



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2015-2016)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/

**Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the
Standing Committee on Agriculture (2014-2015)}**

TWENTIETH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December 2015/Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

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(2015-2016)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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

'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2015-16)'

**(Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations
contained in the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing
Committee on Agriculture (2014-2015))**

Presented to Lok Sabha on : 16.12.2015
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on : 16.12.2015



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December 2015/Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2015-16)**

Shri Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath Gaikwad
3. Prof. Richard Hay
4. Shri Sanganna Karadi
5. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
6. Md. Badaruddoza Khan
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SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Shri U.B.S. Negi | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Arun K. Kaushik | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Sumesh Kumar | - | Under Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twentieth Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2014-15) on 'Demands For Grants (2015-16)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

2. The Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2014-15) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 27 April, 2015. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 13 July, 2015.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 10.12.2015.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix**.

NEW DELHI;

14 December, 2015

23 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

HUKM DEO NARAYAN YADAV

Chairperson,

Standing Committee on Agriculture

(v)

CHAPTER-I REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2014-2015) on 'Demands for Grants' (2015-16) pertaining to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 27.04.2015.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 23 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These replies have been categorized as under:

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

Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22 and 23

**Total 18
Chapter - II**

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

Recommendation No. 5

**Total 01
Chapter - III**

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

Recommendation Nos. 9 and 16

**Total 02
Chapter - IV**

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

Recommendation Nos. 18 and 19

**Total 02
Chapter - V**

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

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

A. FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES

Recommendation (Serial No. 4)

1.5 The Committee had observed/ recommended as under:-

"The Committee noted that adequate supervision and availability of up to date information is *sine qua non* for effective utilisation of available resources and to ensure that pilferage of money does not take place. However, the Committee were informed that the DARE did not have details of cases of financial irregularities reported in the institutes of ICAR. The Committee do not find logic in assertion of the DARE that compilation of details will take time as more than 100 institutes under ICAR are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the country. Availability of information regarding every aspect of financial management is a pre-requisite for effective monitoring system. The Committee had, therefore, recommended the Department to incorporate necessary changes in Information Management System for reporting every case of financial irregularity in the institutes of ICAR on real time basis. At the same time, the Committee desired the Department to make available details

of financial irregularities and action taken thereon within three months of presentation of this report."

1.6 The Department in the Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"As per ICAR Rules & Bye-laws, disciplinary authority in respect of officials up to the level of Group-B is Director of the institute. Therefore, financial irregularity noted, if any, is investigated / decided at institute level only. Vigilance Division of the ICAR deals with vigilance / disciplinary cases of Group A level officers whose disciplinary / appellate authority is Secretary/DG/President, ICAR. However, Vigilance Division has obtained information relating to cases of financial irregularities reported in the institutes of ICAR during the year 2014-15, and compiled statement showing ongoing cases of financial irregularities being processed in Vigilance Division including cases where penalty has been imposed during 2014-15 is enclosed (Annexure-I).

Further, in respect of Vigilance / Disciplinary cases at ICAR Hqrs. for which Disciplinary Authority is Secretary / DG/ President of ICAR and all the cases are recorded in a software named VOICE (Vigilance Online Integrated Complaint & Enquiry). It generates statement on real time basis of each case of financial irregularity. This software can monitor the progress of each case resulting in expeditious finalization of Vigilance / Disciplinary cases."

1.7 Showing displeasure over unavailability of information regarding financial irregularities with the Department, the Committee had recommended the Department to incorporate necessary changes in Information Management System for reporting every case of financial irregularity in the institutes of ICAR on real time basis. The Department in its Action Taken Reply has furnished a statement showing ongoing cases of financial irregularities being processed in Vigilance Division including cases where penalty has been imposed during 2014-15. The Department has also informed that they are maintaining records of all vigilance /disciplinary cases for which Disciplinary Authority is Secretary / DG/ President of ICAR in a software named VOICE

(Vigilance Online Integrated Complaint & Enquiry) which generates statement on real time basis of each case of financial irregularity. This software can monitor the progress of each case resulting in expeditious finalization of Vigilance / Disciplinary cases. The Committee appreciate the use of Information technology for the compilation of information related to vigilance cases in ICAR. However, the Committee are of view that the same software can be employed for maintenance of all other vigilance cases in respect of officials up to the level of Group-B for which disciplinary authority is Director of the institute as it will help the Department to keep a tab on cases of financial irregularity and take corrective steps in a time bound manner. The Committee, therefore, recommend that VOICE software may also be utilised to maintain the records of vigilance cases of Group 'B' Officials ensuring disposal of all vigilance/ disciplinary cases in a time bound manner. The Committee would like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard.

B. HORTICULTURE SCIENCE

Recommendation (Serial No. 9)

1.8 The Committee had observed/ recommended as under:-

"The Committee found that Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR), Bengaluru had developed many post harvest technologies such as Reverse Osmosis i.e. Osmotic Dehydration Technologies for fruits and vegetables, for enhancing longevity of raw fruits and vegetables, Crushed Tomato Technology, Dry flower technology, technology Ready to Serve Beverages for Amla, Mango & Pineapple etc. The Committee were of the view that such technologies provide immense potential for commercialization and enhancement of income of farmers. The Committee had noted that the IIHR has earned revenue of Rs 11.58 Lakh as one time up front license fee from licensing of Post-Harvest Technologies to 14 private organizations. However, the Committee observed that most of these private firms were situated in southern and western part of the country. The IIHR is yet to tap the market available in other parts of the country where huge potential for

commercialization of these technologies exist. The Committee also observed that the Institution is yet to transfer these technologies to farmers or Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) despite their willingness for licensing some of these technologies at much lower price than to other private licensees. The Committee were of the considered opinion that proper marketing of post harvest technologies are not only important from the point of revenue generation but also for providing alternate avenues to farmers of the country so that they can get remunerative pricing for their products. The Committee, therefore recommended the DARE to take effective steps for proper marketing of these technologies and organize organic Melas, exhibition & fairs so as to tap potential market of the entire country besides reducing post harvest losses. The Committee also liked the DARE to provide adequate incentives and training to farmers so that they can be encouraged to start agri- ventures and develop agri-business on their own based on these technologies."

