

SECOND REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (1999-2000)

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

February, 2000/Phalguna, 1921 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(1999-2000)

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri A.P. Abdullakutty
3. Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel
4. Shri Shyamlal Bansiwala
5. Shri Ranen Barman
- *6. Shri Surender Singh Barwala
7. Shri Sujan Singh Bundela
8. Shri Namdeorao Harbaji Diwathe
9. Shri Rameshwar Dudi
10. Shri Abdul Hamid
11. Shri Jai Prakash
12. Shrimati Preneet Kaur
13. Shri Brijlal Khabri
14. Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra
15. Shri Aditya Nath
16. Shri Sisram Ola
17. Shri Mansinh Patel
18. Shri Laxmanrao Patil
19. Shri Bajji Ban. Riyan
20. Shri Vishnu Dev Sai
21. Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen

*Shri Surender Singh Barwala ceased to be a member of the Committee *w.e.f.* 24.01.2000
vide Bulletin Part II (Para No. 400) dated 24.01.2000.

(iv)

22. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
23. Shri Ram Naresh Tripathee
24. Shri Ram Chandra Veerappa
25. Shri Sahib Singh
26. Vacant
27. Vacant
28. Vacant
29. Vacant
30. Vacant

Rajya Sabha

31. Shri Sushil Barongpa
32. Shri W. Angou Singh
33. Shri Abdul Gaiyur Qureshi
34. Shri Lajpat Rai
35. Shri Dawa Lama
36. Shri M.A. Kadar
37. Shri Kaushok Thiksey
38. Shri D.P. Yadav
39. Shri Nanaji Deshmukh
40. Vacant
41. Vacant
42. Vacant
43. Vacant
44. Vacant
45. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Harnam Singh — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri Krishan Lal — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri R.S. Mishra — *Under Secretary*
4. Smt. Manju Chaudhry — *Committee Officer*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1999-2000) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ Observations contained in the Ninth Report of the Committee (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on "Demand for Grants" (1999-2000) of the erstwhile Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (erstwhile Department of Food and Civil Supplies).

2. The Ninth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 1999. The Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in the Report on 8 July, 1999. The Draft Action Taken Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1999-2000) at their sitting held on 7th February, 2000.

3. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on "Demand for Grants" (1999-2000) is given in Appendix II.

NEW DELHI;
24 February, 2000
5 Phalgun, 1921 (Saka)

DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Food,
Civil Supplies and Public Distribution.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000).

1.2 The Report was presented to Lok Sabha on April 22, 1999 and Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on April 23, 1999. It contained 18 observations/recommendations.

1.3 Action Taken Notes in respect of all the 18 observations/recommendations contained in the Report have been received and categorised as follows:—

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government:

Para Nos. 2.10, 2.30, 2.31, 2.43, 2.47, 2.60 and 2.66

(Chapter II, Total-7)

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

Para Nos. 2.32, 2.49, 2.53, 3.13, 3.14 and 4.13

(Chapter III, Total-6)

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

Para Nos. 2.33, 2.34, 2.44, 2.45 and 2.46

(Chapter IV, Total-5)

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which reply of the Government is still awaited.

(Chapter V, Nil)

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

1.5 The Committee strongly emphasize that utmost importance should be given to the implementation of recommendation accepted by the Government. In cases where it is not possible for the Government to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee in time with reasons for non-implementation.

1.6 The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of the recommendations.

Accumulated Stock of Foodgrains

1.7 Expressing their concern over the old stock of foodgrains in FCI godowns, the Committee made the recommendation that:—

"The Committee is constrained to note that a quantity of 11.60 lakh MT of foodgrains and about lakh of tonnes of sugar are lying in FCI godowns for more than two years. The foodgrains thus lying become unfit for human consumption and besides creating scarcity in storage capacity for fresh crop. The Committee have been time and again emphasising the Government to clear old accumulated stock of foodgrains and sugar but the Government have not so far come forward with any action in this regard. The Committee, therefore, again strongly recommend that every effort should be made to clear the old stock and the principle of FCI (First-in-first out) should be strictly adhered to promptly. There should be a clear policy regarding the disposal of stocks which are older than two years. There should preferably be disposed of through auction."

1.8 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated:—

"Although, under Public Distribution System foodgrains are issued by FCI on the principle of First-in-first out yet old foodgrains get accumulated when the State Governments are reluctant to lift these stocks under PDS and other welfare schemes because of their unpresentable appearance. Sometimes, labour unrest and non availability of covered storage also lead to deterioration of stocks and hence their accumulation. The stocks of rice purchased under relaxed specifications during the crop year 1997-98 had to be issued on over riding priority which had retarded the issue of old stocks of rice."

With a view to clear old stocks of A,B & C category rice, FCI was also instructed to allot these stocks to those consuming states which demand additional allocations beyond TPDS at APL rates. In case, this attempt does not meet with the required success, the stocks may be offered to the trade through Public tender with floor price fixed at current APL issue price on 'As is where is basis'.

FCI is empowered to dispose of D category more than 2 years old rice which meet PFA standard provided the reserve price of such stock is not below the APL issue price. With the increase in APL price of rice to Rs. 905/- per quintal FCI had to stop the sale of Category 'D' more than two years old rice @ Rs. 730 per quintal. As the off take of rice even at Rs. 730/- per quintal was not very large, tenders were invited by SRMs for a quantity of 1.77 lakh tonnes of these stocks region-wise. As the rates offered by tenderers were below APL rates, the matter was taken up with the Min. of Finance & approval was granted to dispose off 1.77 lakhs MTs. of more than 2 years old category 'D' rice by accepting all the tenders received and opened by the SRMs on 11.3.1999.

The High Level Committee of FCI also meets from time to time to review the progress of disposal of old stocks of wheat and rice and also decides the mode of disposal of such stocks."

