

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION)

**DROUGHT MANAGEMENT, FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION
AND PRICE SITUATION**

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES
(2010-2011)

TENTH REPORT

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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PRODUCTION AND PRICE SITUATION**

[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations
contained in the First Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of
the Committee on Estimates]



सत्यमेव जयते

Presented to Lok Sabha on 02.12.2010

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (2010-11)

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of Committee on Estimates (2010-11) having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Tenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Drought Management, Foodgrain Production and Price Situation' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation).

2. The First Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 24.11.2009. The Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in the Report on 01.06.2010. The draft report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 23.11.2010.

3. An analysis of action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report of Committee on Estimates (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix II.

NEW DELHI;
01st December, 2010
Agrahayana, 10,1932(S)

FRANCISCO SARDINHA,
CHAIRMAN,
COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES.

CHAPTER – I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Drought Management, Foodgrain Production and Price Situation' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation).

1.2 The Committee's First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 24.11.2009. It contained 23 observations/recommendations. Action Taken Notes on all these observations/recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation).

1.3 Replies to the observations and recommendations contained in the Report have broadly been categorized as under:-

- (i) Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by the Government:
Sl. Nos. 1,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,20,21 (Total 11, Chapter – II)
- (ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply:
Sl. Nos. 4,14,16,18,19 (Total 5, Chapter – III)
- (iii) Recommendations/observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee:
Sl. Nos. 2,5,6,22 (Total 4, Chapter – IV)
- (iv) Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited:
Sl. Nos. 3,17,23 (Total 3, Chapter – V)

1.4 The Committee desire that the final replies in respect of the recommendations for which only interim reply has been given by the Government should be furnished expeditiously.

1.5 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by Government on some of the recommendations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee.

A. Need for upgradation of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)

Observation/Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 4.2)

1.6 The Committee had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee are concerned to note that the forecasting of monsoon by India Meteorological Department (IMD) fell short of accuracy this year. As per the first forecast issued by IMD, the rainfall for the country as a whole was likely to be 96% of Long Period Average with a model error of +_5%. Contrary to this forecast, out of 36 Met Sub Divisions of the country, 23 received deficient rainfall to the extent of -20% to -59% and 11 Met sub divisions received scanty rainfall to the extent of -60% to -99% as on 27th August, 2009. Had such an erratic course of monsoon and the resultant deficiency in rainfall, been predicted in advance it would have been helpful to the farmers to plan in advance their agricultural operations. This year’s instance alone suggests that IMD’s weather forecast particularly on progress of Monsoon and expected rainfall cannot be fully relied upon. Such inaccurate forecasts of IMD deprived the Government of taking advance steps to ensure adequate production of foodgrains in the country and to avoid spiraling of food prices. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the necessary steps should be taken by IMD to forecast monsoon behavior accurately. Wherever necessary, technological upgradations of dedicated satellites, on which IMD relies upon for weather forecasts, should be carried out in a time bound manner and at the same time, speedy dissemination of these weather forecasts should also be ensured. Moreover, required training should be imparted to the scientists/personnel of ID on advanced techniques in the field so as to enable them to come up with reliable weather forecasts”.

1.7 The Ministry of Agriculture in their action taken reply stated as follows:-

“Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasted South West Monsoon 2009 at 96% of Long Period Average (LPA), initially in April 2009, which was subsequently revised to 93% of LPA in June 2009. Actual rainfall at end of South West Monsoon season was actually deficit by 22%.

However, Committee’s recommendations have been communicated to IMD for compliance and necessary action.

IMD has informed that it mainly depends on indigenously developed statistical models, for preparing its official operational forecast. These statistical models are updated continuously from time to time, by including better predictors, implementing better development techniques etc. Further, before issuing official forecasts, IMD holds pre-Long Range Forecast meeting; with scientists from various climate research institutions involved in development of experimental models for long range forecast such as IITM, Pune, NCMRWF, New Delhi, IISc, Bangalore, IIT, New Delhi, SAC, Ahmedabad, C-DAC, Pune, C-MMACS, Bangalore etc;

IMD also takes into account experimental forecasts on monsoon, prepared by various climate research centers, located in other countries, such as ECMWF of UK, Met Office from IRI, ECPC and NCEP, all of USA, and Meteo-France of France.

It is understood that various climate research centers engaged in experimental forecast for monsoon rainfall, of India and of other countries, could not forecast deficient monsoon rainfall of 2009, correctly.

While IMD has acquired requisite infrastructure ,such as, high power computing system, for seasonal forecast; most essential requirement at this moment is trained man- power,which is sub-critical at present. IMD officers are also to be trained at international centers particularly in seasonal forecasting, based on dynamical models. These issues are being addressed by IMD/MoES.

A brainstorming workshop was organized in November, 2009, to analyze unique features of monsoon 2009 and to evaluate performance of various short, medium and long range forecasts, issued by IMD. Special emphasis was placed on future strategies to be adopted on research and operational aspects of long range forecast of monsoon rainfall. Main recommendation of the workshop are:

a) Improvement of current operational statistical models of IMD.

A committee was constituted, which met on 15th February 2010 and recommended to undertake fresh analysis of climatic-data-sets for Indian region, like, sea level pressure, winds, surface winds, sea surface temperatures, OLR etc; to identify potential predictors, representing influence of Indian Ocean on Indian monsoon.

b) To constitute a national project in Mission mode for reliable prediction of summer monsoon rainfall over the Indian region.

Although many centers, world over, use dynamical model framework to predict seasonal mean climate routinely; such a framework is yet to be put in place, in India. Ministry of Earth Sciences constituted "National Mission on Monsoon" to take up mission mode project for improving dynamical prediction of seasonal mean monsoon rainfall, in view of complexities involved in monsoon rainfall prediction.

For evolving network required for this mission, a meeting of stakeholders involving R&D and academic institutes, along with MoES units, was held on 16th January, 2010, wherein it was decided that National Mission will be undertaken through two sub-missions pertaining to two different time scales viz.

- (i) Monthly, seasonal and intra-seasonal scale
- (ii) Medium range scale (upto 15 days)

Major outcomes of the meeting on National Mission on Monsoon held on 16.01.2010 were:

- For Monthly, seasonal and intra-seasonal scale, discernable improvement should take place in simulation/ retrospective prediction of inter-annual variation of all-India summer monsoon rainfall (and summer monsoon rainfall over a few homogeneous zones, if possible), with dynamical models over a time span of 3-5 years
- For Medium range scale (upto 15 days), discernable improvement should be achieved in simulation/ retrospective prediction of monsoon in medium

range scale (upto 15 days in advance) ,with dynamical models over time span of 3-5 years

A steering committee will be constituted to oversee successful accomplishment of the mission, in a specific time-frame”.

1.8 Expressing their concern over the inaccurate forecast of monsoon by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) during the year 2009, the Committee were of the view that had an erratic monsoon and a deficient rainfall been predicted accurately, the Government could have planned accordingly and timely help could have been provided to the farmers for ensuring adequate foodgrains production to avoid the spiralling food prices. The Committee, therefore, had recommended that the IMD should make technological upgradations for more accurate weather forecast as well as speedy dissemination of the same. The Committee had also suggested imparting training to the scientists/personnel of IMD to achieve this goal. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, while admitting the failure of various climate research centres to correctly predict the deficient monsoon rainfall of 2009 in their reply, has stated that though the required technological infrastructure such as, high power computing system for seasonal forecast has been acquired by the IMD, the manpower is yet to be trained on it. As the IMD/MOES are reportedly addressing this issue, the Committee would like to again emphasize on the need to train the scientists/personnel of IMD to make use of the advance computing systems. In fact, the training should be an ongoing process so as to keep pace with the latest technologies being used the world over to predict monsoon rainfall. In the considered view of the Committee, acquiring sophisticated computing systems without having trained personnel to use it, is nothing but a wasteful expenditure.

The Committee are further surprised to note that although many centers the world over, use dynamical model framework to predict seasonal mean climate routinely; such a framework is yet to be put in place in India. In a country like India where a large section of the population is engaged in

agriculture, the Committee strongly urge that accurate weather forecast should be given top priority in all the 16 agri zones of the country. Even from a humanitarian point of view, the matter should be treated as critical since there have been cases of farmers committing suicides due to failure of crops. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the 'dynamical model framework' used worldwide be put in place without any further delay, if it is proven as suitable for the country by climate research scientists.

The Committee have also been informed of the constitution of 'National Mission on Monsoon' to take up mission mode project by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Committee desire to be apprised of further details of the two sub-missions under this Mission as well as its potential to achieve the objective of a more accurate monsoon forecast. Further, a Steering Committee is stated to be constituted to oversee successful accomplishment of the said Mission in a specific time-frame. The Committee would like to be informed on the latest developments in this direction. The Committee further recommend that the Department of Agriculture should coordinate actively with the IMD on a continuous basis so as to remain better informed and thus manage risks of failed monsoons more efficiently, as well as take practical and timely decisions to save the country from the adverse impact of recurring drought.

B. Streamlining the procedure for providing assistance from NCCF

Observation/recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 4.5)

- 1.9 The Committee had recommended as follows:-
- "The Committee note that the assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) which is over and above assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) is for natural calamities of severe nature. Release of funds from NCCF involves a cumbersome four-tier process. Firstly, the State Government concerned has to submit a detailed Memorandum, secondly visit of a Inter-Ministerial Central (IMC) Team for on the spot assessment, consideration of

recommendations of IMC by an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) headed by the Secretary concerned and the consideration of recommendations of IMG by a High Level Committee of Ministers headed by the Minister of Finance. Completion of such a lengthy procedure involves considerable time which results in avoidable delays in providing relief to affected people. In Committee's view, role of Inter-Ministerial Group in the process is infructuous since visiting Central Team itself comprised of officials from the Ministries concerned. The only thing to be ensured is the composition of the IMC which should be comprised of senior officers not less than the level of Joint Secretary. IMC may submit its recommendations to the Secretary concerned and he may directly place the recommendations before the High Level Committee along with his comments. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the decision should be taken within 45 days so that suffering of the common man may be mitigated. The Committee also recommend that assistance under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) should also be increased".

1.10 The Ministry of Agriculture in their action taken reply stated as follows:-

"Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) enables the States to take immediate necessary measures in wake of natural calamities. CRF has been renamed as State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) by 13th Finance Commission. Assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), maintained at Government of India level {renamed - National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)} is considered in accordance with established procedure, i.e. on submission of memorandum by affected States an inter ministerial team visits the concerned State and recommendations of inter-ministerial team, based on norms of expenditure from CRF/NCCF, are considered by Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), where recommendations are considered by High Level Committee (HLC). Efforts would be made to further strengthen the approval powers. Assistance under NCCF/CRF is guided by detailed guidelines, which is framed based on Finance Commission recommendations".

Observation/recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para 4.6)

1.11 The Committee had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee further note that 10 States have submitted Memorandum for assistance from NCCF. They were informed that the Central Teams visited these States to assess the situation. The Committee regret that further information in this regard was not furnished by the Ministry. The Committee should be informed of the details such as date of submission of Memorandum and the date of disbursal of the funds and the quantum of assistance provided to each State”.