1.9 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"Due to logistic and other limitations, some of the important technologies developed at ICAR-IIHR could not be effectively transferred to far off places in the country. But efforts will be intensified to transfer these potential technologies to end users through Zonal Project Directors of the Council, State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)."

1.10 Keeping in view the potential for commercialization and enhancement of income of farmers through post harvest technologies developed by IIHR, the Committee had recommended the DARE to take effective steps for proper marketing of these technologies and organize organic Melas, exhibitions and fairs so as to tap potential market of the entire country besides reducing post harvest losses. The Committee had also desired the DARE to provide adequate incentives and training to farmers so that they can be encouraged to start agri- ventures and develop agri-business on their own based on these technologies. Though the Department in its Action Taken Reply has assured the Committee that efforts will be intensified to transfer these potential

technologies to end users through Zonal Project Directors of the Council, State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), it has failed to put up any concrete plan to achieve these aims. The Committee also observe that Department is silent on the issue of provision of providing incentive and training to the farmers which are necessary for encouraging them to develop agri-business based on these technologies. The Committee are of view that unless there is some concrete plan for proper utilization of research, findings, there are little chances in improvement of economic conditions of farmers in the country. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to prepare a concrete plan for effective marketing of post harvest technologies developed by the IHR and to educate, train and incentivize farmers to start agri-business units based on these technologies.

C. LAND RESOURCE INVENTORY

Recommendation (Serial No. 12)

1.11 The Committee had observed/ recommended as under:-

"The Committee had noted that National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (ICAR), Nagpur has undertaken a Country level project on "Land resource Inventory on 1:10,000 scale for agricultural land use planning using geo-spatial techniques" in collaboration with NRSC, ISRO. The Committee were informed that preparation of the inventory will help to enhance agricultural productivity per unit area through efficient utilization of land resources besides other interventions. They had noted that project will be undertaken in phased manner by ICAR-NBSSFLUP in the first phase, 60 blocks each representing 60 agro-ecological sub-regions of the Country covering approximately 3.3 Mha area in four years duration will be covered. However, the Committee were not apprised of any details regarding timelines for coverage of all blocks of the country. The Committee had also noted that allocations of Rs. 3.15 crore were made available for implementation of the project during 2014-16. The Committee were of view that preparation of Land resource Inventory of entire country will be a great tool in the hand of planners for optimizing agricultural output and ensuring food security for the

future generations of the country. The Committee, therefore, desired the Department to submit a detailed plan for coverage of entire country under the project and that adequate finances be made available to the project in the future. At the same time, the DARE should ensure timely completion of first phase of the Project under intimation to the Committee."

1.12 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"In the first phase (2014-2018), the NBSSLUP is developing land resource inventory of 60 blocks each representing an Agro-Ecological Sub-Region (AESR) of the country. These will serve as a model for 60 AESRs of the country. In order to generate such information for whole country, it will be appropriate to take up such huge activities in collaboration with State Governments involving concerned state organizations, meeting out the cost and utilizing State resources (infrastructural facilities including manpower). Accordingly, MoUs have been signed with states like Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat and Meghalaya. Efforts are being made with other state governments as well."

1.13 Keeping in view the utility of proposed Land resource Inventory on 1:10,000 scale for agricultural land use planning using geo-spatial techniques by the National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (ICAR), Nagpur in collaboration with NRSC and ISRO, the Committee had desired the Department to submit a detailed plan for coverage of entire country under the project, to make adequate finances available to the project in the future and to ensure timely completion of first phase of the Project. The Department in its Action Taken Reply apart from stating coverage of 60 Blocks each representing an Agro-Ecological Sub-Region (AESR) of the country during 2014-2018 have informed the Committee that help of State Governments is required to meet the cost and utilizing State resources such as infrastructural facilities including manpower in order to generate such information for whole country. Accordingly, MoUs have been signed with States like Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat and Meghalaya and efforts are being made with other State governments as well. The Committee appreciate the efforts of DARE to involve

State Governments in this ambitious project which will go a long way to generate information on Land inventories which is foundation for formulating a sound plan for the development of the country. The Committee desire the Department to complete first phase of Land Resource inventory within the time frame of 2014-2018 besides, encouraging remaining States to involve them for preparation of Land resource inventory for the entire country.

D. ANIMAL SCIENCE

Recommendation (Serial No. 13)

1.14 The Committee had observed/ recommended as under:-

"Livestock is the economic security of the farmers and their management plays a vital role in this agrarian country. The Committee had noted that there are 19 animal research institutes, 2 deemed universities, 8 national/ Central Research Institutes, 1 National Bureau, 1 project Directorate and 6 Notional Research Centre to improve productivity, production and reproductive efficiency in livestock and poultry. The Committee further noted that only Rs. 955 cr. i.e. 61.89% (BE) of allocations were made for the first four year(s) as against on earmarked outlays of Rs. 1543.00 crore for XIIth Plan under the head of Animal Science. Funds have been further reduced at RE stage. The Committee also noted that drastic reduction of Rs. 70 crore i.e. about 30.40% at RE stage were made during 2014-15 from Rs. 230 crore to Rs.160 crore. The Committee were astonished to note that allocation to Central Institute for Research on Cattle, Meerut, have been reduced from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 1.5 crore at RE stage pending decision to develop the campus of CIRC at Karnal or at Meerut. Similarly, allocations to Central Avian Research Institute, Izzatnagar, have been reduced from Rs. 9 crore (BE) to Rs. 3 crore at RE stage as funds allocated under capital head were reduced from Rs. 4.60 crore to Rs. 0.45 crores. The Committee were of view that management and improvement of livestock is one of thrust area of Agriculture in the Country and in their earlier reports too, the Committee have time and again emphasized for higher allocation as well as proper utilisation of funds under this head so that priority research of this division do not suffer. The