1.9 The Committee observe that the Government in their reply has given reasons for accumulation of rice only and they have not said anything about the stock of wheat and sugar. It is a matter of great concern that the foodgrains which the farmer produce with their sweat is left to spoil and no accountability is fixed in this regard. It has been repeatedly discussed and recommended by the Committee that old stock of wheat, rice and sugar must be disposed off on First-In-First-Out (FIFO) basis so that these essential commodities of foodgrains are not spoiled and became unfit for human consumption. Moreover, it creates shortage of storage capacity for fresh crops. The Committee are very much pained to note the routine reply of the Government and its lame excuses put-forth time and again. The Committee reiterates that all steps should be taken to ensure that no avoidable delay takes place to dispose off the accumulated grain stock in the FCI godowns and the principle of FIFO should be strictly adhered to. The Committee should also be apprised of the outcome of the progress made in this regard with in three months.

Inadequate Storage Facility

Recommendation (Para No. 2.34)

1.10 The Committee was concerned about the inadequate storage facility and made the recommendation that the storage facilities at block micro level are found to be inadequate. The dependency of hired godowns is in vogue in spite of liberal financial assistance by the increase in subsidy component from 25% to 50%. The Committee is constrained to note that when there is an acute shortage throughout the country, the allocation under this head has not been enhanced in BE for the year 1999-2000. The Committee feel serious concern and strongly recommends that provision to construct more godowns should be made and proposed received from remote/hilly/non-traditional States be promptly attended to and the matter of submitting of utilisation certificate and surrender of funds, not utilised for the purpose, should be taken up with the concerned State Governments. They should be asked to utilise the funds meant for the construction of godowns to avoid storage shortages for foodgrains in future; if need be strict guidelines be issued to State Governments in this regard.

1.11 The Ministry in their action taken reply stated that the recommendations of the Committee have been brought to the notice of States/UTs. During 1998-99 the scope of the scheme has been liberalised to cover not only the areas covered under the erstwhile RPDS but also all such areas where the need for such facility exists. Attention of the State Governments has been drawn to the need for submission of the utilisation certificates of past assistance. Funds under the scheme are released only after getting Utilisation Certificates of past assistance.

A recommendation for enhancing the allocation for the scheme was made by the Committee earlier which was brought to the notice of the Planning Commission. Planning Commission have revised 9th Plan outlay to the level of Rs. 12.50 crores per annum beginning 1997-98 as against the level of Rs. 7.50 crores during 1996-97 in the 8th Plan period.

The present allocation at the level of Rs. 12.50 crores is sufficient considering the absorption capacity of the State Governments with regard to completion of construction of the godowns already sanctioned to them.

1.12 The Committee is satisfied that Planning Commission while considering the recommendation of the Committee has enhanced, the allocation for the scheme to construct godowns. The Committee, however desire that in order to make available the foodgrains to the consumer at affordable prices in far-flung, inaccessible and hilly areas some funds should specifically be earmarked for construction of godowns in those areas and the funds so earmarked should also be utilised in the same financial year. Strict monitoring should be adopted to see that the funds allocated to the States for the construction of godowns are utilized properly.

Allocation Under TPDS

Recommendation (Para No. 2.44)

1.13 Under TPDS 10 kg. of rice or wheat is to be issued at specially subsidised prices to the population Below Poverty Line. The Committee feel that the 10 kg. of foodgrains per month per family is inadequate to cater to the monthly need of BPL families. In this regard the Committee are of the view that as the production of foodgrains is sufficient and financial implication can be met by reducing the transit storage losses, the monthly allocation for TPDS must be increased to 15 kg. if 20 kg. is not possible.

1.14 The Ministry in the Action Taken Reply have stated that the recommendation of the Standing Committee has been noted. A proposal to issue additional 5 kg. of wheat per family per month at BPL rates to the poor families is under consideration of the Government in view of the surplus stocks of wheat.

1.15 The Committee are concerned with the delay in taking the decision for enhancing the monthly allocation for TPDS from 10 kg. to 15 kg. per month per family. However the Committee strongly reiterates that the allocation under TPDS should be enhanced and a practical approach should be adopted to ensure that good quality of wheat/rice is provided to cater the nutrition need of Below Poverty Line (BPL) population.

Quality of Foodgrains Under PDS

Recommendation (Para No. 2.45)

1.16 The Committee was concerned about the quality of foodgrains under PDS and made certain recommendations. Targeted Public distribution system is meant to cover the entire population falling below the poverty line. However, in many States off take is very low and sufficient quantity is not reaching the targeted beneficiaries. Whereas in the state where distribution is done, the quality of foodgrains is not upto the mark and sometimes even not fit for human consumption as recently reported from the State of Kerala. The Committee strongly recommend that strict monitoring be adopted to maintain the quality and quantity of foodgrains under public distribution system (PDS) so that the purpose of this scheme *i.e.* to cater the poor masses is not defeated.

1.17 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated that quality of foodgrains (wheat and rice) is strictly monitored at the time of procurement, Storage and Distribution by the officers of FCI, State Government and Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs to ensure the supply of good quality of foodgrains to PDS/TPDS.

- (a) The foodgrains (wheat and rice) strictly conforming to PFA standards and free from insect infestation are issued to PDS.
- (b) The officers of the State Governments. Or their authorised representatives are allowed to check the quality of the foodgrains before lifting.
- (c) The quality of the foodgrains *i.e.* wheat and rice being distributed through PDS is regularly monitored by the officers of the State Government and also by the officers of the Quality Control Cell of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs.
- (d) Representative samples are issued to Fair Price Shops for display.
- (e) Instructions have been reiterated to FCI to issue good quality foodgrains conforming to PFA standards to different States for PDS.

1.18 The Ministry in their reply have stated that they regularly monitor the quality of foodgrains with the Officers of State Government and Officers of Quality Control Cell of the Ministry. But the Committee is surprised to note that despite the efforts made by them, the quality of foodgrains available under PDS is not upto the mark. While reiterating their earlier recommendation the Committee feel that vigilance machinery to check this menace should be strengthened and surprise checks by central team of high level officials should be made to maintain the quantity and quality of foodgrains under PDS. It should also invariably be ensured that the consumers must get good quality of foodgrains which is fit for human consumption under PDS to obviate omnibus complaints from the consumers.