1.12 The Ministry of Agriculture in their action taken reply stated as follows:-

During drought 2009, 15 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh; submitted memorandum for assistance for drought relief from National Calamity Relief Fund (NCRF). High Level Committee (HLC) has already approved assistance for 12 of these States, as indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of State	Date of receipt of Memorandum	Date meeting HLC	of of	Assistance approved
1	Andhra Pradesh	01.10.2009	04.01.2010		642.02
2	Assam	16.09.2009	04.01.2010		89.94
3	Bihar	16.08.2009	21.10.2009		1163.64
4	Himachal Pradesh	24.08.2009	21.10.2009		88.93
5	Jharkhand	07.08.2009	21.10.2009		200.955
6	Karnataka	18.08.2009	21.10.2009		116.49
7	Madhya Pradesh	17.08.2009	21.10.2009		246.31
8	Maharashtra	24.08.2009	21.10.2009		671.88
9	Manipur	10.08.2009	21.10.2009		14.57
10	Nagaland	02.09.2009	21.10.2009		21.12
11	Rajasthan	27.08.2009	21.10.2009		1034.84
12	Uttar Pradesh	06.08.2009 15.09.2009	21.10.2009		515.05
	Total				4805.745

Proposals relating to Orissa and J&K have been considered by HLC in meeting held on 12.5.2010 and result of discussions is awaited.

As regards Kerala, an IMCT has been constituted for assessment of drought situation and the team is presently visiting the State from 18-20 May, 2010.

- 1.13 The Committee, being unhappy with the time-consuming procedure of release of funds from National Calamity Contingency Fund (renamed as National Disaster Response Fund) to provide assistance to an affected State, had suggested that the procedure be streamlined. The Committee had recommended that within 45 days of a State submitting a Memorandum, final decision should be taken so that suffering of the common man can be mitigated. During the year 2009, many States in India had faced drought and 10 such States had submitted Memoranda for assistance. As central teams had already visited these States, the Committee had asked for date of submission of Memorandum by these drought affected States and date of disbursal of funds provided under NCCF. Further, the Committee had recommended that the amount given as assistance be increased.**

The Committee are not satisfied with the inadequate action taken reply of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation to both these recommendations. First of all, the Department has not shown any interest in the need for streamlining the procedure of providing assistance and have merely stated that assistance under NCCF/CRF is guided by detailed guidelines. The Committee should have atleast been apprised of any time period specified in the said guidelines to provide assistance to States. What is further disappointing is that as per the information provided, Andhra Pradesh had submitted the Memorandum on 01.10.2009 but the meeting of High Level Committee (HLC) was held after three months, i.e., on 04.01.2010. Similarly, in Assam's case, the Memorandum was submitted on 16.09.2009 and meeting of HLC was held on 04.01.2010, after almost 4 months. The use of providing assistance months after a calamity,

is best known to the Department. Though the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has provided details of date of submission of Memorandum, date of meeting of High Level Committee and assistance approved from NCCF, yet the reply is silent on the date of disbursement of funds and the actual assistance provided. The fact that meeting was held and assistance approved does not imply that the amount was actually disbursed on time. The Committee strongly deplore the attitude of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation of keeping them in dark even though the details were specifically asked. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the details be provided State-wise. Further, as per the reply of the Ministry, the proposals relating to Orissa & J&K were considered by HLC in a meeting held on 12.05.2010 & the result of discussions was awaited. The Committee would now like to be apprised of the final decision taken on the amount actually disbursed to the two states as well as the date of disbursement of the same. The Committee also reiterate that the entire procedure be streamlined so that a decision is taken to provide assistance within 45 days to the affected States. The Committee further recommend that the Ministry should also utilize certain percentage from the National Disaster Response Fund to mitigate recurrence of disasters, particularly in States experiencing frequent droughts and other calamities.

C. Need for discouraging use of chemical fertilizers and encouraging organic farming.

Observation/recommendation (Sl. No. 22, Para No. 22)

1.14 The Committee had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee find that the chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc. are presently used for increasing the productivity of food crops. These chemicals are harmful to human beings when they enter food chain through the foodgrains, pulses and vegetables. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take steps for taking up organic farming in a big way throughout the country and the production and use of bio-fertilizers should also be encouraged. Action taken in this regard should be conveyed to the Committee”.

1.15 The Ministry of Agriculture in their action taken reply stated as follows:-

- (i) The per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers in India is far less than that of many other developing countries. There is no scientific evidence of declining soil or crop productivity or quality with judicious use of chemical fertilizers. However, there is a growing concern regarding health and environmental hazards of chemical based intensive agriculture. While organic farming needs to be encouraged, the country needs to raise its food production which cannot be realized through use of organic nutrient sources presently available in the country. Thus, use of organic nutrients has to be supplementary and not complementary. Accordingly, Government is advocating integrated nutrient management, envisaging conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of nutrients, to sustain good soil health and higher crop productivity in the country.
- (ii). In order to promote organic farming in the country, technology for preparation of enriched/vermi-compost from various rural and urban wastes has been developed. Besides, improved and efficient strains of microbes to function as effective biofertilizers either by way of fixing nitrogen or by mobilizing soil nutrients like phosphorus, zinc, etc. for crop use have also been developed.
- (iii) With concerted efforts of Central and State Governments, area under organic certification process has increased from 73,000 ha during 2004-05 to 12.7 lakh ha. during 2008-09 in the country. Organic farming is also being promoted through National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

1.16 In view of the excessive use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc. for increasing productivity of crops and their harmful effect on human beings, the Committee had advocated the need to encourage organic farming as well as use of bio-fertilizers. The Committee are not satisfied with the action taken reply of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. As per

the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, the priority is to increase food production and this cannot be done through organic nutrients alone. While it is true that food security for a country with billion plus population cannot be overlooked, yet at the same time, the Government can not compromise on the public health. The reply indicates that widespread organic farming in India is at a very nascent stage and thus organic food/produce is very expensive and beyond the reach of common man. Besides the Committee are deeply disturbed with the recently reported practice of injecting hormones in vegetables and fruits to increase their size or shelf-life, which can cause serious health hazards to the consumers. Considering the vital role of vegetables in nutritional security, the Committee recommend the Ministry to engage the Indian Institute of Vegetable Research in Varanasi in examining the matter and suggest measures to prevent such unethical practices. The Committee also suggest exploring the possibility of setting up Regional Research Centres on the lines of Indian Institute of Vegetable Research.

Further from the reply, the Committee note that though the Government is advocating integrated nutrient management and envisaging conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of nutrients, yet their efforts in promoting organic farming in the country are not adequate enough. Though the technology for preparation of enriched/vermi-compost and improved strains of microbes to function as effective bio-fertilizers have been developed, a plan of action of the Government regarding their utilization does not seem to be in place. Similarly, though the Government seems happy to inform that the area under organic certification process has increased from 73,000 hectares during 2004-05 to 12.7 lakh hectares during 2008-09 in the country, the details of the States, where organic farming is actually being done, has not been provided by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that sincere efforts be made to encourage organic farming and use of bio-fertilizers in the country. The Committee desire that the Ministry should encourage organic farming by creating more awareness among the farmers and incentivizing farmers engaged in

organic farming. In the considered view of the Committee, organic farming needs to be treated as a value-addition programme. Besides, issues concerning increased toxicity in soil owing to unregulated use of pesticides and fertilizers, need attention too. The Committee would like to be apprised of the success, if any, achieved by the NHM and RKVY on this aspect too, alongwith the details of the actual performance of the technology utilized for the purpose in the country.

CHAPTER – II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 1, Para No. 4.1)

The Committee note that the South West Monsoon this year was highly erratic and that the deficiency in rainfall had created drought/drought like situation in many parts of the country. Rain deficient areas were declared as drought affected by the State Governments. As many as 278 districts across 11 States were declared as either facing drought or the drought like conditions. Erratic course of the monsoon had affected the Kharif agriculture operations and Kharif crops such as paddy and sugarcane were sown in an area which was less than the normal sowing area of these crops. Moreover, the standing crops were also affected due to drought. The Committee, therefore, had selected the subject 'Drought Management, foodgrain production and price situation' and examined the same on priority basis. The Committee examined the aspects of the subject such as adverse impact of the drought on the foodgrain production, resultant rise in prices of essential commodities such as rice, wheat, pulses, sugar etc. management of demand and supply position of essential commodities, relief to the drought affected States and other related issues. The observations and recommendations of the Committee, on the aspects of the subject relating to the Ministry of Agriculture, are given in the subsequent paragraphs.

Reply of the Government

Fourteen States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, declared 338 districts as facing drought/scarcity/drought-like situation; mainly due to deficit rainfall received from South-West Monsoon, 2009. Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), now renamed State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for 2009-10 was released to eligible States, for taking measures for mitigation of hardship arising out of natural calamities, including drought.

In response to Memoranda submitted by State Governments for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), now renamed National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), Inter-Ministerial Central Teams visited these States for assessment of drought situation and requirement of assistance from NDRF and further action has been taken, in accordance with existing procedure for assistance from NDRF.

Recently (on 19.3.2010), Kerala declared 14 districts as drought affected, mainly on account of inadequate availability of drinking water. The State Government submitted Memorandum for assistance from NCCF. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) has been constituted to visit the State for assessment of drought situation, Team visited the State from 18th May, 10 to 20th May, 2010 and further action will be taken on receipt of Team's report, as per extant procedure in this regard.

Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. 7-4/2009-B&A Dated 20th May, 2010

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (Sl. No. 7, Para No. 4.7)

The Committee are glad to learn that the State Government of Punjab and the farmers there have together saved the standing crops in the State even in the face of deficiency in rainfall. The Committee further learnt that both Punjab and Haryana have submitted requests for financial assistance from the Central Government as they do not qualify for relief under NCCF norms. There are two issues here – one was the extra money spent by the State Governments to save the crops and the second was the money spent by the farmers from their pockets to save the crops. The Committee feel that both the State Governments and the farmers should be suitably and adequately compensated for saving the standing crops and contributing to the food security of the country. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation informed the Committee in this regard that the matter is engaging the attention of both the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance as to how the States which save the crops can be helped. The Committee recommended that the requests of these States should be considered positively and expeditiously and special central assistance should be provided to them at the earliest. Moreover, farmers of these States should also be given bonus over and above MSP. The Committee desire that a formula be worked out which would apply, *ipso facto*, to all the States and their farmers who take proactive steps to save crops even in the face of a severe drought and other calamities.

Para No. 4.7 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

Though Governments of Haryana and Punjab received deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2009, both States did not declare drought. These States made special efforts to save standing crops during Kharif 2009 comprising mainly of providing irrigation to crops from underground water by electrically operated pumps, by diverting electricity from other uses and through purchase of electricity from other States and from Central pool of electricity and thereafter sent proposal to Government of India, for grant of special package. This was considered by Government and additional Central assistance of Rs.400 crore for Haryana and Rs.800 crore for Punjab, has been sanctioned, towards additional cost incurred by them in providing power to agriculture sector during Kharif 2009.

Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No.7-4/2009-B&A Dated 20th May, 2010

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 8, Para No. 4.8)

The Committee regret to note that the Ministry of Agriculture has no suggestion to make to 13th Finance Commission regarding revision of CRF norms on compensation to farmers in the wake of loss occurred during natural calamities including drought. Presently 13th Finance Commission is looking into revision of CRF norms. Even though the Finance Commission has asked for information from the Ministry, it has none to furnish to the Commission. In Committee's view, the Ministry of Agriculture should play a proactive role in regard to the welfare of farmers. When the farmers are not getting adequate compensation for the losses suffered on account of drought, it is the duty of the Ministry of Agriculture to properly represent their case to the Finance Commission. The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture would conduct a study into the compensation needs of the farmers in this regard and take up the same with the Finance Commission.