Committee were also unhappy about the indecisiveness of the DARE to decide on the issue of determining the location of research institute. The Committee desired the DARE to make proper assessment based on objective criteria and expedite decision with respect to developing campus of CIRC at Karnal or Meerut, so that scientists are able to focus on research rather than mundane issues. While dealing with perennial problem of reduced BE allocations to the Department thereby afflicting the planning process, the Committee desired the DARE to enhance the allocations of the division at RE stage so that research programmes plan for XIIth plan are completed timely and do not suffer for want of funds."

1.15 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"Reduction in fund allocation for Animal Science Division at RE stage was necessitated due to overall reduction in allocation to the department at RE/BE stages. Accordingly, fund allocation to CIRC, Meerut as well as CARI, Izatnagar was also reduced under the Capital Head. Further, this un-proportionate cut in the capital head was reasonable as the works to be undertaken by these two institutions were new and were approved only in the second half of 2014-15. Besides, the on-going works of other schemes were to be given priority for completion.

As regards development of campus of CIRC in the XII Plan, 100 acres of land has been allocated at Karnal within NDRI premises. However, in order to strengthen the already established component of the Institute at Meerut, efforts are being made by the ICAR for additional allocation of 75 acres of land for 99 years on lease from Military Dairy Farm Authorities (Ministry of Defence) as well as extension of existing lease of allocated land from 30 to 99 years. If 75 acres of land is allocated by Military Dairy Farm, Meerut, it will be used to develop indigenous cattle breed livestock farm and its associated research and development activities for their improvement and conservation."

1.16 The Committee are distressed to note that despite their recommendation regarding enhancement of allocation to Animal Science Division keeping in view of importance of research on livestock for the benefit of farmers, the

Department has not taken any steps to enhance the allocations of the Division so that research programmes of Animal Science division for XIIth plan are completed timely and do not suffer for want of funds. On the issue of development of campus of CIRC in the XII Plan, the Department has stated that 100 acres of land has been allocated at Karnal within NDRI premises. Further, according to the Department efforts are being made for additional allocation of 75 acres of land for 99 years on lease from Military Dairy Farm Authorities (Ministry of Defence) as well as extension of existing lease of allocated land from 30 to 99 years which will be used to develop indigenous cattle breed livestock farm and its associated research and development activities for their improvement and conservation. However, the Department has not furnished any information regarding allocation of specific funds for the development of CIRC campus. The Committee are of view that there is imperative need to expedite the process of development of campus of CIRC. Further, specific funds also needs to be allocated for the purpose so that project does not suffer for want of funds. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take effective steps for time bound completion of campus at NDRI, Karnal. The Committee also reiterate their earlier recommendation regarding enhancement of allocations to Animal Science Division ensuring timely completion of research programmes undertaken during 12th plan.

E. KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA

Recommendation (Serial No. 16)

1.17 The Committee had observed/ recommended as under:-

"The Committee had noted that KVKs were not being provided necessary infrastructure and manpower for achieving the aim of extension services for farmers of the country. The Committee were apprised that performance of the KVKs was not up to the mark due to lack of manpower and lack of funds due to budget cut. The Committee had noted that as many as 2402 posts out of 10272 scientific (Programme Coordinators and Subject Matter Specialists), technical and administrative and other posts are vacant in KVKs as on

31.03.2015. The Committee were informed that budget cut in operational contingency has also affected the activities of KVKs. Each KVK is provided modest infrastructure depending upon the need and availability of funds for the purpose. So far ICAR has provided Administrative building to 563 KVKs, Farmers Hostel in 513 KVKs, Demonstration units in 493 KVKs and Soil Water Testing Labs in 389 KVKs. During XII Plan, the KVKs are proposed to be provided different types of infrastructure like office buildings, farmer's hostel, staff quarters, demonstration units and other additional facilities in selected KVKs. These additional facilities include soil and water testing labs, rain water harvesting facility, minimal processing facility, mini seed processing facility, carp hatcheries, integrated farming system units, solar panels, technology information units, micro-nutrient analysis facility and 25 KVA genset. Besides, the KVKs are also proposed to be provided need based office equipments and audio-visual aids, laboratory equipments and different types of farm equipments and machinery. The provisions have been recommended by the EFC of the KVK scheme for the XII Plan and the proposals are under consideration of the Cabinet. Further, the Department could not provide funds for construction of farmers hostels, facilities for promoting farm mechanisation, facilities for food processing etc. due to reduced allocations during current plan. The Committee had, therefore, desired the government to enhance the fund allocations to KVKs so that they can be equipped with all necessary infrastructure and manpower and be up to date. The Committee had also desired the Department to revisit the fund allocation, utilisation & strength monitoring mechanisation as well, so far as KVKs are concerned. They also recommended that Department should ensure that KVKs including private sector KVKs provide the mandated activities to the farmers without any exception."

1.18 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"Efforts are being made for making higher allocations to scheme of KVKs. The allocation has been enhanced from Rs.533.60 crore at RE stage in 2014-15 to Rs. 644.85 crore at BE stage in 2015-16. As suggested, the monitoring mechanism will also be strengthened by deploying more scientific manpower

in the Zonal Project Directorates (ZPDs) and increasing the number of ZPDs from 8 to 11 after the approval of the Government."