Diversion of Subsidised Stock of Food

Recommendation (Para No. 2.46)

1.19 Committee observed that the subsidised stock of foodgrain meant for PDS etc. is diverted and made the following recommendation:—

“The Committee feel that there are chances that the subsidised stock of foodgrains which is meant for BPL population is diverted. In this regard, the Committee recommend that a proper system of monitoring should be introduced. Issue and circulation of Model Citizens’ Charter should be made mandatory for every State. It is also recommended that Vigilance Committees at FPS level, Taluka level and District level should be constituted. The Committee should have social workers and representatives of local MPs/MLAs/Panchayats as members. Consumers should be informed through visual/print media about the allocation and distribution of PDS items.”

1.20 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated:—

“The observations of the Standing Committee have been brought to the notice of States/UTs. The implementation of PDS is the joint responsibility of Central Government and the State Government/UT Administration. The responsibility for distribution of PDS commodities to the consumers through fair price shops and the administration of PDS rests with the State Governments/

UT Administrations. In order to ensure transparency and accountability States were requested to adopt Model Citizens' Charter. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and UTs of Delhi, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have adopted the Citizens' charter. Other States have been requested to initiate steps to adopt Citizens' Charter at the earliest. Instructions have already been issued to States/UTs to constitute Vigilance Committees at fair price shops, at taluk, district and State levels. This is supplemental to the administrative review done at various levels. States and UTs were requested to nominate social workers, representatives of local MPs/MLAs/Panchayats as members of Vigilance Committees at FPS level, taluk and district levels. Most States/UTs have reported constitution of Vigilance Committees.

The involvement of Gram Panchayats in the supervision and implementation of TPDS needs to be increased to ensure its proper coverage and make it more efficient. Guidelines for greater involvement of Gram Panchayats including provisions for transparency have been circulated to all the States/UTs."

1.21 the Committee are not happy with the casual reply of the Government. Subsidy of crores of rupees is involved to cater to the needs of the population below poverty line. It is the onus of the Central Government to see that subsidised PDS items which are meant for poor sections of the Society are not siphoned off for black marketing. The Committee reiterate that strict vigilance should be adopted by the Central Government in association with the officers of State Governments to closely monitor PDS at fair price shop and other levels to make arrangements for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent manner. Accountability should also be fixed in this regard.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 2.10)

Food Corporation of India (FCI) alongwith State Governments through their agencies undertake procurement of wheat, paddy and coarsegrains under price support schemes to maintain food security and to ensure remunerative price to the farmers. But sometimes it is noticed that due to shortage of sufficient number of purchase centres, the farmers are compelled for distress sale of their product. Though the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and bonus is announced well in advance there is need to give mass publicity to the announcement made by the Government in this regard. The traders and middlemen purchase the foodgrains at a rate lower than MSP and sell it on higher prices by creating artificial scarcity. Special efforts for ensuring proper price in regard to coarsegrains must also be taken. The Committee strongly recommend that keeping in view the bumper crop of foodgrains, sufficient number of procurement centres must be opened and mass publicity be given to benefit the farmers. The Committee further recommend that decentralised procurement should also be encouraged.

The Committee also recommend that arrangements should be made for the availability of sufficient quantity and specified quality/standard of jute bags so that the mission of procurement may not suffer for want of jute bags.

Reply of the Government

Recommendations of the Committee noted for compliance. It is relevant that sufficient number of purchase centres have been opened in the current Rabi Marketing, Season 1999-2000 and on all time record procurement of 141.17 lakh tonnes of wheat has been achieved upto 10-6-99.

Besides State Government of West Bengal, the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and UP have also started procuring wheat under decentralised procurement scheme in the current Rabi Marketing Season 1999-2000. The State Governments of Bihar and Orissa have not come up with any proposal for starting decentralised procurement. The progress in extending this system depends on the initiatives and willingness of the State Governments.

To ensure availability of sufficient quantity of jute bags, monthly meetings are taken with the officers of DGS&D, BIS, FCI, Railway Board, IJMA, Container Corporation of India as well as officers of State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, UP and MP to review the position of supply of Jute bags. As regards quality and standard of jute bags, inspections are conducted by DGS&D at the despatch end. A decision has also been taken on 28-5-99 that a joint inspection at the consignee's end will be conducted by the DGS&D and BIS to ensure that the jute bags are as per prescribed specifications and standards. Joint inspection programme for the month of June, 99 has been drawn in respect of State of Punjab, Haryana, UP and MP.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.30)

Storage is a necessary adjunct in agricultural marketing for Public Distribution System (PDS) and keeping buffer stock. Though storage capacity at the macro level is considered quite adequate, there is a great need to increase this capacity at micro level, especially in the deficient areas, hilly, rural farflung areas and RPDS blocks. The Committee recommend that storage capacity generation at micro/farm level should be encouraged to prevent the distress sale.

Reply of the Government

The creation of storage capacity at micro level is a continuous process considering the need for the PDS requirements and buffer stocks. FCI's construction programme depends upon the budgetary outlay. For the 9th Five Year Plan a physical target of 4.6 lakh tonnes has been proposed. In the year 1999-2000, FCI propose to construct 1.15 lakh tonnes of storage capacity with a financial outlay of Rs. 20 crores. The Board of Directors of FCI, while considering the 'Perspective Plan' for the remaining period of the 9th Plan, have decided that FCI should construct godowns at the most strategic locations, preferably on BG points and most deficient/hilly/rural areas where no other

agency intends to construct godowns. In addition to FCI, other agencies like CWC, SWCs etc. are also constructing warehouses at the micro level.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.31)

The Committee also recommend that Central and State Agencies like FCI, CWC, SWC, Research Institutes, etc. involved in storage and warehousing should work in close cooperation and coordination in developing modern storage infrastructure, including introduction of mechanisation, bulk handling systems, etc. Modern Scientific storage of foodgrains is the immediate need of the country. For this norms may be adopted in consultation with the IGMRI for the construction of godowns whether in the private sector or public sector. The available storage capacity should be optimally used so that the maximum profit is obtained.