Para No. 4.8 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

Assistance provided from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), is in form of relief, and not compensation for accrued damage, Compensation for damage to crops may be obtained from National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), provided agriculturist has taken policy under this scheme.

12th Finance Commission recommended list of natural calamities eligible for assistance, from relief funds, i.e., SDRF and NDRF. Government of India is of view that inclusion of any other natural calamity, in addition to ones recommended by Finance Commission, may be done on recommendation of Finance Commission only.

State Governments of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan had requested for inclusion of cold wave and frost in list of natural calamities, eligible for assistance from SDRF/ NDRF. Since Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is concerned with policy matters relating to natural calamities, communications received from these States were sent to MHA, for taking a view in the matter. High Level Committee (HLC) noted that matter of inclusion of any new natural calamity in list of calamities comes under purview of successive Finance Commissions and States of Punjab and Rajasthan were informed accordingly, with advice that these proposals may be taken up with 13th Finance Commission.

DAC brought all these details to notice of 13th Finance Commission, while submitting to Commission, in this regard.

In accordance with recommendations of 13th Finance Commission, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted Expert Group to review existing items and norms for assistance from relief funds and suggest suitable items and norms, for 5-year period i.e. 2010-11 to 2014-15. This Department is also represented on Expert Group constituted by MHA and has suggested revision of norms for certain items linked to agriculture, e.g. input subsidy for crop loss of 50% and above, de-siltation, etc.

Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. 7-4/2009-B&A Dated 20th May, 2010

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 9, Para No. 4.9)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Agriculture, unlike in the case of earlier droughts, has taken initiatives to save the standing crops by providing additional power and diesel subsidy to the States, to implement State specific contingency plans for specific agro-climatic conditions which included planning for early maturing short duration varieties and alternate crops and to go for sowing of early Rabi crops. However, it has to be seen how much of these initiatives have actually been translated into production and productivity. The Committee urge the Ministry to continue to coordinate effectively with each of the State Governments which were affected by the drought to ensure saving of standing crops, to achieve productivity of short duration alternate crops and to promote crop development schemes for ensuring higher Rabi crop productivity. In this regard, they recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture should ensure timely distribution of adequate quantum of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs to farmers. The Ministry should also assess the requirements of seed and other inputs for the next Kharif season and arrangements should also be made for their timely distribution to farmers. The scientists of ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) should also play a proactive role in providing technical help to State Governments in achieving the above objectives. The results of the state specific initiatives should be communicated to the Committee.

Para No. 4.9 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

(a) Drought Management:

Government of India initiated various measures/initiatives to mitigate impact of drought of 2009-10, in consultation with affected States, which included “Diesel Subsidy” scheme and allocation of additional power from Central Electricity Pool, for providing supplementary irrigation to save standing crops, steps to ensure availability of fertilizers and seeds, release of funds to States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and issue of suitable advisories by ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and other agencies regarding agriculture operation in wake of drought conditions. Central

Research Institute for Dryland Areas (CRIDA), under ICAR, has already initiated steps to prepare district-wise Contingency Plans for ensuing Kharif season.

ICAR issued weekly advisories on contingent planning to mitigate impact of different weather abnormalities on its website. The Council also issued advisories for delayed monsoon and drought for different States / regions, from time to time. General State specific Contingency Plans for specific agro-climatic conditions were prepared by CRIDA. In meeting of Chief Secretaries of States in August, 2009, States were provided guidelines for contingency / catch crops, based on general Contingency Plans prepared by CRIDA. National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) also circulated document titled 'Drought Management Strategies 2009' indicating state-specific management strategies. Experts from ICAR and NRAA were deputed to affected States to guide them in preparing and implementing Action Plans, for mitigating impact of deficit rainfall on agricultural production.

(b) Extension Activities:

Action Taken Report on Drought Management and improving food-grain production through ATMA Programme has been received from 10 States. From these reports it can be seen that intensive information dissemination drive, had been taken up for generating adequate awareness amongst farmers through print & electronic media; organization of Kisan Melas/ Goshties; Farmer Development Workshops and Exhibitions; Mass Media Campaigns; Farmer Scientist interactions, Field Days, Study Tours etc.

The Statement indicating specific initiatives taken up by selected states is also enclosed as Annexure-A.

(c) Availability of fertilizers:

In context of efforts to increase agricultural production during Rabi 2009-10, to compensate for shortfall in Kharif production during 2009 due to drought in some parts of the country, it was essential that supply of fertilizers is effected to farmers, in time.

2. Zonal conference for assessment of fertilizer requirements during Rabi 2009-10 were held on 17th August 2009, for North and East Zone States (Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal) and on 19th August,2009 for South and West Zone States (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, A & N Nicobar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Goa). Assessment for North Eastern States was made on 16th September 2009.
3. Assessed requirement of fertilizers, month-wise and State-wise for Rabi 2009-10 season was communicated to Department of Fertilizers, for pre-positioning/ making supply plan to States, as per requirement. Department of Agriculture closely monitored availability of fertilizers in States by contacting State authorities-on weekly basis. DAC also organized video conferences with States in which representatives from Department of Fertilizers also participated. Availability of fertilizers in States was also reviewed by Committee of Secretaries (CoS), under chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary.
4. The Department also issued instructions to State Governments to ensure proper display of stock regarding availability of fertilizers, with dealers as well as, rates of fertilizers prominently, in terms of provisions of Fertilizer (Control) Order,1985.
5. Zonal conference for assessment of fertilizer requirement during Kharif,2010 was held in New Delhi on 8th and 10th February 2010 in respect of North Zone/East Zone States and South Zone/West Zone States respectively. Assessment for North Eastern States was made on 19th February,2010 at Guwahati. The assessed requirement of fertilizers for Kharif, 2010 is as Annexure-B.

(d) Availability of Seeds and other inputs:

The requirements of seed and other inputs for the next Kharif season was assessed in the Zonal conference held on 9th & 11th February, 2010.

Crop Development Directorates (CDDs) of Crop Division have been advised to monitor availability and supply position of seed and another inputs on weekly/monthly basis. Weekly reports of CDDs are also reviewed by the Department regularly.

Agriculture is a state subject. The production and distribution of certified/quality seeds is primarily responsibility of respective State Govt., through its own organizations

like State Department of Agriculture, State Seeds Corporations (wherever it exists), State Seed farms, Agro-industries Corporations, Cooperative Institutions and private agencies etc. Efforts of State Govt. are supplemented by central seed producing agencies like National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) through their own infrastructure. In order to assess the overall crop-wise and State wise seed requirement and availability position of States/UT's, Govt. of India organizes Zonal Seeds Review Meetings, with representatives of respective State Department of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, State Seeds Corporations, Seed Association of India, etc. This review is undertaken prior to each sowing seasons i.e. Kharif and Rabi, and also various other forums like National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif and Rabi Campaign which is organized by Govt. of India from time to time. As reported by States during Zonal Seeds Review Meetings held for Kharif 2010, 141.93 lakh quintal of various certified/quality seeds were available against requirement of 123.11 lakh quintals. Crop-wise requirement and availability position of seed for ensuing Kharif 2010 is enclosed in Annexure-C.

Over-all, no shortfall was reported in any major crop for Kharif-2010 viz. paddy, maize, pulses (urd, moong, arhar), oilseeds (groundnut, soybean, sunflower), cotton and jute.

Regional shortages, some very minor, were reported by some states which were tied up in Zonal Seed Review Meeting held in February, 2010 through available national surplus in alternative crops; summer production organized prior to Kharif 2010; shift to alternative crops; supply by public/private seed producing agencies and farm saved seed. Details of specific regional shortages indicated by States and tie-up achieved in ZSRM- is at Annexure D.

Post ZSRM co-ordination, over all national level shortage emerged in 4 minor crops only as given below:

- i. Rajmash (402 quintal): Shortage is of a local variety in Uttrakhand. The only alternative is to shift to farm saved seed. The State is being repeatedly advised to organize local seed production for its requirements.

- ii. Niger (448 quintal): Shortage is reported mainly in Madhya Pradesh (278 quintal) and also in Orissa (103 quintal) and Chhattisgarh (67 quintal). Shortage will be met through farm saved seed / local tie up.
- iii. Moth (9562 quintal): Shortage is reported only from Rajasthan which is primarily due to 2009 drought. Efforts are being made to augment availability through public and private seed producing agencies. Farm saved seed will also be used by the farmers.
- iv. Horse Gram (3078 quintal): Shortage is reported in Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu. It is mainly used as a fall back crop to take advantage of soil moisture due to late rain. Farm saved Seed / local seed will be used.

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OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 10, Para No. 4.10)

As regards production of rice, the Committee note that area sown under Paddy crop during Khariff season this year was much less than last year due to drought conditions. The Ministry informed the Committee that it has tied-up with the State Governments for supply of seeds for late Khariff, 2009 for which there are prospects due to improvements in monsoon during August-September period. The Ministry further informed that there is a plan for increasing the area of productivity under Boro rice in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern U.P. The Committee expect that concrete steps will be taken by the Ministry to achieve the desired level of production of rice during late Khariff and Boro rice cultivation. Achievements made in this regard should be intimated to the Committee. The Committee observe that Boro rice is a water intensive crop. In the absence of adequate quantum of water, the farmers depend on ground water for cultivation of these crops. Large scale exploitation of ground water for irrigation purposes is a cause for concern as it lowers the water table in several areas of the country. The Committee recommend that the farmers be made water literate. There should be an awareness campaign among farmers on the judicious use of ground water. Importance and priority should be given to construction of adequate number of simple rain water harvesting structures in rural areas as this

would also improve the ground water level in rainfed areas apart from its use for irrigation.

Para No. 4.10 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

All State Governments have been requested vide D.O. Letter dated 6.5.2010 to organize the said campaign, on judicious use of ground water as desired by the Hon'ble Committee.

PROSPECTS OF RABI RICE CROP AND AREA SOWN UNDER BORO RICE

I. Prospects of Rabi Rice Production :

During Rabi season 2009-10 110.4 per cent area coverage has been reported, compared to normal coverage. Total rice area coverage during 2009-10 (47.17 lakh ha) is almost same as last year's 47.43 lakh ha. Production and productivity estimates as per 2nd Advance Estimate of DAC, show higher production compared to last year. Production and productivity during 2009-10 is estimated as 146.91 lakh tonnes and 3115 kg /ha, respectively compared to 142.74 lakh tonnes and 3009 kg /ha during 2008-09 respectively. Hence, there is no concern about less production and productivity of Rabi rice during 2009-10 compared to 2008-09. State-wise comparative statement of Rabi / Summer rice, area, production and productivity is given in Table 1.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, overall area coverage, production and productivity during 2009-10 is reported same as last year (Table -1). Little lower area coverage is reported in Godavari basin and northern Telangana zone because of water shortage. Rabi rice area in this region has reported shifted to pulses which should be considered as a positive sign. In several other districts like Krishna, Nellore, Cuddapah, Chittoor and Moosi Ayacut etc, area coverage reported is almost same or more than last year. Negative effect of high temperature is not reported by States. Application of irrigation, wherever water is available, helps in moderating adverse impact of high temperatures on field crops.