1.19 Showing their displeasure over failure of the Department to make available adequate funds to KVKs so that they can be provided adequate man power and necessary infrastructure such as office buildings, farmer's hostel, staff quarters, demonstration units, soil and water testing labs, rain water harvesting facility, minimal processing facility, mini seed processing facility, carp hatcheries, integrated farming system units, solar panels, technology information units, micro-nutrient analysis facility and 25 KVA genset in selected KVKs, the Committee had recommended the Department to enhance the fund allocations to KVKs so that they can be equipped with all necessary infrastructure and manpower and be up to date. The Department in its Action Taken Reply apart from informing about enhancement of allocation to the scheme of KVKs from Rs.533.60 crore at RE stage in 2014-15 to Rs. 644.85 crore at BE stage in 2015-16, has also stated that the monitoring mechanism will also be strengthened by deploying more scientific manpower in the Zonal Project Directorates (ZPDs) and increasing the number of ZPDs from 8 to 11 after the approval of the Government. However, the Department is silent on the efforts being made with regard to consultation with the State Governments for filling existing vacancies in KVKs. The Committee are of view that adequate attention is not being given to the scheme of KVKs which is evident from failure of government to provide funds as recommended by the EFC of the KVK Scheme for the XII Plan. The Committee feel that timely availability of funds is benchmark for balanced planning and so *ad hocism* in fund allocation may defeat the very purpose of the Scheme. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation to provide adequate funds for the scheme of KVKs so that they can be equipped with necessary infrastructure and manpower and provide timely and effective advice and other assistance to the farmers of the country. The Committee also direct the Department to hold consultation with State governments concerned to fill up vacancies available in KVKs.

F. KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS OPERATING IN TRIBAL AND HILL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY

Recommendation (Serial No. 17)

1.20 The Committee had observed/ recommended as under:-

"The Committee noted that 152 Krishi Vigyan Kendras are functioning in tribal and hill regions of the country. These KVKs have provided training to 7, 25,458 farmers and extension personnel, conducted 99187 On- farm trials and demonstration, produced 7855.75 tonnes Seed, 4245397.17 lakh of planting material and distributed 483613.68 lakh Live-stock strains and fingerlings during the period 2012-2015. The Committee also noted that Fisheries Science Division has provided training to 5520 farmers since 2012 and Natural resource Management Division have been provided training on good farming practices to over 35,000 farmers since 2012. Apart from these training was also provided to the farmers by institutes of other division of ICAR. The Committee while noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the KVKs and ICAR institutes operating in hill and tribal regions of the country, desired the Department to make extra efforts to provide training on secondary agriculture such as dairying, food processing etc. so that income of farmers in these regions can be enhanced. The Committee also desired the Department to provide adequate funds to the KVKs operating in hill and tribal regions of the country so that they do not face problem of infrastructure and manpower while carrying out the work of agriculture extension."

1.21 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"The recommendation is noted for compliance and as suggested by the Committee, the KVKs have been asked to conduct more training programs on secondary agriculture such as dairying, food processing and value addition etc. in the tribal and hilly areas of the country."

1.22 The Committee note with satisfaction that the Department had instructed KVKs to provide additional training to farmers in tribal and hill areas on secondary agriculture such as dairying, food processing and value addition etc. However, the Department had not provided any information regarding

steps taken to enhance allocations to these KVKs. The Committee desire the Department to suitably enhance allocations to KVKs operating in Tribal and Hill areas of the country under their intimation . The Committee also desire the Department to furnish a report on training provided by the KVKs to farmers within a month of presentation of this report.

G. SEPARATE FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF INITIATIVES FOR XII PLAN

Recommendation (Serial No. 18)

1.23 The Committee had observed/ recommended as under:-

"The Committee had noted that many initiatives planned for implementation such as Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA), Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana (READY), Farmers FIRST, Agriculture and Technology Forecast Centre were yet to commence even after three years after the commencement of the Plan. The Committee were apprised that these schemes are under the process of getting approval of the Government. Similarly, projects envisaged under Extra Mural Funds are still in the process of seeking approval of the Government. The Committee have also been informed that sixteen Consortia Research projects have been sanctioned at a total XII Plan outlay of Rs. 1651.80 crore as part of EFC's of different schemes and are likely to start as per approved programme during the year 2015-16 and onwards. The Committee also noted that Indian Agriculture e-Extension Research Institute (IAeRI) Scheme has not yet been conceptualized by the DARE due to reduced funding. The Committee had strongly felt that implementation of these Schemes have already been delayed inordinately. They had, therefore, desired the Department to give their best to ensure that all formalities pertaining to these initiatives are completed with utmost promptitude and their implementation commences within specific time frame. At the same time, the Committee desired the Department to make available additional funds in ongoing fiscal so that benefits as planned from these schemes can be reaped during the current plan itself."

1.24 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"The new activities of XII plan viz., Students READY and Agriculture Technology Forecast Centre are at different stages of seeking approval of the Government. The Department has ensured that all formalities pertaining these activities are completed and awaiting approval from the Government. The activity namely "Farmers FIRST" is under the process of implementation. Some of Consortia Research Projects (CRPs), as part of EFC's of different schemes are being implemented and remaining will be taken up after getting adequate funding at RE Stage 2015-16.

As far as ARYA is concerned, this scheme has been sanctioned in December, 2014. This programme is conceptualized for mentoring/handholding rural youth in villages by providing technical and financial support to upscale/commercialize promising technologies and grass root innovations. An amount of Rs. 100 crore is approved in XII Plan for this activity.