Reply of the Government

FCI and CWC/SWCs work in close cooperation and coordination with regard to creation of storage capacity and also for developing modern storage facilities. Department of Food and Civil Supplies had also constituted a Steering Committee in August, 1997 to examine the question of "introduction of modern technology in handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains" with emphasis on bulk storage in India. The Committee submitted its report in February, 1998 which was accepted by the Government. One of the recommendations of the Committee viz. introduction of modern technology in handling and storage of foodgrains including introduction of integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains is also under consideration of a Task Force constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (F&CS) in May, 1998 for implementation of the recommendations of the Steering Committee.

FCI has a total storage capacity of 24.3 million tonnes with utilisation around 82% with stocks of 20 million tonnes as on 1.6.99. FCI ensures that its capacity utilisation is kept at the maximum optimum level at all times.

The IGMRI is undertaking various research activities in close collaboration with FCI, CWC, SWCs etc. for development of code of practices for scientific storage of foodgrains at commercial level. As

regard construction of godowns for storage of foodgrains, norms/standards for construction of conventional, godowns on scientific lines have already been developed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) (formerly ISI) in association with IGMRI, which are being adopted by FCI, CWC, SWCs etc. at the time of construction of the godowns.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.43)

The key stone in the PDS is the Fair Price Shop and the kingpins of the system is the Fair Price Shop dealers. The Committee recommend that desirable level of transparency should be maintained. The Committee are constrained to note that inferior quality of foodgrains is distributed under PDS and sometimes it is found that it is not even fit for human consumption. The Committee strongly recommend that quality specification for the foodgrains under PDFS/TPDS should be maintained so that the very purpose of PDS, i.e. to cater to the needs of poor is not defeated.

Reply of the Government

Quality of the foodgrains (wheat and rice) is strictly monitored at the time of procurement, storage and distribution by the officers of FCI, State Government and Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs to ensure the supply of good quality of foodgrains to PDS/TPDS. The following steps are taking for monitoring the quality of foodgrains at different level;

(I) Quality control of foodgrains at the time of procurement:

The quality of wheat, paddy and rice being procured by FCI and State agencies for central pool is monitored at the time of procurement and foodgrains are procured strictly conforming to Uniform Specifications prescribed by Government of India or to the relaxed specifications whenever such relaxations are accorded due to unseasonal rains and cyclones etc. Samples are drawn from Procurement Centres and sent to the Laboratories for analysis and immediate remedial measures are taken wherever the quality is found not conforming to laid down specifications.

(II) Quality control during storage:

The quality of the foodgrains is regularly monitored during storage and foodgrains are stored in scientific manner to ensure its quality. Regular prophylactic and curative measures are carried out in the godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests. Squad inspection by officers of the FCI as well as Ministry of Food are carried out to see that proper code of practices of scientific storage of foodgrains are adopted by the concerned depot staff. Samples of foodgrains are drawn time to time to check their physical quality.

(III) Quality Control at the time of distribution:

The foodgrains (wheat and rice) strictly conforming to PFA standards and free from insect infestation are issued to PDS. The officers of the State Governments or their authorised representatives are allowed to check the quality of the foodgrains before lifting. The quality of the foodgrains *i.e.* wheat and rice being distributed through PDS is regularly monitored by the officers of the State Government and also by the officers of the Quality Control Cell of the Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.47)

There were different estimates of the population below poverty line (BPL) given by various agencies. The Committee constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prof. (Late) Lakdawala worked out the number and percentage of BPL population for 1993-94 as 14.98 crores and 16.82% respectively. As per the expert group methodology this works out to be 32.02 crores and 35.99%. There are complaints that sizable number of actual population below poverty line has not been included in the list. In this regard the Committee recommends that all precautionary measures should be taken so that none of the eligible persons is deprived of the benefit of TPDS.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the Standing Committee have been brought to the notice of States/UTs. State Governments have been requested that all complaints received regarding non-inclusion in the

list of BPL population may be examined and precautionary measures may be taken so that the eligible families are not deprived of the benefits of TPDS within the BPL estimates of Planning Commission prescribed under the guidelines of the scheme.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.60)

BE for 1998-99 for consumer subsidy and carrying cost of buffer stock was Rs. 9000/- crore. In BE 1999-2000 an amount of Rs. 8200 crore has been proposed. Reduction in subsidy is due to increase in the Central Issue Price for APL beneficiaries from 29-1-99 and it is presumed that the distribution of foodgrains under TPDS will not materially be affected. The Committee are constrained to note that Government have very recently issued order to increase the price of wheat under PDS by Rs. 0.32 per kg. specifically at the time when the wheat is available in the market at the much lower price because of arrival of bumper Kharif Crop and the population above poverty line will prefer to buy the wheat from market. This will definitely affect the PDS offtake. Therefore, the Committee recommend that such decisions should be streamlined and increase in Central Issue Price if required be made in lean season only.

The Committee also recommend that all efforts should be made to reduce the burden on food subsidy by minimising the storage and transit shortages/losses.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated that Recommendations of the Committee noted.

As a matter of policy, Government has to increase the CIPs of foodgrains from time to time to neutralise the increase in the Minimum Support Prices of paddy and wheat. If the increase in the procurement costs are not passed on to consumers, the burden on the food subsidy budget of the Government would increase, by too much. Hence, with a view to neutralise the financial impact consequent upon the hikes in MSP and to contain the food subsidy budget to a manageable level, the CIPs of wheat and rice have been revised *w.e.f.* 29.1.99. However, the Government decided in view of widespread demands to roll back the CIPs of wheat and rice in respect of the BPL families to the levels these existed before 29-1-99 to spare the BPL families from any increase in the prices. This has resulted in a further increase in the food subsidy budget. Also the MSP of wheat underwent an increase from Rs. 510/- per qntl. (including bonus of Rs. 55/- per qntl.) to Rs. 550/- per qntl from 1-4-99. Therefore, in order to keep the food subsidy budget at a manageable level, the CIP of wheat for the

API families only has been revised *w.e.f.* 1-4-99. This is in line with the general approach that while subsidising the people below the poverty line, the APL population would have to pay a little more in order to continue the subsidies for the BPL population. Attempts will however be made to improve offtake.