II. Area Sown under Boro Rice

Rice crop grown in second season in Eastern India especially in states of Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura is normally referred to as Boro rice. Boro is Bengali term originated from Sanskrit word ‘BOROB’. It refers to a special cultivation of rice in flood prone deepwater areas after water releases in November-December with supplementary irrigation from deeper reaches during March-April. Due to larger sunshine hours and less incidence of pests and diseases, boro rice usually gives better yields compared to kharif. Recently, it has been observed that high yielding varieties can be easily adapted for such areas giving better yield, as much as 5-6 t/ha. **As this season overlaps with the summer rice, it is difficult to get the exact figures on area, production and productivity of boro rice on all India basis.** Some of the major districts which grow boro rice are given state-wise in Table 2.

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Table -1 State-wise Comparative Statement of Rabi/Summer Rice Prospect on Area, Production and Productivity during 2005-06 to 2009-10

SI No	STATES/UTs		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	Andhra Pradesh	A	14.56	13.37	14.06	15.84	15.84
		P	53.27	49.23	51.33	58.61	58.61
		Y	3659	3682	3651	3700	3700
2	Assam	A	3.15	3.12	3.23	3.60	3.60
		P	5.60	6.30	7.32	7.69	7.69
		Y	1779	2019	2266	2133	2133
3	Bihar	A	1.11	1.09	1.10	1.06	1.13
		P	1.52	1.64	1.72	1.78	1.65
		Y	1369	1499	1561	1689	1462
4	Gujarat	A	0	0.41	0.33	0.25	0.24

		P	0	1.43	0.98	0.77	0.82
		Y	-	3488	2970	3080	3348
5	Jharkhand	A	0	0.20	0.10	0.13	0.13
		P	0	0.30	0.10	0.20	0.20
		Y	-	1500	1000	1504	1504
6	Karnataka	A	4.09	3.29	3.65	3.84	3.84
		P	18.09	8.85	10.42	10.77	10.89
		Y	4423	2690	2855	2805	2835
7	Kerala	A	0.22	0.37	0.45	0.50	0.35
		P	0.60	0.97	1.09	1.48	1.06
		Y	2726	2622	2407	2980	2980
8	Maharashtra	A	0.41	0.38	0.39	0.22	0.36
		P	0.86	0.80	0.83	0.50	0.76
		Y	2098	2105	2128	2273	2128
9	Meghalaya	A	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.13	
		P	0.22	0.40	0.48	0.47	
		Y	2214	4000	4147	3641	
10	Mizoram	A	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	
		P	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.00	
		Y	2600	1682	1000	2000	

SI No	STATES/UTs		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
11	Orissa	A	3.25	3.15	3.34	3.31	3.25
		P	7.03	7.22	8.17	8.11	7.97
		Y	2163	2293	2447	2451	2451
12	Tamil Nadu	A	1.75	1.65	1.53	1.65	1.58

		P	5.63	7.13	5.44	5.59	5.80
		Y	3216	4325	3559	3389	3683
13	Tripura	A	0.57	0.65	0.64	0.76	
		P	1.36	1.54	1.72	1.70	
		Y	2372	2392	2698	2234	
14	Uttar Pradesh	A	0.07	0.18	0.19	0.22	0.09
		P	0.15	0.41	0.48	0.46	0.23
		Y	2179	2278	2526	2091	2354
15	Uttarakhand	A	0.09	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.15
		P	0.26	0.23	0.43	0.46	0.46
		Y	2889	2875	3308	3067	3067
16	West Bengal	A	13.82	14.01	15.12	15.57	15.50
		P	40.47	45.21	49.26	43.58	48.05
		Y	2928	3226	3259	2800	3100
17	Puducherry	A	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	
		P	0.16	0.16	0.12	0.14	
		Y	2719	2719	2696	2860	
18	Others	A					1.10
		P					2.74
		Y					2501
	All India	A	43.25	42.12	44.60	47.43	47.17
		P	135.22	131.85	140.34	142.74	146.91
		Y	3127	3130	3147	3009	3115

A - Area in lakh Ha., P - Production in lakh tonnes, Y - Yield in kg/ha.

Note: Area coverage, Production and yield for the state of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura &

Puducherry during the year 2009-10 included in the column of others.

Table 2: Major Areas Growing Boro Rice

State	Districts
Eastern Uttar Pradesh	Ballia, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Gazipur, Basti (Lake, rivers, <i>nalahs</i> etc)
Bihar	Purnia, Katihar, Madhepura, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Saharsha (Low-lying <i>chaurs</i> and <i>chaun</i>)
West Bengal	Burdwan, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Midnapur, Bankur
Orissa	Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara (low-lying areas of coastal belt)
Assam	Nawgaon, Karimganj (Lake areas)

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 11, Para No. 4.11)

The Committee recommend that Farm Animal Camps near a water source have to be set up for saving farm animals from distress sale during droughts.

Para No. 4.11 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

The State Governments are responsible for setting up Farm Animal Camps near water sources. This recommendation of Hon'ble Committee has been brought to notice of Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries, who have communicated this recommendation to all State Governments for compliance.

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OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 12, Para No. 4.12)

The Committee are concerned to note that the production of pulses in the country is much less than the requirements of the population. As a result of this lower production, the country has to import huge quantities of pulses leading to very high retail prices of the same. One of the constraints in production of pulses is the requirement of high yielding varieties/hybrids which can yield higher productivity in rainfed conditions. Unfortunately no hybrid variety of pulses is available in the country except pigeonpea. In this regard, Committee recommend that the ICAR should be directed by the Ministry to take up research and development of hybrid varieties of pulses which can provide more yield. The Committee note that the Ministry is presently implementing two schemes namely Integrated Scheme of Oil Seeds, pulses and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Food Security Mission (Pulses) to mitigate the low production of pulses. ISOPOM Scheme is under implementation since the Tenth Plan period. The Scheme has been modified for improved performance during Eleventh Plan period. NFSM (pulses) aims at increasing production of pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan. Both the schemes are being implemented in 14 States. The Committee hope that the necessary steps would have been taken by the Ministry to avoid overlapping of these schemes and to ensure that the intended benefits of both the schemes reach the farmers. The Committee also recommend that the performance of these two schemes should be periodically reviewed and the corrective steps taken so as to augment production of pulses in the country. Results achieved in this regard should be informed to the Committee.

Para No. 4.12 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

To avoid overlapping of ISOPOM and NFSM, DAC has converged pulse districts of ISOPOM under NFSM from Kharif 2010. Progress of implementation is being reviewed periodically by National Level Monitoring Team (NLMT), National Consultants at National level and by State and District level teams in the States concerned.

Under ISOPOM, Govt. of India has provided support to International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropical (ICRISAT)/ Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur for undertaking a project on “Enhancing Yield & Stability of Pigeon Pea through Heterosis Breeding” for a period of four years from 2005-06 to 2009-2020 with financial support of Rs.253.395 lakh.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Pulses, are undertaking research programs, to develop high yielding varieties/ hybrids under rainfed conditions. Hybrids are now available in pigeonpea. A pigeonpea hybrid GTH-1 has been notified for cultivation in the States of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. All pulse crops (except pigeonpea), are self-pollinated which makes it difficult and even impossible to develop hybrids, due to lack of appropriate, male sterility system in these crops. Presently, ICAR has taken up intensification of technology demonstrations and about 6000 demonstrations, are proposed to be conducted during 2010-11.

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OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 13, Para No. 4.13)

The Committee note that the per hectare yield of wheat and rice are not uniform in the country. Punjab and Haryana are enjoying a productivity which is comparable to that of the higher producing countries in the world. However, other parts of the country are still lagging behind in per hectare productivity. The countries such as China and Japan use hybrid varieties of wheat and rice and practice Integrated Management of Crops to achieve better productivity. In Committee's view Research and Development in the field of agriculture particularly in developing hybrid varieties of foodgrain crops is to be strengthened further in the country. They, therefore, recommend that ICAR and DARE should be mandated to concentrate its research initiatives in developing hybrid varieties of wheat and paddy which can yield higher level of production particularly in

rainfed areas of the country. The Committee further consider that integrated management of crops and an effective awareness campaign among farmers on optimum use of inputs etc. are equally important in increasing productivity of crops. They, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture in coordination with the State Governments should take steps for the integrated management of the crops and for launching nationwide awareness campaign among farmers regarding effective use of inputs etc.

Para No. 4.13 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

The Hon'ble Committee's directives have been noted and all State Governments have been requested vide d.o.leter dated 6.5.2010 to organize the said awareness campaign.

While agreeing with Hon'ble Committee's observations, it is submitted that to enhance productivity of rice in rainfed and deepwater conditions, suitable varieties tolerant to drought (Sahbhagi Dhan), submergence (Swarna Sub-1) and salinity (CR Dhan 402, 403 and IR64 saltol), have been developed/notified to enhance production. Development of rice hybrids for rainfed areas is in progress. Realising potential and need to exploit hybrid vigour, intensive research for development of wheat hybrids is in progress for the last two decades, in ICAR. Integrating all desired traits into agronomically adapted hybrids in wheat is time consuming; however, intensity of efforts in this direction is presently very high. Further front-line demonstrations in farmers' fields have shown, that available production technologies, if implemented in wheat growing states can significantly enhance wheat production.

Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. 7-4/2009-B&A Dated 20th May, 2010

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 15, Para No. 4.15)

The Committee note with concern that the sugarcane production in the country is affected by a typical sugar cycle from onset to termination which leads to periodic peak and lower production of sugar. Periodic lower production of sugar, as is the case

presently, leads to huge import of sugar at a higher cost and the consequent skyrocketing of retail price of sugar. When the Committee asked the Ministry to initiate some steps to break this cycle to stabilize the cultivation of sugarcane crop in the country, the Ministry regrettably stated the measures which it has already initiated and which have not successful in breaking this cycle. **The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture should activate its think tank to take appropriate and effective measures like giving incentives to farmers to make growing of sugarcane crop as viable and profitable to stabilize the production of sugar in the country. Action taken in this regard should be conveyed to the Committee.**

Para No. 4.15 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

The Central Government has taken following policy measures so as to contain cyclicity of sugarcane and sugar production –

- (i) Central Government amended provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 to provide for a Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane in place of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP). FRP includes an element of risk and profit margin for farmers upfront, and is substantial improvement over earlier concept of SMP which was based on cost of production alone. FRP for 2009-10 sugar season has been fixed at Rs.129.84/-quintal linked to basic recovery rate of 9.5% against Rs.81.18/- quintal linked to 9% recovery rate for 2008-09 season, representing more than 50% hike over earlier SMP. FRP is a benchmark price, below which no sugar mill can purchase sugarcane. However, mills are expected to pay higher price for sugarcane depending on market economics.

- (ii) Sugarcane (Control) Order was also amended from 29th December, 2008 to provide for following additional criteria for arriving at SMP which was in vogue at that time :-

‘the realization made from sale of by products viz. molasses, bagasse and press mud or their imputed value’

This has been continued in scheme of determining FRP, apart from earlier existing five criteria as laid down originally in Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. Besides, following criterion has been added through amendment to Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, dated 22.10.2009:-

‘reasonable margins for the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits.’

- (iii) Central Government has also amended Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, vide notification dated 28.12.2007, whereby sugar factories have been permitted to produce, at its option, ethanol directly from sugarcane or molasses including B-heavy molasses. The amendment has been made to ensure that over production of sugarcane does not lead to excess production of sugar in the season.