Further, regarding Indian Agricultural e-Extension Research institute (IAeRI), the department has again requested NITI Aayog to expedite the matter for communicating "in principle" approval."

1.25 While showing their concern over failure of DARE to start initiatives planned for implementation such as Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA), Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojna (READY), Farmers FIRST, Agriculture and Technology Forecast Centre, even after three years after the commencement of the XII Plan, the Committee had desired the Department to ensure that all formalities pertaining to these initiatives are completed with utmost promptitude and their implementation commences within a specific time frame. The Committee had also desired the Department to make available additional funds in ongoing fiscal so that benefits as planned from these schemes can be reaped during the current plan itself. However, the Committee note that the Department is yet to get necessary approval and additional fund for implementation of these initiative which is evident from Action Taken Reply furnished by the Department. The

Committee are at loss to understand the reasons for delay in providing necessary clearances and funds for implementation of programmes which may prove very beneficial for attracting young generation towards making career and starting a trend of entrepreneurship in the field of agriculture. The need of having innovative ideas and exploitation of young talent in order to improve farming output and condition of vast majority of Indian farmers must be realized by the Government. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to vigorously pursue the matter with all concerned and ensure that necessary sanction and funds are made available for implementation of these schemes.

H. KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA

Recommendation (Serial No. 19)

1.26 The Committee had observed/ recommended as under:-

"The Committee had noted that process for establishment of Central Agricultural Universities at Bihar, Barapani (Meghalaya and Nagaland) are under process whereas, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi (Bundelkhand) was created as an institution of national importance in March, 2014 only. The Committee were concerned with the tardy progress in the establishment of Central Agricultural Universities in Bihar and Barapani as envisaged in the XIIth plan. The Committee had also noted that formalities for establishment of Agriculture University in Andhra Pradesh and Horticulture University in Telangana have been started. However, the Committee had not been provided timelines for commissioning of each of these Universities. The Committee were of view that a scheduled timeline for establishment of these universities will go a long way for timely commissioning of these universities, establishment of which has already been delayed. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to formulate timelines in consultation with concerned State Governments so that requisite funds be made available by the Ministry of Finance accordingly."

1.27 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"The department is in the process of finalizing EFC for Rajendra- Central Agricultural University(CAU), Pusa, Bihar and for CAU-Barapani the Govt. of Meghalaya is still to allot the requisite land. For establishment of agricultural university in Andhra Pradesh and horticultural University in Telangana, the process has already been initiated and to that effect an amount of Rs. 10.00 Crore has been released to each University during Financial Year 2014-15 and an amount of Rs. 75.00 crore has been earmarked for each University as BE for the Financial Year 2015-16, and the same amount will be released as soon as AUC is received for the earlier released amount. DARE is making all round efforts to complete these projects at the earliest possible time in the line of suggestion of the Committee on Agriculture. The Department is pursuing the matter with the concerned State Governments to formulate timeliness for the establishment of these universities."

1.28 The Committee are unhappy to note about delay in finalisation of EFC for Rajendra- Central Agricultural University(CAU), Pusa, Bihar. The Committee are of view that there is a need to expedite decision making process so that necessary financial approval for the establishment of CAU, Pusa (Bihar) could be taken at the earliest. The Committee also desire the Department to impress upon States to complete formalities such as land acquisition, furnishing of utilization certificate etc. so that a suitable timeline for establishment of Central Agricultural universities may be arrived without any further delay.

I. VACANCY OF SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS IN INSTITUTES OF ICAR.

(Recommendation Serial No. 22)

1.29 The Committee had observed/ recommended as under:-

The Committee had expressed concern to note that as on date positions of 1570 scientific, 1374 technical and 964 posts of administrative grade were vacant in various institutes of ICAR, which were effecting the functioning of ICAR institutions adversely. The Committee also noted that recruitment process of 551 posts of scientists, 380 posts of administrative officers etc.

were under process of filling up. Further the Committee noted that 16 out of 100 institutes did not have regular Directors. The Committee had deprecated the lackadaisical attitude of the Government and impressed upon the Government to expedite the process of selection and filling up the existing vacant posts at the earliest, so that the research and development activities in the Agriculture Sector are not adversely affected.

1.30 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"The observations of the Committee have been noted for compliance and implementation."

1.31 The Committee are not happy with the reply of the Government. Neither the steps taken so far for filling up the existing vacancies nor the present status of filling up vacancies have been spelt out by the Government. The Committee deplore this casual approach of the Government to the recommendations of the Committee and desire that the Department should take the recommendations of the Committee in right spirit. The Committee reiterate that the process of selection and filling up the existing posts should be expedited and the action taken by the Government in this regard may be apprised to them.

J. INCENTIVE SCHEMES FOR SCIENTISTS

Recommendation (Serial No.23)

1.32 The Committee had observed/ recommended as under:-

Availability of lucrative career opportunity and presence of a well defined incentive scheme are necessary for attracting the best talent for agricultural research institutes and motivate Scientists working in ICAR institutes. The Committee had noted that the Council has adopted the pay package and the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) of the University Grants commission (UGC) for attracting and retaining the best available scientific talent which has in-built flexibility in the CAS for upward movement, subject to fulfillment of certain criteria, irrespective of occurrence of vacancies. Recently the Council

has also revised the scheme of ICAR Awards to further motivate and incentivize to bring out the best from the scientific cadre. All special allowances of the GOI have been made applicable for the scientists serving in remote and difficult areas. Special weightage is also accorded for lateral selections of scientists who have served in remote and backward areas. However, the Committee were concerned to note that no scientist has been rewarded under the scheme of incentivizing research with rewards which was started in 2014-15 for incentivizing scientist for undertaking research in defined areas. The Committee felt that if the best available talent is to be attracted towards the ICAR institutions, proper and time bound implementation of this schemes is necessary. The motivation which the proper implementation of this scheme will provide to Scientists will also help in enhancing the research outcome(s) of ICAR institutes. The Committee, therefore, desired the ICAR to implement this scheme in true spirit at the earliest.