Regarding Storage and Transit losses, the recommendations are noted and efforts are under way to minimise such losses.

To minimise the storage and transit storages/losses, the steps that have been taken are as under:—

- (i) Administrative measures such as tightening of security of depots, intensifying surprise checks at the loading unloading points ensuring regular stock verification etc.
- (ii) Installation of weighbridges in depots.
- (iii) Minimising multiple handling, transshipment and movement in open wagons.
- (iv) Induction of ICSF at vulnerable depots to curb theft and pilferage.
- (v) Adoption of 50 kg. packing in a phased manner and encouraging machine stitching of bags.
- (vi) Food Corporation of India has issued a set of instructions to control the operational transit losses prescribing a systematic approach to achieve transparency and accountability.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.66)

During the year 1997-98, wheat was imported to the tune of 17.72 lakh tonnes from Australia to meet the requirement. But it was noticed that shipment was received very late and after reaching the ports, it remained unloaded for a long time. In this regard Committee recommend that the import of wheat should be discouraged to save foreign exchange and farmers should be given incentives and other facilities so that they are enthused to produce more to gain self-sufficiency. The Committee also recommend that the MSP and bonus should be announced well in advance and the farmers should be informed in this regard through wide publicity, so that they are enthused to produce more wheat. The Committee were also concerned about the inferior quality of imported wheat and recommend that if the circumstances compel the import of wheat, the quality specification should be strictly maintained.

The Committee also stress that the Department of Food and Civil Supplies in consultation with Ministry of Commerce should formulate a long term export-import policy for foodgrains which can facilitate production of export quality foodgrains so that India can continue to have a presence in International Market.

Reply of the Government

Government constantly reviews the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool *vis-a-vis* the prescribed minimum buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for the Public Distribution System/Other Welfare Schemes, open market prices etc. and decision to import foodgrains is taken depending on the overall situation. Import of foodgrains is resorted to only when it is absolutely necessary in order to augment availability in the country to bridge the gap arising out of shortfall in production and to contain open market prices etc.

During 1997-98, Government decided to import 2 million tonnes of wheat. In pursuance of the said decision, the State Trading Corporation of India executed contracts for import of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia as per details given below:

Country	Date of contract	Contracted qty. (in lakh MT)	Shipment schedule	Qty. recd. (in lakh MTs)
Australia	26.2.97	2.50 (+5%)	Aug.-Sept. 97	2.43
	26.2.97	7.50 (+5%)	Dec.-Jan. 98	7.75

Against the contract executed on 26.2.97 a total of 10.18 lakh MTs of wheat was received in India (2.43 lakh MTs arrived in India by Oct. 97 and 7.75 lakh MTs arrived by Feb. 98)

In addition to the above, a quantity of 4.40 lakh MTs of wheat was also received in India during 1997-98 against the contract signed by STC with Australian Wheat Board (AWB) in 1996-97. The Shipment schedule for this contract was from April 97 to March 98.

As may be seen from the above there was not much delay in the arrival of imported consignments in India. Marginal time overruns are normal in bulk imports of any commodity from distant overseas sources. It may also be mentioned that the slight delay in arrival of some wheat consignments in India did not in anyway adversely affect the Public Distribution System/other welfare schemes of the Government. It is also not correct to say that the wheat-laden vessels on arrival at the Indian Ports were not unloaded for a long time.

The Government announces each season the minimum support price (MSP) for major agricultural commodities including wheat. All efforts are made to announce Minimum Support Prices before the sowing season. The Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government are given wide publicity through Press, TV etc. Ministry of Agriculture intimates the MSP to concerned Central Ministries/Departments and the State Governments.

The quality of imported foodgrains is monitored at the time of unloading the foodgrains at Indian Ports. Joint ship inspection of foodgrains is carried out by the officers of Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, Dte. of Plant Protection Storage & Quarantine and local Health authorities. Samples of imported foodgrains are also drawn at the time of unloading the ship and are analysed in the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL) to ensure that the consignment is strictly conforming to the contractual specifications. Tests conducted on imported wheat stocks have confirmed that they conform to the quality specifications under the PFA Act, Plant, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Imports into India) Order, 1989 and to the contractual specifications and is fit for human consumption. The recommendation of the Committee that if circumstances compel the Government to import wheat, quality specification should be strictly maintained, will be observed in future also.

Export-Import (EXIM) Policy in respect of various items including foodgrains is decided by the Ministry of Commerce. The Policy in respect of foodgrains is decided by that Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Food and Civil Supplies). The Ministry of Commerce had moved a note on 'Evolving a Stable Policy of Agricultural Exports' on 6.5.99 for consideration of the CCP. The note was considered in the CCP meeting held on 18.5.99 and it was decided to allow the export of one million tonnes of wheat and wheat products without any quantitative ceiling for the year 1999-2000. Further the export of rice (both basmati and non-basmati) are already permitted freely subject to registration of contracts with APEDA.

The recommendation of the Committee regarding increase in production to gain self-sufficiency has been referred to the Ministry of Agriculture for necessary action.

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Para No. 2.32)

Authentic data regarding storage losses of foodgrains at National level is not maintained by Government. The Committee recommend that a National Level Project on assessment of storage losses in foodgrains should be initiated, which will be helpful in planning further strategies for safe storage thereby minimising the grain losses.