It is expected that flexibility to sugar mills from switching from sugar to ethanol or vice versa would ensure that cane is put to the most profitable use and sustain the mills’ ability to pay an appropriate price to sugarcane farmers on time. This flexibility also allows that sugar mills do not have to wait for sugar stock to be disposed of, for making cane payment, but may dispose of ethanol / alcohol and power to generate funds for paying sugarcane farmers. Maintaining cane payments prevents erosion of farm incomes and ensures that next season’s cane planting does not suffer.

Sustainable development of sugarcane based cropping system (SUBACS) under scheme “Macro Management of Agriculture” provides incentive to farmers on demonstration of improved technology, farmers training, multiplication of planting material, supply of drip irrigation.

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OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 20, Para No. 4.20)

The Committee note that a target of agriculture credit of Rs. 3,25,000 crore has been fixed for the current financial year. However, only 28.27% of the target i.e. Rs. 91,888 crore has been achieved during April-July, 2009. Even though the Ministry are confident that it is possible to achieve the credit flow target, the Committee are of the view that timely agricultural credit to farmers in a drought affected year would help the farmers in saving their crops. They, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make special initiatives to achieve targets including instructions to Public Sector Banks and Agricultural Cooperative Banks to reach out to farmers in this regard. Progress made in achieving the target should be intimated to the Committee.

Para No. 4.20 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

As against target of Rs. 3,25,000 crore for agricultural credit during 2009-10, actual disbursement by various agencies as at end of February 2010 was of the order of Rs. 308,320.01 crore as reported by NABARD. Agency wise target and disbursement of agricultural credit and their achievement against target upto February 2010 is as under :

(Rs. crore)

Agency	Target	Amount disbursement	% of Achievement of target
Commercial Banks	250,000	226,045.11	90.42
Cooperative Banks	45,000	52,282.11	116.18
RRBs	30,000	29,992.79	99.98
Total	325,000	308320.01	94.87

Trends of flow of credit during last few years, indicate that target of Rs. 3,25,000 crore for 2009-10 should be achieved. Agricultural credit flow target for financial year 2010-11 has been fixed at Rs.3,75,000 crore.

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OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 21, Para No. 4.21)

The Committee express their serious concern to note that suicides by farmers still continue in the country despite the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard. The Government is implementing a rehabilitation package in 31 identified districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra where comparatively higher number of suicides were reported. The scheme provides ex-gratia assistance from PMNRF, debt relief to farmers, interest waiver, subsidiary income etc. The Committee observe that since farmers still continue to take the extreme step of committing suicide, it indicate that there is no change in the financial conditions of farmers and Government's efforts have not been able to take them out of the vicious circle of debt trap, crop failure etc. There is need to take a long term, effective and result oriented strategy. In this regard, they recommend that the small and marginal farmers who are exploited by private money lenders should be brought to the institutional credit mechanism, Public sector banks in the respective region should be given a specific role to play in this regard. Moreover, subsidiary employment of farmers would help them to earn even in the wake of failure of crops. Rural women should be brought under Self Help Groups Schemes to ensure their financial upliftment.

Para No. 4.21 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

- (i) Government is closely monitoring progress of implementation of rehabilitation package in 31 identified districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. Against total approved outlay of Rs. 16978.69 crore, Rs. 18138.73

crore has been released up to 31st march, 2010 for implementation of various components approved under rehabilitation package.

- (ii) Government has implemented Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 for providing debt relief to farmers indebted to institutional sources and de-clogging their line of credit by making these farmers eligible for fresh finance from institutional credit system. As per provisional figures, 3.69 crore farmers have benefited from this Scheme involving debt waiver and debt relief of Rs. 65,318.33 crore.
- (iii) Government of India has constituted a Task Force headed by Chairman, NABARD to look into issue of large number of farmers, who had taken loans from private money lenders, not covered under loan waiver scheme. The Task Force is scheduled to submit its report by 30 June 2010. Terms of reference of Task Force are as under:
 - a) Overview of existing legislation in the States for regulating loans from private money lenders.
 - b) Review of existing policy measures for addressing the issue of indebtedness arising out of loans from private money lenders and status of its implementation.
 - c) To suggest measures for covering all categories of farmers more particularly small and marginal farmers, tenant farmers, share croppers and oral lessees within the institutional credit fold to meet their credit requirements in order to reduce their dependence on informal sources.
 - d) To examine and suggest measures for improving effectiveness of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme including revised operational guidelines for distribution and sanction of KCC credit limits.
 - e) To suggest measures for providing relief to farmers indebted to private money lenders.
- (iv) As on 31 March 2009, there were more than 61.21 lakh saving-linked Self Help Groups (SHGs) and more than 42.24 lakh credit-linked SHGs. About 8.6 crore poor households have been covered under SHG programme. About 85% of SHGs in country, consist of women SHGs, contributing for upliftment of women.
- (v) Some other specific measures aimed at enhancing income of farmers include:

- A new State Plan scheme of Additional Central Assistance for Agriculture & Allied Sectors namely Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is being implemented in order to re-orient agricultural development strategies to meet needs of farmers.
- National Food Security Mission, which has been launched specifically to increase production of rice, wheat, and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement, also aims at creating employment opportunities and enhancing farm level income, to restore confidence of farmers.
- Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres scheme, while providing extension and other services to farmers also supplements agricultural development and entrepreneurship and promotes self-employment in agriculture sector, by setting up agri-ventures in agriculture and allied areas.
- National Horticulture Mission provides avenues for increasing farm income and improving livelihood security through holistic development of Horticulture Sector.
- National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, which has been subsumed with scheme of Macro-Management of Agriculture, specifically focuses on improving productivity through watershed development and creation of sustained employment opportunities for rural community, including landless.

(vi) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), has been addressing gender issues in agriculture through 'Women Specific Training and Extension Programmes'. Erstwhile Farm Women Development Unit of Directorate of Extension is implementing projects aimed at augmenting rural farm incomes with focus on skill-development through combination of theoretical training and practical demonstrations, supplemented with hands on experience in farms of women farmers. To provide technical, extension, input, credit and marketing support to women farmers, implementation of women specific projects has facilitated formation of over 28000 SHGs and imparted training to approximately 13.88 lakh women farmers, in 21 states of the country.

CHAPTER – III

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

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 4, Para No. 4)

The Committee are of the opinion that drought management should involve a holistic approach. Due to global warming and climate change etc. droughts have become a recurring feature. They, therefore, recommend that a mechanism of permanent nature should be in place with the involvement of multi-disciplinary wings such as Meteorology, Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Research, Rural Development, Irrigation, Cooperation, Relief Commissioners etc. to deal with contingencies arising out of the drought. This should be a national approach involving State Governments as well. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture should convene a meeting of all the concerned departments to evolve a common code of action plan to be undertaken during drought and to finalize the organizational structure of the permanent mechanism to be put in place. According to the decisions arrived at the meeting necessary steps should be taken by the Ministry in that regard.

Para No. 4.4 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation brought out Crisis Management Plan (CMP), which is part of overall spectrum of Drought Management Plan but is restricted to management interventions, required during crisis situations. CMP is an actionable programme, which is activated in event of crisis situation to minimize damage to life, property and environment and spells out action to be taken by different Ministries/Departments, in such crisis situations.

Department has also recently brought out a "Manual for Drought Management", for extensive use as reference document and guide, for action by policy-makers, administrators and technical professionals.

In August, 2009, Government constituted Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), headed by Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation), with Secretaries of related Ministries / Departments viz. Planning Commission, Urban Development, Health & Family Welfare, Water Resources, Women & Child Development, Rural Development, Environment & Forests, Drinking Water Supply, Food & Public Distribution, Expenditure, Panchayati Raj, Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Border Management, Power, Agriculture Research & Education, Member (Traffic), Railway Board and Director General, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD); to monitor and co-ordinate drought mitigation efforts in drought-like situations, on account of deficit rainfall in South-West Monsoon, 2009. IMG held a number of meetings to review the situation and took important decisions, which included allocation of additional power, allocation of fodder minikits, supply of food under Public Distribution System (PDS), transportation of drinking water free of charge and at 'No Cost' to State Governments, review of progress of MGNREGS, etc.

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OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (Sl. No. 14, Para No. 14)

The Committee note that the country is presently comfortable in production of wheat and rice. Alongwith the increase in population and the improving living standards, food needs of the people also increases and as such the commensurate increase in production of foodgrains has also to be ensured. So, there is no place for any complacency. Continuous and concerted efforts are needed to augment further the production of wheat and rice, according to the future needs of the country. The Committee in this regard recommend that a separate Division should be started in the Ministry of Agriculture to analyse the future requirements of the country and to initiate measures to augment the production of foodgrains and traditional crops.

Para No. 4.14 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

Crops division in DAC is mandated for initiating and analyzing policy initiatives for enhancing food grain production. National Food Security Mission, Crop Division's

initiative aims at enhancing rice, wheat and pulses production. Production of coarse cereals and maize is encouraged through MMA and ISOPOM schemes.

DAC is also associated with the Working Groups on Agriculture. Demand-supply projections for foodgrains and other major crops are prepared by DAC for incorporation in the report of the concerned working group for facilitating policy level decisions.

Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. 7-4/2009-B&A Dated 20th May, 2010

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (Sl. No. 16, Para No. 16)

The Committee note that the Union Government implements a scheme of diesel subsidy to the States for saving the standing crops in the wake of the drought. However, they regret to note that only one State namely Bihar has announced diesel subsidy. As such, it seems that the scheme with its present provisions of diesel subsidy is not attractive to the State Governments. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the subsidy provisions of the scheme should be reviewed to make it more attractive and viable to the State Governments and it should be implemented during Rabi season as well to ensure higher production of foodgrains in the Rabi season to compensate the loss occurred during Kharif season.

Para No. 4.16 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

Deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 2009 had adverse impact on agricultural operations in various States during Kharif 2009. It was, therefore, decided, with approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), to introduce scheme of “**Diesel Subsidy**” for drought / deficit rainfall affected areas, with a view to provide supplementary irrigation to save standing crops. The scheme was operational from 15.7.2009 to 30.09.2009. Additional power from Central pool was also allocated to

drought / deficit rainfall affected States to save standing crops. Both these steps were taken after due consideration and they helped in sustaining agricultural operations in such States.

Necessary instructions were issued to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations regarding Diesel Subsidy scheme and modalities for implementation. However, only Governments of Bihar and Tamil Nadu reported implementation of scheme during Kharif 2009 and requested for re-imburement of Government of India's share of Rs.21.52 crore and Rs.1.43 crore, respectively. These claims were found in order and funds amounting to Rs.21.52 crore to Bihar and Rs.1.43 crore to Tamil Nadu, were released in March, 2010.

Government took various steps to increase productivity during Rabi 2009-10 to offset loss during Kharif 2009, which included steps to bring in more area under Rabi and also steps to ensure availability of fertilizers and seeds. This had a positive impact on production.

Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. 7-4/2009-B&A Dated 20th May, 2010

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (Sl. No. 18, Para No. 18)

The Committee note that minimum support price is fixed by the Government on paddy, wheat, gram, tur (arhar), moong, urad, sugarcane etc. However, the Committee find that cost of cultivation plus 50 percent (C2 plus 50 percent) formula recommended by National Commission on Farmers is not followed by the Government for fixing minimum support price of food crops. The Government decides on minimum support price taking into account recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of State Governments, Central Ministries and other relevant factors. Even after such a big exercise, the MSP of different food crops fixed by the Government is always less that C2 plus 50 percent. In this regard, the Government's stand, of a mechanical linkage of MSP with the cost of production is not practicable and not acceptable to the Committee. The concern of small and marginal farmers should be taken care in particular. The Committee, therefore, recommend that minimum support price of food crops should always start from C2 plus 50 percent. Moreover, the Ministry should make arrangements for the setting up of procurement camps/centres by

FCI instead of leaving procurement of foodgrains to private mill owners. Wide publicity should also be made about the MSP and about the locations of procurement centres so as to create awareness among the farmers.

Para No. 4.18 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

With regard to Hon'ble Committee's observations that formula of cost of production (C2 cost plus 50 percent) as recommended by National Commission on Farmers, is not followed by Government in fixing minimum support prices for crops, it is clarified that if approach of 50 percent over and above C2 cost for each of mandated crops is adopted, it is apprehended that it will lead to distortions in balanced growth pattern of agriculture as a whole and will result in disruptions in inter-crop price parity and profit margins will be disproportionately more in case of agricultural commodities, whose cost of production is comparatively higher in absolute terms.

Since, extent of increase in minimum support prices, for agricultural commodities is determined by several factors like cost of production, demand & supply, trends in market prices (national and international), terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, etc; this standardized linkage of MSP to 50 percent over and above C2 cost, may give rise to inflationary conditions in agricultural commodities and also contribute to imbalances in sustainable cropping pattern and encourage those crops, which have comparatively higher cost. One objective of price policy formulation recommended by CACP is for balance to be maintained between interest of the farmer and of consumer, with assurance that farmer gets remunerative returns on investment.

No doubt, cost of production is one major determinant for fixing MSP of any crop. In order to give further inclusion to cost of production, borne by farmer, Government of India has given approval for recommendations of Expert Committee to Examine Methodological Issues in Fixing MSP on January 15, 2009, for inclusion of additional items of expenditure like marketing, transportation charges and crop insurance premium, as part of input cost. The Government has been taking account of these

additional charges in overall C2 cost since 2009-10. As far as quantum of margin over C2 cost is concerned, it is determined by several factors as enumerated above.

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OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (Sl. No. 19, Para No. 19)

The Committee feel that the Government is at present extending agricultural loans to farmers upto 3 lakh at 7% per annum interest with a provision of 1% additional interest subvention, for timely repayments by borrowing farmers. Ours is an agrarian economy and more than 60% of the population still depend on Agriculture. Vast majority of them particularly the families of small and marginal farmers are eking out a hand to mouth life. The Committee, therefore, recommend the following for the welfare of farmers:-

- (1) Entire farming community should be brought under institutional credit arrangement in a time bound manner.
- (2) Kissan Credit Cards should be issued to all the remaining farmers within a fixed period of time.
- (3) Interest charged on farm credit from small and marginal farmers should be brought down to 4% as recommended by Dr. Swaminathan Committee. This should also be applicable to medium and long term loans availed by farmers.
- (4) Interest subvention should be increased to 2% for timely repayments by borrowing farmers.
- (5) Farm credit to farmers should be extended upto Rs. 1 lakh without any collateral.
- (6) Kissan Call Centres should be opened at every State/Union Territory.

Para No. 4.19 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

- (1) The Government has initiated several measures to bring all eligible and willing farmers under institutional credit arrangements. Some important steps initiated are listed below:-

- i. Scheduled Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks have been advised to achieve target of adding 250 rural household accounts, in each of their rural and semi rural branch every year. Most Public Sector Banks have achieved this target.
- ii. Basic banking –“no-frills account with nil or very low minimum balance”, has been introduced, to make such accounts accessible to vast sections of population as per Reserve Bank of India directives. Banks have been advised to provide small overdraft facility, for such accounts.
- iii. On lines of Business Correspondent and Business Facilitator models, Banks are using services of Non-Governmental Organisations, Self Help Groups, Micro Finance Institutions and other Civil Society Organisation, as intermediaries, in providing financial and banking services in rural areas.
- iv. In many states, State Level Bankers Committees have identified and taken steps to cover larger number of districts for 100% financial inclusion, for which Banks have been urged to scale up Information Technology initiatives.
- v. Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, which benefited 3.69 crore farmers, has de-clogged line of credit by making these farmers eligible for fresh financing from Institutional Credit System.
- vi. With a view to augment credit flow to agriculture, Special Agricultural Credit Plan (SACP) was instituted and has been in operation for some time. Under SACP, banks are required to fix self-set targets showing increase of about 30 per cent over previous year's disbursements, on yearly basis. This is expected to boost fresh credit for farmers.
- vii. Banks have been asked to consider introduction of General Purpose Credit Card (GCC) facility of revolving credit entitling the holder to withdraw up-to limit sanctioned up-to Rs.25,000/- at rural and semi-rural branches. Based on assessment of household cash flows, credit limits are sanctioned, without insistence on security or purpose.
- viii. Banks have been advised to draw roadmap to provide banking services, through banking outlet in every village having population of over 2000, by March 2011. Such banking services may not be necessarily extended through brick and mortar branch, but can be provided through any of the various forms of ICT- based models, including through Business Correspondents (BCs).
- ix. Bank lending to small and marginal farmers is classified as ‘advances to agriculture’ and forms part of banks’ total priority sector advances. As per extant

guidelines, scheduled domestic commercial banks are required to achieve 18 per cent of Net Bank Credit under advances to agricultural sector.

x. In order to reduce dependence of farmers (including small and marginal farmers) on non-institutional sources, banks have been advised to extend them finance, against appropriate collateral or group security, subject to approval of their Boards to redeem non-institutional loans.

xi. Reserve Bank of India has advised banks for simplification and relaxation of procedures and processes for obtaining agricultural loans, especially by small and marginal farmers. Scheduled commercial banks have been advised to dispense with "no dues" certificate, for small loans up-to Rs 50,000, to small and marginal farmers, share-croppers and the like but obtain self-declaration from borrowers instead of no dues certificate. To address problem of identification of landless labourers, share croppers and oral lessees, banks have been advised to accept certificates issued by local administration/ panchayati raj institutions regarding cultivation of crops by them. Where obtaining certificates is a problem, they may accept an affidavit submitted by landless labourers, share croppers and oral lessees, giving occupational status (i.e., details of land tilled/crops grown) for loans upto Rs.50,000/-. Banks may also encourage Joint Liability Group (JLG)/SHG, mode of lending for such persons.

xii. NABARD has issued a revised policy and operational guidelines for financing of Joint liability Groups (JLGs) of small, marginal, tenant and oral lessee farmers, as well as sharecroppers, in October, 2009. NABARD will provide some incentives, to banks by way of promotional grants for forming, nurturing and financing JLGs, on annual basis for first three years. Grant assistance is extended to banks for formation, nurturing and financing of JLGs over three years @ Rs.2000/JLG. NABARD provides 100% refinance assistance to all banks in respect of their lending to JLGs. Banks may at their discretion, use services of suitable agencies for undertaking above interventions, under Business Facilitators model. NABARD will also extend need-based promotional support training, exposure visits, experience-sharing, etc for banks' staffs.

xiii. Based on Recommendations of Committee on Financial inclusion headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Government has constituted two Funds with NABARD; one, "Financial Inclusion Fund", for meeting cost of developmental and promotional interventions, and another "Financial Inclusion Technology Fund" to meet cost of

technology adoption. Each Fund will have overall corpus of Rs. 500 crore, with initial funding from Central Government, RBI and NABARD in ratio of 40:40:20. Implementation of comprehensive policy for financial inclusion is expected to increase access of vulnerable sections of rural population, to financial services, including credit.

xiv. Government has approved a revival package for Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions (short-term) involving, inter-alia, a financial outlay estimated at Rs. 13,596 crore, to be shared by Central Government, State Governments and Cooperative Credit Structure.

(2) Government has advised NABARD and State Governments to launch intensive branch/village level campaign for providing Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) to all eligible and willing farmers, in time bound manner. Total number of KCCs issued by all banks in the country, reached 9.06 crore, at end February 2010.

(3) & (4) Crop loan, upto principal amount of Rs. 3 lakh, is made available to farmers, at lower interest rate of 7 per cent per annum. In order to incentivise prompt re-payers, Government of India is providing additional one per cent interest subvention from year 2009-10, to farmers who re-pay short term crop loans, on schedule. Government has proposed to raise this subvention for timely repayment of crop loans from one per cent to two per cent for year 2010-11. Thus, effective rate of interest for such farmers will be 5% per annum w.e.f. year 2010-11.

(5) Reserve Bank of India has instructed banks not to insist on collateral/ margin/security requirements for agricultural loans up to Rs. 50,000/- and for loans above Rs.50,000/- banks have discretion, in collateral/ margin/security requirements.

(6) Kisan Call Center (KCC) was launched by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, to provide easy access point to farmers in local language, all over the country. Presently, 25 Kisan Call Centers are operating in the country and covering entire country through toll free number '1800-180-1551'.

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CHAPTER – IV

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

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 2, Para No. 2)

The Committee are concerned to note that the forecasting of monsoon by India Meteorological Department (IMD) fell short of accuracy this year. As per the first forecast issued by IMD, the rainfall for the country as a whole was likely to be 96% of Long Period Average with a model error of $\pm 5\%$. Contrary to this forecast, out of 36 Met Sub Divisions of the country, 23 received deficient rainfall to the extent of -20% to -59% and 11 Met sub divisions received scanty rainfall to the extent of -60% to -99% as on 27th August, 2009. Had such an erratic course of monsoon and the resultant deficiency in rainfall, been predicted in advance it would have been helpful to the farmers to plan in advance their agricultural operations. This year's instance alone suggests that IMD's weather forecast particularly on progress of Monsoon and expected rainfall cannot be fully relied upon. Such inaccurate forecasts of IMD deprived the Government of taking advance steps to ensure adequate production of foodgrains in the country and to avoid spiraling of food prices. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the necessary steps should be taken by IMD to forecast monsoon behavior accurately. Wherever necessary, technological upgradations of dedicated satellites, on which IMD relies upon for weather forecasts, should be carried out in a time bound manner and at the same time, speedy dissemination of these weather forecasts should also be ensured. Moreover, required training should be imparted to the scientists/personnel of ID on advanced techniques in the field so as to enable them come up with reliable weather forecasts.

Para No. 4.2 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasted South West Monsoon 2009 at 96% of Long Period Average (LPA), initially in April 2009, which was subsequently revised to 93% of LPA in June 2009. Actual rainfall at end of South West Monsoon season was actually deficit by 22%.

However, Committee's recommendation have been communicated to IMD for compliance and necessary action.

IMD has informed that it mainly depends on indigenously developed statistical models, for preparing its official operational forecast. These statistical models are updated continuously from time to time, by including better predictors, implementing better development techniques etc. Further, before issuing official forecasts, IMD holds pre-Long Range Forecast meeting; with scientists from various climate research institutions involved in development of experimental models for long range forecast such as IITM, Pune, NCMRWF, New Delhi, IISc, Bangalore, IIT, New Delhi, SAC, Ahmedabad, C-DAC, Pune, C-MMACS, Bangalore etc;

IMD also takes into account experimental forecasts on monsoon, prepared by various climate research centers, located in other countries, such as ECMWF of UK, Met Office from IRI, ECPC and NCEP, all of USA, and Meteo-France of France.