1.33 The Department in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has put in place several incentives for attracting best talent for agricultural research besides motivating the Scientists working in agricultural institutes by way of adopting UGC pay package and Career Advancement Scheme Special allowances are provided for the scientists working in remote and difficult areas. The scheme of Incentivizing the scientists for undertaking research in cutting edge areas for solving challenging problems such as C3-C4 intermediate pathway and functionality of C4 genes in rice, newer genetic modification for improving biological nitrogen fixation in cereals, molecular genetic analysis of stress resistance in wheat, chickpea and mustard, increasing rice yield under low light intensity, semen sexing in cattle are being pursued. All these projects are aimed at enhancing the deployment of scientific manpower in cutting edge areas besides acting as an incentive to pursue emerging newer trends in agricultural science research. The envisaged technical and research contingency support shall act as an incentive for pursuit of advanced research

besides encouraging the scientist for appropriate output in the emerging area."

1.34 From the Action Taken Reply, the Committee observe that the Department has not furnished any information on steps taken by the Department to encourage scientist to avail benefits available in the scheme incentivizing scientist for undertaking research in defined areas. The Committee are anguished to note the callous attitude of the Department on the issue and disapprove apathy shown by the Department on important scheme meant for encouraging ambitious research initiatives for solving riddles of agriculture science which could be proved very beneficial for shaping future agriculture. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to take effective steps to invite proposals for research under this scheme. The Committee also desire the Department to furnish a note on steps taken and proposals received from scientists/ Institutions for research under the scheme within a month of presentation of Report.

CHAPTER - II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS (Recommendation Para No. 1)

The Committee note that the Action Taken Replies regarding the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Committee were furnished by the Government on 12 March, 2015. They further note that the Statement of the Minister under Direction 73-A of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha is due on June, 2015. The Committee are hopeful that the Government would have made all efforts to act upon their recommendations contained in the Second Report and that the Ministers Statement under Direction 73-A of Directions by Speaker, Lok Sabha would be made within the stipulated time.

Reply of the Government

The department has already complied with this recommendation.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS (Recommendation Para No. 2)

The Committee note that the allocations to the DARE under plan head has been reduced to Rs. 3691 crore (BE) for 2015-16 vis-a-vis Rs. 3715 Crore (BE) for the year 2014-15. The Committee further note that the Government has made drastic reduction of 32.73 percent of allocations to the DARE at RE stage during 2014-15. The Committee were informed that this drastic cut in the allocation of the Department in the RE (2014-15) was apparently due to the overall cut effected by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, in the plan allocation of DARE/ICAR.

The Committee were also informed that major programmes/activities falling within the mandate of each Subject Matter Division were not impacted by the cut due to sustained efforts and some strategic planning. However, DARE/ICAR had to assign priorities to the ongoing research programmes and allocate adequate funds from the available budget of the department for this purpose in order to accomplish the research targets set for the year. The Committee are disappointed to note that in spite of their recommendation in their second Report on DFG 2014-15 to the Government, to enhance the budget of DARE substantially, so as to enable them to develop expertise necessary for making Indian agriculture ready to face challenges associated with increasing population, changing trends in consumption, deteriorating soil health, depleting resources, state of small & marginal farmers and climate change, the Government's move is bereft of logic of higher allocations at BE stage ,if it has to be mandatorily reduced at RE stage defying the very basis of financial planning process which require consistency and sustained efforts. The Committee are of view that such drastic cut is definitely going to affect several of their research activities/schemes/plans which are critical to the growth and well being of agriculture sector in the Country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should substantially enhance the allocations for the Department in the ongoing fiscal at RE stage so that the ICAR institutes could carry out R&D activities as planned for the year 2015-16 and XIIth plan as well.

Reply of the Government

The department has already conveyed the above concern/ recommendation of the Committee to the Ministry of Finance for getting enhanced allocation at RE 2015-16.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

Recommendation Para No. 3

The Committee note that agricultural research, education and extension, because of their significant contribution to growth of agriculture sector, economy, food and nutrition security of the Country, are of critical importance for an agrarian economy like ours. They, therefore, are of the considered opinion that keeping in

view the national interest including the food security and employment to the growing population, DARE is provided with sufficient funds, so that these activities are carried out unhindered. With this concern uppermost in their mind, the Committee have been recommending in their successive Reports to the Government to enhance allocation for these activities in the agriculture sector. However, the Committee note that only Rs. 14041 Crore i.e 54.95% have been allocated during first four fiscal as against earmarked outlays of Rs. 25553.00 crore for XIIth plan. The Committee had observed that these allocations (BE) have been drastically reduced at RE stage in first three financial year as allocations to the Department in first three financial years (RE) put together is only 29.82% of earmarked outlays of XII plan. They had further been informed that first four years' allocations as percentage of XII-Plan earmarked outlay at BE level of scientific Ministries/ Departments and related ones ranges between 39.31% to 58.44% except that of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public distribution which is comparatively higher at 84.37%. The Committee find that the total of RE allocations for the first three years of XIIth plan and BE allocation for the fourth year of the plan put together is only 44.26% of the XIIth plan allocation. The Committee are highly doubtful that the Department would be able to absorb the remaining 55.74% during the last year of the plan. The Committee are of view that unimaginative drastic cut is going to adversely affect several of their significant & vital research activities, Research infrastructure Phenomics facility, Phytotron etc. and schemes which were planned for implementation during XII plan such as Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA), Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojna (READY), Farmers FIRST, Agriculture and Technology Forecast Centre and Indian Agriculture e-Extension Research Institute (IAeRI). The Committee strongly deprecate this sordid state of affairs which is endemic of the shortcomings plaguing the prevalent system of planning in the Country wherein, the very purpose of planning goes haywire. It is improper to impose a certain percentage deduction at RE level across board. They, therefore, recommend that the Government should enhance the allocation for the Department substantially in the ongoing Fiscal and last fiscal of XII plan, so that the funds left for the terminal year are evenly matched and the Department get much needed funds for research and developmental activity.