Reply of the Government

A National survey for assessment of post harvest losses in wheat occurring at different stages of Post Harvest Operations *viz.* harvesting, threshing, transportation and storage has been initiated by Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur (U.P.) and its field stations situated at Ludhiana (Punjab), Jabalpur (M.P.) and Udaipur (Rajasthan) from Rabi Marketing Season 1998-99. The study is conducted over a period covering two wheat seasons. The first phase of the study for the year 1998-99 has been completed and the second phase of the study is under progress. After the completion of the survey conducted by IGMRI, a clear picture about the losses in wheat at different levels will emerge which will be helpful in planning further strategies for scientific storage of foodgrains with a view to minimise post harvest grain losses.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.49)

Under this scheme the Centre provides financial assistance to the extent of 50% loan and 50% subsidy. The element of grant is inadequate for special category States which receive Central assistance as 90% grant and 10% loan. The Committee recommend that for special category States the funding should invariably be increased to the tune of 90% grant and 10% as loan. The Committee also recommends that scope of funding under the scheme for purchase of mobile vans/

trucks should be extended to cover the replacement of obsolete vehicles under certain specified guidelines.

Reply of the Government

The scope of centrally sponsored scheme for purchase of mobile vans/trucks has been extended for replacing of obsolete vehicles w.e.f. 1998-99. Suitable guidelines have already been issued to States/UTs.

Regarding the increase of the element of subsidy from 50% to 90% for special category States it is stated that a similar recommendation was made by the Steering Committee set up by the Planning Commission on Civil Supplies - Public Distribution System for formulation of 9th Plan 1997-2002 which was referred to the Planning Commission. It was not agreed to by the Planning Commission. However, the recommendation has been sent to Planning Commission for reconsideration.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.53)

The Committee was astonished to note that wheat worth crores of rupees, which was supplied by FCI under the open market selling scheme (domestic) to reduce the prices of wheat all over the country, was siphoned off to exporters. About 6 lakh MT of wheat was exported by Private persons at a time when the domestic market was over stretched in wheat supply and Government had to import wheat from Canada and Australia. The Committee strongly recommend that monitoring mechanism of FCI should be strengthened in respect of open market sale and accountability in respect of conducting unfair business should be fixed to recover the losses.

Reply of the Government

Open sale of wheat is undertaken by Government through FCI as and when considered necessary in order to exert healthy influence on the open market prices of wheat without jeopardising Public Distribution System with the objectives of releasing needed space for ensuing procurement season, to reduce carrying cost of stocks with FCI, and to reduce to some extent, the burden of food subsidy. During the year 1996-97 with the prior approval of Cabinet Committee on Eco. Affairs, FCI was authorised to sell 55 lakh M.Ts of wheat under OMSS(D) of wheat at a price above Central Issue price and below the economic cost. Against this authorisation, only a qty. of 41.65 M.T. could be sold. There were some allegations on the part of traders and the Government machinery involved and appropriate action was taken against the defaulters.

A number of precautions were incorporated in the guidelines on 26.8.1996 to minimise sale to fake parties, diversion from domestic use to export. FCI was also directed to take undertaking from the buyers that the wheat lifted under the OMSS(D) of wheat would be utilised for domestic purpose only. The involvement of the State Governments was also envisaged to keep a watch on the allottees of open sale.

To avoid such happenings again, wheat was allotted to the State Governments with the instructions dated 21.12.1996 that in turn Distt. Collectors would release wheat to the allottees. During the period Jan.—March, 1998 open sale of wheat was undertaken at the pre-determined rate of Rs. 650/- per qtl. as market intervention measure. The State Government were directed to release wheat through Co-op. Societies, Apna Bazars, Super Bazars, RFMs and State nominated agencies. Since 18th November, 1998, open sale of wheat is being undertaken through State Governments/U.T. Administrations as they have the machinery to check any irregularity that may occur in implementing the scheme.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.13)

India has tremendously increased its foodgrain production through the Plans which aimed at attaining self-sufficiency in foodgrains. But considerable losses in quantity and quality take place due to insects, rodents, moisture, fungus and birds. The Committee strongly recommend that greater attention is to be given for preparing a long term food policy by the Government to avoid losses in foodgrains in this way. Multi media publicity in all the regional languages with emphasis on visual media to make the farmers increasingly aware of the importance of saving the grain during storage should be given. R and D efforts of various agencies involved in the development of post harvest technologies should be strengthened and the gap in our technologies in comparison to international standards should be identified and addressed. Measures for intensification of R and D, developing cost-effective technologies and also for meeting international standards should be adopted to check the loss of grains.

Reply of the Government

The 17 field offices under the Save Grain Campaign (SGC) scheme are engaged in transfer of Post Harvest Technology of foodgrains, including various codes of practices for farm level handling and storage

of foodgrains developed by Indian Grain Storage Management and Research (IGMRI). The major plank of this scheme is training, demonstration and publicity in selected villages with a view to educate, motivate and persuade the farmers to adopt recommended practices of scientific storage of foodgrains. Technical literature about the simple methods of scientific storage of foodgrains is printed in different regional languages for distribution amongst farmers in the villages. 388 Radio and 60 television talks in different regional languages were given by the experts of the SGC. 1254 Films/slide shows and 823 exhibitions to make farmers aware about the importance of saving the grain during storage were organised during 1998-99. Publicity has also been done through Shatabadi Express Train Ticket Jacket in April-May, 1999. The same is to be continued during this financial year also.

The ultimate aim of SGC is to help in reduction of avoidable losses in foodgrains during post harvest handling so as to make available more foodgrains for human consumption. The Department is considering for making IGMRI a Centre of Excellence with a view to strengthen its R&D activities through the following measures.