It is understood that various climate research centers engaged in experimental forecast for monsoon rainfall, of India and of other countries, could not forecast deficient monsoon rainfall of 2009, correctly.

While IMD has acquired requisite infrastructure, such as, high power computing system, for seasonal forecast; most essential requirement at this moment is trained man- power, which is sub-critical at present. IMD officers are also to be trained at international centers particularly in seasonal forecasting, based on dynamical models. These issues are being addressed by IMD/MoES.

A brainstorming workshop was organized in November, 2009, to analyze unique features of monsoon 2009 and to evaluate performance of various short,

medium and long range forecasts, issued by IMD. Special emphasis was placed on future strategies to be adopted on research and operational aspects of long range forecast of monsoon rainfall. Main recommendation of the workshop are:

a) **Improvement of current operational statistical models of IMD.**

A committee was constituted, which met on 15th February 2010 and recommended to undertake fresh analysis of climatic-data-sets for Indian region, like, sea level pressure, winds, surface winds, sea surface temperatures, OLR etc; to identify potential predictors, representing influence of Indian Ocean on Indian monsoon.

b) **To constitute a national project in Mission mode for reliable prediction of summer monsoon rainfall over the Indian region.**

Although many centers, world over, use dynamical model framework to predict seasonal mean climate routinely; such a framework is yet to be put in place, in India. **Ministry of Earth Sciences constituted "National Mission on Monsoon"** to take up mission mode project for improving dynamical prediction of seasonal mean monsoon rainfall, in view of complexities involved in monsoon rainfall prediction.

For evolving network required for this mission, a meeting of stakeholders involving R&D and academic institutes, along with MoES units, was held on 16th January, 2010, wherein it was decided that National Mission will be undertaken through two sub-missions pertaining to two different time scales viz.

- (i) Monthly, seasonal and intraseasonal scale
- (ii) Medium range scale (upto 15 days)

Major outcomes of the meeting on National Mission on Monsoon held on 16.01.2010 were:

- For Monthly, seasonal and intraseasonal scale, discernable improvement should take place in simulation/ retrospective prediction of interannual variation of all-India summer monsoon rainfall (and summer monsoon rainfall over a few homogeneous zones, if possible), with dynamical models over a time span of 3-5 years

- For Medium range scale (upto 15 days), discernable improvement should be achieved in simulation/ retrospective prediction of monsoon in medium range scale (upto 15 days in advance) ,with dynamical models over time span of 3-5 years

A steering committee will be constituted to oversee successful accomplishment of the mission, in a specific time-frame.

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OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 5, Para No. 5)

The Committee also note that the assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) which is over and above assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) is for natural calamities of severe nature. Release of funds from NCCF involves a cumbersome four-tier process. Firstly, the State Government concerned has to submit a detailed Memorandum, secondly visit of a Inter-Ministerial Central (IMC) Team for on the spot assessment, consideration of recommendations of IMC by an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) headed by the Secretary concerned and the consideration of recommendations of IMG by a High Level Committee of Ministers headed by the Minister of Finance. Completion of such a lengthy procedure involves considerable time which results in avoidable delays in providing relief to affected people. In Committee's view, role of Inter-Ministerial Group in the process is infructuous since visiting Central Team itself comprised of officials from the Ministries concerned. The only thing to be ensured is the composition of the IMC which should be comprised of senior officers not less than the level of Joint Secretary. IMC may submit its recommendations to the Secretary concerned and he may directly place the recommendations before the High Level Committee along with his comments. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the decision should be taken within 45 days so that suffering of the common man may be mitigated. The Committee also recommend that assistance under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) should also be increased.

Para No. 4.5 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) enables the States to take immediate necessary measures in wake of natural calamities. CRF has been renamed as State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) by 13th Finance Commission. Assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), maintained at Government of India level {renamed - National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)} is considered in accordance with established procedure, i.e. on submission of memorandum by affected States an inter ministerial team visits the concerned State and recommendations of inter-ministerial team, based on norms of expenditure from CRF/NCCF, are considered by Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), where recommendations are considered by High Level Committee (HLC). Efforts would be made to further strengthen the approval powers. Assistance under NCCF/CRF is guided by detailed guidelines, which is framed based on Finance Commission recommendations.

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OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 6, Para No. 6)

The Committee further note that 10 States have submitted Memorandum for assistance from NCCF. They were informed that the Central Teams visited these States to assess the situation. The Committee regret that further information in this regard was not furnished by the Ministry. The Committee should be informed of the details such as date of submission of Memorandum and the date of disbursement of the funds and the quantum of assistance provided to each State.

Para No. 4.6 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

During drought 2009, 15 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh; submitted memorandum for assistance for drought relief from National Calamity Relief Fund (NCRF). High Level Committee (HLC) has already approved assistance for 12 of these States, as indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of State	Date of receipt of Memorandum	Date of meeting of HLC	Assistance approved
1	Andhra Pradesh	01.10.2009	04.01.2010	642.02
2	Assam	16.09.2009	04.01.2010	89.94
3	Bihar	16.08.2009	21.10.2009	1163.64
4	Himachal Pradesh	24.08.2009	21.10.2009	88.93
5	Jharkhand	07.08.2009	21.10.2009	200.955
6	Karnataka	18.08.2009	21.10.2009	116.49
7	Madhya Pradesh	17.08.2009	21.10.2009	246.31
8	Maharashtra	24.08.2009	21.10.2009	671.88
9	Manipur	10.08.2009	21.10.2009	14.57
10	Nagaland	02.09.2009	21.10.2009	21.12
11	Rajasthan	27.08.2009	21.10.2009	1034.84
12	Uttar Pradesh	06.08.2009 15.09.2009	21.10.2009	515.05
	Total			4805.745

Proposals relating to Orissa and J&K have been considered by HLC in meeting held on 12.5.2010 and result of discussions is awaited.

As regards Kerala, an IMCT has been constituted for assessment of drought situation and the team is presently visiting the State from 18-20 May, 2010.

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OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (Sl. No. 22, Para No. 22)

The Committee find that the chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc. are presently used for increasing the productivity of food crops. These chemicals are harmful to human beings when they enter food chain through the foodgrains, pulses and

vegetables. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take steps for taking up organic farming in a big way throughout the country and the production and use of bio-fertilizers should also be encouraged. Action taken in this regard should be conveyed to the Committee.

Para No. 4.22 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

The per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers in India is far less than that of many other developing countries. There is no scientific evidence of declining soil or crop productivity or quality with judicious use of chemical fertilizers. However, there is a growing concern regarding health and environmental hazards of chemical based intensive agriculture. While organic farming needs to be encouraged, the country needs to raise its food production which cannot be realized through use of organic nutrient sources presently available in the country. Thus, use of organic nutrients has to be supplementary and not complementary. Accordingly, Government is advocating integrated nutrient management, envisaging conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of nutrients, to sustain good soil health and higher crop productivity in the country.

2. In order to promote organic farming in the country, technology for preparation of enriched/vermi-compost from various rural and urban wastes has been developed. Besides, improved and efficient strains of microbes to function as effective biofertilizers either by way of fixing nitrogen or by mobilizing soil nutrients like phosphorus, zinc, etc. for crop use have also been developed.

3. With concerted efforts of Central and State Governments, area under organic certification process has increased from 73,000 ha during 2004-05 to 12.7 lakh ha. during 2008-09 in the country. Organic farming is also being promoted through National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. 7-4/2009 - B&A Dated 20th May, 2010

CHAPTER – V

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

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (SI. No. 3, Para No. 3)

The Committee desired during their deliberations with the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture that the Ministry should have a separate Division in the Ministry to coordinate effectively the relief measures in the wake of a drought and to ensure timely reaching of relief for the farmers. The Secretary, while admitting the difficulty in handling the drought due to dependence on State Governments and a large number of other Ministries, assured the Committee that he will take this view back to the Government. However, in the subsequent reply furnished to the Committee, the Ministry nosedived from this stand taken by the Secretary during deliberations with the Committee and stated that the present administrative machinery has delivered in times of drought and is considered adequate. The Committee note that the present 'Drought Management Division' in the Ministry which is functioning under a Joint Secretary and one Deputy Secretary is comprised of a Drought Monitoring Cell and a Drought Management Section. The former is headed by an Under Secretary and assisted by one Assistant to monitor drought situation to analyse IMD weekly data etc. The latter is headed by one Under Secretary assisted by one Section Officer, two Assistants and two UDCs. One Additional Secretary in the Ministry has been designated as Central Drought Relief Commissioner who takes stock of drought situation on day-to-day basis, coordinates with other departments of the Government of India and interacts with State Governments and decides measures for drought related activities, including relief to drought affected regions/people. The Committee views this arrangement awfully inadequate and ineffective in tackling the cases of droughts of severe magnitude. The Committee desire a powerful Management Division, comprising of adequate number of senior officers and experts who have experience in the field, should be set up in the Ministry on regular basis to coordinate relief efforts in the wake of a drought. Moreover, every year in one or the other part of this big country we face drought like situations. Therefore, it is imperative to set up a strong Division with adequate powers and expertise in the Ministry to deal with droughts. The Committee, therefore, recommend

that a work study should be conducted on the adequacy of the present set up of Drought Management Division in the Ministry. The terms of reference of such work study should include, coordination with State Governments and other Departments. Based on the study restructuring of the Division should be taken up in a time bound manner.

Para No. 4.3 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

State Government concerned are primarily responsible, for taking necessary measures in wake of natural calamities, including drought, while Government of India extends financial, logistic and other support. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is concerned with “coordination of relief measures necessitated by drought, hail-storm and pest attacks” and Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned with other natural calamities and policy matters, relating to natural calamities.

Drought Management Division of DAC monitors drought conditions, in collaboration with State Governments. But for mitigating impact of drought / deficit rainfall, help of other Ministries / Departments is also sourced, in matters like positioning of fertilizers issuing advisories, monitoring water reservoir levels, availability of fodder, outbreak of diseases, supply of power, etc. Managing drought is an integrated activity, comprising specific roles for different Ministries / Departments as laid down in Crisis Management Plan (CMP) on Drought and desired goals achieved, through meetings, discussions and coordination among concerned agencies / organizations.

Government of India took several measures to reduce impact of drought 2009, like monitoring drought at highest level, from end June, 2009 since the time deficit rainfall, was reported by IMD. DAC organized meetings with Chief Secretaries of States/Union Territories and followed this up by a meeting with State Agriculture Ministers, experts from Scientific Institutions and State Relief Commissioners regarding situation prevailing and steps required to mitigate efforts of drought. Scheme of “Diesel Subsidy” was introduced in drought/deficit rainfall States and additional power was allocated from Central Electricity Pool, for providing supplementary irrigation, to save standing crops.

However, the Department would assign a work study internally to study the working of the Drought Management Division.

Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. 7-4/2009-B&A Dated 20th May, 2010

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (Sl. No. 17, Para No. 17)

The Committee note that the rainfed areas in the country are prone to vagaries of monsoon. As happened this year, when monsoon is erratic deficient rainfall in rainfed areas leads to decrease in area sown under foodgrain crops as well as results in less survival of crops already sown/planted in the hope of a normal monsoon. Such a situation adversely impacts the production of foodgrains in the country. As of now, there is a huge gap between the actual and potential yields in rainfed areas. The Committee, therefore, feel that a holistic approach should be adopted by the Government for the development of rainfed areas in the country. At present, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing four schemes viz. National Watershed development Project for rainfed Areas, Soil conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone River, Watershed Development project in Shifting Cultivation Areas and Reclamation and Development of Aklali and Acid Soils. Similarly Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing a major scheme called Integrated Watershed Development Programme. National Rainfed Area Authority has been set up to bring about convergence and synergy among all these programmes. During XI Plan Period, it is proposed to implement a Rainfed Area Development Programme with an outlay of Rs. 3,330 crore. This programme has not yet been implemented as the Department of Expenditure has asked the Ministry of Agriculture to recast the scheme in view of the implementation of IWDP. Third year of the XI Plan Period is running now and the scheme is still at the proposal stage thereby unnecessarily locking more than Rs. 3000 crore. The Committee recommend that a thorough study on feasibility of a scheme should be conducted by the Government before launching of the scheme including its overlapping with the schemes of other departments on the subject. As far as development of rainfed areas is concerned, the Ministry of Agriculture should convene a meeting of other concerned Ministries and NRAA to take a holistic approach for the

development of rainfed areas in coordination with other Ministries. Steps taken in this regard should be conveyed to the Committee.

Para No. 4.17 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

It is a fact that vagaries of monsoon, result in wide variation and instability in yields of agriculture crops, in rainfed areas. To address various problems of rainfed areas and to ensure coordinated strategy for integrated development of rainfed areas, watershed programmes are being implemented by Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, adopting Common Guidelines formulated by National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA). It is envisaged to cover about 27 million hectares, under all watershed development programmes, during XI Plan. NRAA has also prepared a vision document - "Harnessing Opportunities in Rainfed Areas", which will help guide and provide future direction, for harnessing innovative policies, knowledge, technologies and opportunities, for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas.

Besides above, programmes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Micro Irrigation (MI) and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), also accord special focus on rainfed areas for improving livelihood security and agricultural productivity. As regards budget provision for RADP, savings due to non-implementation of the scheme are being used under other approved programmes of the Department.

Realizing need for restructuring of RADP Scheme, in wake of launch of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) by Ministry of Rural Development, several consultations have been held to develop new concept/strategy, that will help augment production potential of developed land & water resources, through watershed development and NREGA interventions. Consultations were also held with National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Central Research Institute for Dry-land Agriculture (CRIDA), Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), NABARD, State Agriculture Universities and different divisions of DAC, to derive innovative

interventions. A consensus on farmer -centric farming systems approach was arrived at, to make the programme more effective and result-oriented.

Now revised concept based on **farmer centric-farming system** approach has been submitted to Planning Commission for '*in-principle*' approval. Once new concept is approved, necessary steps will be initiated for obtaining approval of the scheme.

Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. 7-4/2009-B&A Dated 20th May, 2010

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION (Sl. No. 23, Para No. 23)

The Committee note that the many parts of the country also faced the fury of floods during this year. This is also a recurring phenomena every year. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the losses occurred to farmers in the flood affected States should be assessed by the Union Government and suitable amount of compensation should be given to farmers. Moreover, the farmers who are engaged in cultivation of crops near international border/line of actual control especially in Jammu & Kashmir could not take care of their crops for days together and even for a month or so due to security disturbances along the border. The losses being suffered by those farmers should also be assessed regularly and they should be adequately compensated for the losses suffered by them in this regard.

Para No. 4.23 of First Report of EC (15th Lok Sabha)

Reply of the Government

There are standing guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India to banks for providing relief to farmers in areas affected by natural calamities. These guidelines have been issued to enable banks to take uniform and concerted action expeditiously, particularly to provide financial assistance to farmers affected by natural calamities including drought and flood etc. These guidelines envisage inter-alia:

- Conversion/rescheduling of loans in event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage of crops.
- Grant of fresh crop loans to affected farmers

- Conversion of principal as well as interest due on the existing loans
- Grant of consumption loans
- Not to compound interest of loans converted/ rescheduled etc.
- Not to charge penal interest in respect of current dues in default

Secretary, Home Department, J&K had observed that land owners in Jammu Division have lost a great deal of land on account of border fencing which has taken place on LoC. It is relevant that BSF is the border guarding force along international border in Jammu sector where it is manning 192 km of IB. LoC portion is under domination of Indian Army. It is estimated that around 20565 kanals of land in 5 border districts of Samba, Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch have come under the border fencing. In addition to this, around 322143 kanals of land which comes between border fencing and zero line has become inaccessible to land owners for purpose of cultivation.

The issue is under discussion with Government of J&K. A 44feet wide strip of land has been acquired by BSF on which existing border fencing has been constructed. Government of J&K is pursuing for making payments towards compensation to farmers who own these lands. In this regard, MHA has sought detailed information about individuals and extent of their land involved in border fencing along with assessment of compensation. No concrete proposal has been submitted by State Government. However, as per available information, in some Districts of Jammu Division, field level assessment of individuals, their area of land involved and computation of corresponding compensation amount has been completed, and reports have been submitted to respective Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Government of J&K have been advised to expedite this work in remaining districts and facilitate early submission of consolidated report to enable MHA, to take a view in the matter.

Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation O.M. No. 7-4/2009-B&A Dated 20th May, 2010

NEW DELHI;
01st December, 2010
Agrahayana, 10,1932(S)

FRANCISCO SARDINHA,
CHAIRMAN,
COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES.

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION ON DROUGHT MANAGEMENT FOR
IMPROVING FOOD GRAIN PRODUCTION**

Sl. No.	State	Action taken on Drought Management for improving food grain production
1	2	3
1.	Mizoram	<p>State received 36% less rainfall than normal in 2009-10</p> <p>Information dissemination through printed leaflets, local advertisements to create awareness amongst farmers regarding judicious and effective water management.</p> <p>ATMA PDs & DAO were instructed to pool their resources under NWDPR&WDPSCA.</p> <p>Special Rabi Campaign organized throughout the state for growing winter vegetables so that income is reaped by affected farmers through it.</p>
2.	Goa	No drought like situation.
3.	Rajasthan	<p>Prepare plan for growing short duration varieties of Pulses, Oilseeds & Fodder Crops in water scarcity area.</p> <p>Wider publicity to contingency plan through AIR & Doordarshan.</p> <p>In Kharif & Rabi Season, Kisan Shivir organized in each block.</p> <p>To ensure availability of fodder, under Rabi Campaign, distributed 7.00 lakh Fodder seed Mini kits free of cost</p> <p>All ATMAs were instructed to organize Fodder Crop Demonstration Programme and demonstration on Niger Crop.</p>

4.	Uttar Pradesh	Organized Pre-Rabi Virat Kissan Mela in each agro-climatic zone for dissemination of knowledge/information as a step towards increasing production in Rabi season.
		Provided special subsidy on certified seeds, zinc sulphate, soil amendments, bio-pesticides, sprinkler & drip irrigation.
		Soil testing campaign.
		Established Help Line Centres for providing technical guidance/solution to problems of farmers.
		Publicity through DD/AIR.
		Distributed minikits of short duration varieties of Jowar, Bajra, Urd, Mung, Pigion Pea, Sesamum.
		Organized 10 days kisan mela and kisan goshties along with Lucknow Mahotsav.
		Organized Kisan Melas in SAUs and Colleges of Agriculture
		Publicity through PPP Mode.

5.	Andhra Pradesh	Organized Pre-Rabi campaign (Sagarker Samayatten) in 17555 villages for exhibiting live models and demonstration.
		Training to Adarsa Rythu (Model Farmers) for disseminating improved/latest technologies to other farmers. 41108 Adarsa Rythu were trained on topics like resource conservation, SRI, Zero tillage in Maize, Management of problematic soil, management of mulberry silk, PHT.
		Organized Farm Schools/Farmer Field Schools.
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	Organized farmers Inter State Exposure Visits.
		District level Exhibitions
		Interaction with Scientists on Innovative methods of cultivation of oilseeds, cereals & pulses,
		Set up 65 Farm Schools
		Telecast package of practice through DD/AIR suitable under unfavourable monsoon condition.
		Information through KCC
7.	Bihar	Special drive undertaken for popularizing alternate cropping in post drought.
		Organized Krishi Vikas Shivir and manual for new technology distributed in the shivir.
		Run Krishi Jagrukta Rath from state capital to all districts equipped with audio-video system.
		Disseminate benefits of various schemes to farmers by organizing two day Krishi Upadan Sah Kissan Mela at every district head quarter.
		Farmer exposure visits to places of excellence.
		Set up Farm Schools in Rabi.
8.	Kerala	No severe drought like situation in the state.

		<p>Mass media campaigns and trainings for farmers and extension functionaries.</p> <p>A series of orientation workshops/trainings organized in the districts for creating awareness among farmers and sharing best extension practices.</p> <p>Submitted a proposal for establishing Kuttanad Package through ATMA Programme. Also established 147 Farm Schools, 3908 Demonstrations during the financial year.</p> <p>Organized interactions with scientists and extension personal to formulate strategy for fighting drought situation and passed on the same to farmers.</p> <p>Technical guidance provided in SRI Technology in Paddy, Floriculture by Women Groups, Backyard Poultry, Ornamental Fish Culture and Clean Milk Production.</p>
9.	Nagaland	<p>Special Rabi Campaign, District level exhibition, Farmers Scientist Interaction, Field days and farmers study tour were organized.</p> <p>Demonstration in Farm Schools and Trainings were organized on need based topics.</p> <p>Awareness campaign on Climate change and impact on Agriculture.</p>
10.	Andaman & Nicobar	<p>ATMA organized Field days/Kissan Goshities for sharing of package and practices of Kharif crops as per approved SEWP – 2009-10.</p>

APPENDIX – I

MINUTES OF EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (2010-2011)

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 23rd November, 2010 from 1500 hrs. to 1600 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Shri Francisco Sardinha – Chairman

MEMBERS

2	Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
3	Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
4	Shri Bhakta Charan Das
5	Shri Milind Deora
6	Shri T.K.S. Elangovan
7	Shri Chandrakant Khaire
8	Shri M. Krishnaswamy
9	Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Maadam
10	Smt. Raneer Narah
11	Shri Prabodh Panda
12	Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey
13	Shri Kabindra Purkayastha
14	Shri Jagdish Singh Rana
15	Shri M. Sreenivasulu Reddy
16	Smt. Yashodhara Raje Scindia
17	Shri S. Semmalai
18	Shri Arjun Charan Sethi
19	Shri Lalji Tandon

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri U.S. Saxena	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Smt. Anita B. Panda	-	Additional Director
3.	Smt. Juby Amar	-	Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to sitting of the Committee.
3. The Committee then took up for consideration Draft Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the subject 'Drought Management, Foodgrain Production and Price Situation' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation). The Committee adopted the draft Action Taken Report with some modifications.
4. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalize the Report and present the same to Parliament.
5. The Committee also decided to have the next sitting on 8th December, 2010.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX - II

(vide introduction to Report)

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIRST (1st) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (15TH LOK SABHA).

(i) Total number of Recommendations/observations:	<u>23</u>
(ii) Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by the Government: (Nos. 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 20, 21 - Total 11)	
Percentage	<u>47.82%</u>
(iii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply: (Nos. 4, 14, 16, 18, 19- Total 5)	
Percentage	<u>21.74%</u>
(iv) Recommendations/observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee: (Nos. 2, 5, 6, 22 - Total 4)	
Percentage	<u>17.39%</u>
(v) Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited: (Nos. 3, 17, 23 - Total 3)	
Percentage	<u>13.04%</u>