Reply of the Government

The department has already conveyed the above concern/ recommendation of the Committee to the Ministry of Finance for getting enhanced allocation at RE 2015-16 and balance fund of XII Plan to be allocated during the last financial year (2016-17) of XII plan.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES **(Recommendation Para No. 4)**

Adequate supervision and availability of up to date information is *sin qua non* for effective utilisation of available resources and to ensure that pilferage of money does not take place. However, the Committee were informed that the DARE do not have details of cases of financial irregularities reported in the institutes of ICAR. The Committee do not find logic in assertion of the DARE that compilation of details will take time as more than 100 institutes under ICAR are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the country. The Committee view that in an era of information technology where any information can be obtained by click of a mouse, the Department have not yet made provisions for compilation of necessary information related to financial management. Availability of information regarding every aspect of financial management is a pre-requisite for effective monitoring system. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to incorporate necessary changes in Information Management System for reporting every case of financial irregularity in the institutes of ICAR on real time basis. At the same time, the Committee desire the Department to make available details of financial irregularities and action taken thereon within three months of presentation of this report.

Reply of the Government

As per ICAR Rules & Bye-laws, disciplinary authority in respect of officials upto the level of Group-B is Director of the institute. Therefore, financial irregularity noted, if any, is investigated / decided at institute level only. Vigilance Division of the ICAR deals with vigilance / disciplinary cases of Group A level officers whose

disciplinary / appellate authority is Secretary/DG/President, ICAR. However, Vigilance Division has obtained information relating to cases of financial irregularities reported in the institutes of ICAR during the year 2014-15, and compiled statement showing ongoing cases of financial irregularities being processed in Vigilance Division including cases where penalty has been imposed during 2014-15 is enclosed (Annexure-I).

Further, in respect of Vigilance / Disciplinary cases at ICAR Hqrs. for which Disciplinary Authority is Secretary / DG/ President of ICAR and all the cases are recorded in a software named VOICE (Vigilance Online Integrated Complaint & Enquiry). It generates statement on real time basis of each case of financial irregularity. This software can monitor the progress of each case resulting in expeditious finalization of Vigilance / Disciplinary cases.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

Comments of the Committee

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

CROP SCIENCE **INFOCROP- WEB BASED DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM** **(Recommendation Para No. 6)**

The Committee note that INFOCROP- a web based decision support system was developed as a generic crop growth model that can simulate the effects of weather, soil, agronomic managements (planting, nitrogen, residue and irrigation), and major pests on crop growth and yield of crops such as rice, wheat, maize, sorghum, millets, soybean, mustard, groundnut, cotton and pigeon pea. The Committee were informed that this model was used for identifying location specific suitable sowing time, variety and management for some of the test sites in Mewar and Dhar districts with significant success. The ICAR-IARI is also initiating

development of models for grape (under National Fund project), green gram, sugarcane and onion. The Committee are of view that these web based decision support systems will prove very beneficial for Planners, administrators and most importantly farmers of the country who are facing the vagaries of nature such as fluctuating weather, pest attack, poor soil quality etc. The Decision Support System (DSS) will support effective crop planning and also undertake corrective measures if something goes wrong. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to refine the system with required field trials. They also emphasize that the Department should undertake continuous updation for identifying adaptation niche areas, quantifying the adaptation gain, vulnerable regions, identification location specifics sowing time and important crops should be brought under the ambit of DSS. The efforts should also be made to disseminate information derived from the system among farmers on wider scale through print/visual media so that they all can benefit from it.

Reply of the Government

The ICAR – IARI has developed the **INFOCROP-WEB** based decision support system as a generic crop growth model. The model can help in simulating the effects of various parameters influencing crop growth and yield. The model has to be evaluated taking into account various location specific issues and as suggested by the Committee, it will be refined with required field validation in the coming years. Efforts shall also be made to disseminate the information through KVKs/Institutes after the role of variables are evaluated for their specific impact on crop growth and yield.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

DEVELOPMENT OF SEEDS VARIETIES WITH INBUILT RESISTANCE AGAINST INSECTS AND PESTS **(Recommendation Para No. 7)**

The Committee find that emphasis in ICAR is on development of trait-specific high yield varieties and hybrids in the crop improvement programmes to hasten the cherished goal of enhanced crop productivity and thereby food and nutritional

security. The Committee note that ICAR institutes are also constantly working on development of crop varieties with inbuilt resistance capacity against and tolerance to harmful insects or pests by incorporating genes from wild varieties. They also note that research work on development of seed varieties with coating which will have disease resistant capacity along with necessary nutrients is being undertaken at ICAR institutes utilizing nano technique. The Committee are of the view that overdependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides for enhancing agricultural production is turning into menace which pose enormous threat to human health apart from polluting water and soil system. The Committee desire that research on these pivotal aspect by giving utmost priority and adequate funding for such useful proposition should be undertaken.