- (i) Upgradation of ongoing training programmes.
- (ii) Enough interaction and linkage with Natural Resource Institute (NRI), UK.
- (iii) Upgradation of laboratory, training, library and hostel facilities.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.14)

Save Grain Campaign offices are engaged in developing the nucleus villages. For developing the nucleus villages, assistance for purchasing the metal bins @ Rs. 5,000/- is provided to the farmers for this activity. But the Committee are astonished to note that in the BE 1999-2000, there is no proposal for allocation of funds for providing metal bins etc. to farmers. The Committee strongly recommend that the scheme to supply metal bins, to farmers should not be abandoned for want of funds. The Committee also recommend that the metal bins should be supplied directly to farmers to improve the storage practices at farm level at which a major portion of the foodgrains produced is retained for food, feed and seed purposes.

Reply of the Government

An amount of Rs. 40.00 lakhs (Rupees forty lakhs only) has been allocated during the year 1999-2000 for developing 400 Nucleus villages. For development of each Nucleus village, the amount of incentive has been increased from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- per village during the

month of May, 1999. An incentive of Rs. 400/- is being provided to each farmer for the purchase of metal bins or construction of non-metallic storage structures or for improvement of the existing storage structures. All these aim at creating adequate farm level storage capacity progressively for safe storage of grains. This programme is likely to continue during 9th Five Year Plan.

As per terms and conditions of loan provided to the State Government during 8th Plan for fabrication and sale of metal bins to farmers, the State were supposed to repay the principal amount with interest thereon in five equal annual instalments and the interest paid by them were to be released back in the form of subsidy. Since the State Governments have failed to repay their instalments timely and the matter is pending since last two years no provision was kept under B.E. 1999-2000 for this purpose.

Recommendation (Para No. 4.13)

In a tropical country like ours, where due to great diversity in agro-climatic conditions, a variety of sub-tropical and tropical fruits and vegetables are grown, the importance of cold storage industry need not be over-emphasised. Recently the country witnessed an unusual shortage and unprecedented price rise in regard to potatoes and onions. The Committee recommend that CWC should come forward with the latest technology of installing cooling coil, air cooling, etc. and cold storage facilities in the areas having the potential to grow and consume the perishable items.

The Committee recommend that CWC should coordinate with FCI, SWC, Research Institutes to speed up the efforts in providing storage infrastructure to meet the present and future requirement of both perishable and non-perishable food articles, specifically essential commodities.

Reply of the Government

The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has already decided, in principle, for bringing up a pilot project in the State of Punjab where an Atmospheric Controlled Storage Infrastructure with latest technology would be brought up to store agricultural/horticultural produce.

Further action will be taken by CWC based on the experience of this pilot project.

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

Recommendation (Para No. 2.33)

The Committee is constrained to note that a quantity of 11.60 lakh MT of foodgrains and about lakh of tonnes of sugar are lying in FCI godowns for more than two years. The foodgrains thus lying become unfit for human consumption and besides creating scarcity in storage capacity for fresh crop. The Committee have been time and again emphasising the Government to clear old accumulated stock of foodgrains and sugar but the Government have not so far come forward with any action in this regard. The Committee, therefore, again strongly recommend that every effort should be made to clear the old stock and the principle of FIFO (First in-First out) should be strictly adhered to promptly. There should be a clear policy regarding the disposal of stocks which are older than two years. These should preferably be disposed of through auction.

Reply of the Government

Although, under Public Distribution System foodgrains are issued by FCI on the principle of First-in-first out yet old foodgrains get accumulated when the State Governments are reluctant to lift these stocks under PDS and other welfare schemes because of their unrepresentable appearance. Sometimes, labour unrest and non availability of covered storage also lead to deterioration of stocks and hence their accumulation. The stocks of rice purchased under relaxed specifications during the crop year 1997-98 had to be issued on overriding priority which had retarded the issue of old stocks of rice.

With a view to clear old stocks of A,B & C category rice, FCI was also instructed to allot these stocks to those consuming States which demand additional allocations beyond TPDS at APL rates. In case, this

attempt does not meet with the required success, the stocks may be offered to the trade through Public tender with floor price fixed at current APL issue price on 'As is where is basis.'

FCI is empowered to dispose of D category more than 2 years old rice which meet PFA standard provided the reserve price of such stock is not below the APL issue price. With the increase in APL price of rice to Rs. 905/- per quintal FCI had to stop the sale of Category 'D' more than two years old rice @ Rs. 730 per quintal. As the off take of rice even at Rs. 730/- per quintal was not very large, tenders were invited by SRMs for a quantity of 1.77 lakh tonnes of these stocks region-wise. As the rates offered by tenderers were below APL rates, the matter was taken up with the Min. of Finance and approval was granted to dispose off 1.77 lakhs MTs. of more than 2 years old category 'D' rice by accepting all the tenders received and opened by the SRMs on 11.3.1999.

The High Level Committee of FCI also meets from time to time to review the progress of disposal of old stocks of wheat and rice and also decides the mode of disposal of such stocks.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.9 of Chapter I.)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.34)

Storage facilities at block micro level are found to be inadequate. The dependency of hired godowns is in vogue in spite of liberal financial assistance by the increase in subsidy component from 25% to 50%. The Committee is constrained to note that when there is an acute shortage throughout the country, the allocation under this head has not been enhanced in BE for the year 1999-2000. The Committee feel serious concern and strongly recommends that provision to construct more godowns should be made and proposal received from remote/hilly/non-traditional States be promptly attended to and the matter of submitting of utilisation certificate and surrender of funds, not utilised for the purpose, should be taken up with the concerned State Governments. They should be asked to utilise the funds meant for the construction of godowns to avoid storage shortages for foodgrains in future; if need be strict guidelines be issued to State Governments in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the Committee have been brought to the notice of States/UTs. During 1998-99 the scope of the schemes has been liberalised to cover not only the areas covered under the erstwhile RPDS but also all such areas where the need for such facility exists. Attention of the State Governments has been drawn to the need for submission of the utilisation certificates of past assistance. Funds under the scheme are released only after getting Utilisation Certificates of past assistance.

A recommendation for enhancing the allocation for the scheme was made by the Committee earlier which was brought to the notice of the Planning Commission. Planning Commission have revised 9th Plan outlay to the level of Rs. 12.50 crores per annum beginning 1997-98 as against the level of Rs. 7.50 crores during 1996-97 in the 8th plan period.

