentage	11.11%