The present allocation at the level of Rs. 12.50 crores is sufficient considering the absorption capacity of the State Governments with regard to completion of construction of the godowns already sanctioned to them.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.12 of Chapter I.)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.44)

Under TPDS 10 kg of rice or wheat is to be issued at specially subsidised prices to the population Below Poverty Line. The Committee feel that the 10 kg of foodgrains per month per family is inadequate to cater to the monthly need of BPL families. In this regard the Committee are of the view that as the production of foodgrains is sufficient and financial implication can be met by reducing the transit storage losses, the monthly allocation for TPDS must be increased to 15 kg if 20 kg is not possible.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Standing Committee has been noted. A proposal to issue additional 5 kg of wheat per family per month at BPL rates to the poor families is under consideration of the Government in view of the surplus stocks of wheat.

Comment of the Committee

(Please see 1.15 of Chapter I.)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.45)

Targeted public distribution system is meant to cover the entire population falling below the poverty line. However, in many States off take is very low and sufficient quantity is not reaching the targeted beneficiaries. Whereas in the State where distribution is done, the quality of foodgrains is not upto the mark and sometimes even not fit for human consumption as recently reported from the State of Kerala. The Committee strongly recommended that strict monitoring be adopted to maintain the quality and quantity of foodgrains under public distribution system (PDS) so that the purpose of this scheme *i.e.* to cater the poor masses is not defeated.

Reply of the Government

Quality of the foodgrains (wheat and rice) is strictly monitored at the time of procurement, storage and distribution by the officers of FCI, State Govt. and Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs to ensure the supply of good quality of foodgrains to PDS/TPDS.

- (a) The foodgrains (wheat and rice) strictly conforming to PFA standards and free from insect infestation are issued to PDS.
- (b) The officers of the State Govts. Or their authorised representatives are allowed to check the quality of the foodgrains before lifting.
- (c) The quality of the foodgrains *i.e.* wheat and rice being distributed through PDS is regularly monitored by the officers of the State Govt. and also by the officers of the Quality Control Cell of the Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs.
- (d) Representative samples are issued to Fair Price Shops for display.
- (e) Instructions have been reiterated to FCI to issue good quality foodgrains conforming to PFA standards to different States for PDS.

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.18 of Chapter I.)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.46)

The Committee feel that there are chances that the subsidised stock of foodgrains which is meant for BPL population is diverted. In this regard, the Committee recommend that a proper system of monitoring should be introduced. Issue and circulation of Model Citizens' Charter should be made mandatory for every State. It is also recommended that Vigilance Committees at FPS level, Taluka level and District level should be constituted. The Committee should have social workers and representatives of local MPs/MLAs/Panchayats as members. Consumers should be informed through visual/print media about the allocation and distribution of PDS items.

Reply of the Government

The observations of the Standing Committee have been brought to the notice of States/UTs. The implementation of PDS is the joint responsibility of Central Government and the State Government/UT Administration. The responsibility for distribution of PDS commodities to the consumers through fair price shops and the administration of PDS rests with the State Govts./UT Administrations. In order to ensure transparency and accountability States were requested to adopt Model Citizens' Charter. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and UTs of Delhi, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have adopted the Citizens' Charter. Other States have been requested to initiate steps to adopt Citizens' Charter at the earliest. Instructions have already been issued to States/UTs to constitute Vigilance Committees at fair price shops, at taluk, district and State levels. This is supplemental to the administrative review done at various levels. States and UTs were requested to nominate social workers, representatives of local MPs/MLAs/Panchayats as members of Vigilance Committee at FPS level, taluk and district levels. Most States/UTs have reported constitution of Vigilance Committees.

The involvement of Gram Panchayats in the supervision and implementation of TPDS needs to be increased to ensure its proper coverage and make it more efficient. Guidelines for greater involvement of Gram Panchayats including provisions for transparency have been circulated to all the States/UTs.

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.21 of Chapter I.)

The text in this section is extremely faint and largely illegible. It appears to be a detailed commentary or report, but the specific content cannot be accurately transcribed due to the low contrast and blurriness of the scan. The text seems to discuss the implementation of the TPDS and the role of Gram Panchayats, consistent with the preceding paragraph.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF
WHICH REPLY OF GOVERNMENT IS STILL AWAITED

—Nil—

NEW DELHI;
24 February, 2000
5 Phalguna, 1921 (Saka)

DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Food,
Civil Supplies and Public Distribution.

APPENDIX I

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION HELD
ON MONDAY THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 2000**

The Committee sat from 11.40 to 12.40 hours.

PRESENT

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Prof S.P. Singh Baghel
3. Shri Shyamlal Bansiwala
4. Shri Namdeorao Harbaji Diwathe
5. Shri Abdul Hamid
6. Shri Jai Prakash
7. Shrimati Preneet Kaur
8. Shri Brijlal Khabri
9. Shri Aditya Nath
10. Shri Laxmanrao Patil
11. Shri Bajju Ban Riyan
12. Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen
13. Shri Ram Naresh Tripathy

Rajya Sabha

14. Shri Sushil Barongpa
15. Shri Abdul Gaiyur Qureshi
16. Shri Lajpat Rai

APPENDIX II
(Vide Introduction of the Report)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE NINTH REPORT OF
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (TWELFTH LOK SABHA)**

(i) Total Number of Recommendations	18
(ii) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government.	
Para Nos. 2.10, 2.30, 2.31, 2.43, 2.47, 2.60 and 2.66	
Total	7
Percentage	39%
(iii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply.	
Para Nos. 2.32, 2.49, 2.53, 3.13, 3.14 and 4.13	
Total	6
Percentage	33%
(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee.	
Para Nos. 2.33, 2.34, 2.44, 2.45 and 2.46	
Total	5
Percentage	28%
(v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final reply of the Government are still awaited.	
Para Nos.	Nil
Total	Nil
Percentage	Nil