Reply of the Government

Varietal development programme of Crop based institutes of ICAR aims at developing nutrient use efficient varieties as well as multiple biotic stress (diseases, pests) and abiotic stress (salinity, high temperature, drought, submergence) resistant varieties to reduce chemical, fertilizer and pesticide use and will be funded adequately.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL VARIETIES OF CROPS **(Recommendation Para No. 8)**

The Committee are aware that the traditional varieties of Crops possessed quality traits such as taste, nutritive and resistant to insects, pests and diseases. Further, the farmers through the traditional varieties in almost all crops including cereals, oil seeds and pulses contain properties of self pollinating seeds for the crops and such seeds can be used for next few years, whereas the present hybrid quality does not produce seeds for even next year. Hybrid seeds can be grown only once to realise the yield advantage. Every year the farmers have to purchase seeds before sowing season. The Committee find that the Department is preserving the traditional varieties as famers' varieties with Protection of Plant Varieties and

Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV & FRA). It is also deposited in the National Gene Bank at NBPGR. The Committee has been apprised that the traditional varieties are being utilised in breeding programme for development of newer varieties as per their quality traits. The Department, while explaining the matter informed the Committee that 160 varieties and hybrids of pulses, oil seeds, cereals etc. have been developed by ICAR in current year. They also referred to wheat HD 2967, which had survived hailstorm and rainfall recently due to short heights, large pod and production of 5-6 tonnes. Further, virus indexed planting material that is screened for disease resistant for Horticulture Sector such as pomegranate has also been developed. In view of the above, the Committee recommend that traditional varieties from all over the Country should be conserved and kept from becoming extinct for their quality traits such as taste, self-producing seeds present therein at any cost by the Department. Furthermore, though certain steps have been taken through research & breeding programme with respect to insect-pest disease resistant, self-pollination, climatic adaptation, high yielding varieties, taste and nutritive value, the Department should prioritize focused research in these areas on a wider scale and support with commensurate allocation of funds and motivation to scientists.

Reply of the Government

All possible efforts are being made to collect, characterize, conserve and utilize the native germplasm resources in mandate crops like fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, planation crops, medicinal and aromatic plants, tuber crops & potato and; mushrooms etc. through ongoing Genetic Resource Management and Crop Improvement projects of the Institutes and All India Coordinated Research Projects.

In this endeavour, presently National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR) maintains 30,093 traditional varieties of different crops comprising 28873 cereals, 732 pulses, 148 oilseeds, 51 fibres, 3 forage crops, 281 horticultural crops and 5 other crops and its focus is to pursue this activity vigorously.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

HORTICULTURE SCIENCE
(Recommendation Para No.10)

The Committee are aware that in the present scenario horticulture has started playing a very vital role in not only providing livelihood options food security as also nutritional security. However, the Committee are also aware that the horticulture sector has great scope for expansion and has vast potential for enhancing production, productivity, value added products which lies untapped. The Committee feel that in order to meet the steeply growing demand of horticulture produce with export potential and the technical manpower on the subject, it is essential to rope in the already existing institutes with facilities such as Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) in collaboration with ICAR to address the related problems. The Committee during their study visit observed that Institute like IIHR have adequate research inputs, infrastructure and experienced scientific manpower which could be appropriately utilized for the requirements of the growing horticulture sector. The Committee feel that in order to develop centre of excellence in horticulture and for human resource development and to integrate all horticulture based institutes in the country for providing quality education and addressing various problems and situations it will be useful to grant Deemed to be university status to ICAR-IIHR. This attempt of the Department will also strengthen terms of trade, develop international linkages related to horticulture education and Public Private Partnership (PPP). The Committee, therefore, suggest that ICAR-IIHR be considered for Deemed-to-be University mainly with the purpose of strengthening basic strategic and research in horticulture and associated sciences encompassing various agro-ecologic regions in the country and to develop it as centre of excellence in horticulture sector.

Reply of the Government

The department is extremely thankful to the Committee for suggesting to upgrade the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research as a Deemed University on Horticulture. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru is completing 50 years by September, 2017. The department will strive that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India launches a National Horticultural University at ICAR-IIHR,

Bengaluru on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebrations of its establishment in September, 2017. The department will initiate appropriate action in this regard.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
(Recommendation Para No. 11)

The Committee note that due to the scaling down of the allocation of ICAR from the proposed Rs. 8648 crore to Rs. 3691 crore for Annual Plan 2015-16 has resulted in down-sizing of the allocations of Natural Resource Management Division to Rs. 370 crore. They also note that drastic reduction of Rs. 90 crore i.e. about 19.14% at RE stage were made during 2014-15 due to which the division had to prioritise research and the limited funds allocated were diverted to critical areas needing focused attention for accomplishing the targets. The Committee also observe that due to non-clearance of SFCs/EFCs, the progress of expenditure was comparatively low mainly during early part of the financial year (2014-15). However, the Division was able to utilise 85.09 percentage of RE allocations till 15 March, 2015 after clearance of EFCs/SFCs. The Committee are not at all convinced that on one hand the Department seeks more funds but on the other hand funds are not utilised due to non-clearance of SFCs/EFCs. The Committee are dissatisfied by the way finance of the institutes are being managed as critical research are being delayed due to delay in clearance of SFCs/EFCs. The Committee, therefore, desire the DARE to streamline the process of clearance of SFCs/EFCs so that these can be accomplished within timeframe without affecting research work.

Reply of the Government

All the SFCs/EFCs of all the on-going schemes of NRM division have already been cleared and are being implemented as per approved programmes. One new scheme named as National Research Centre on Integrated Farming Systems, Motihari has been circulated to appraisal agencies for comments and expeditious steps are being taken to get it approved from appropriate authority.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

LAND RESOURCE INVENTORY **(Recommendation Para No.12)**

The Committee note that National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (ICAR), Nagpur has undertaken a Country level project on "Land resource Inventory on 1:10,000 scale for agricultural land use planning using geo-spatial techniques" in collaboration with NRSC, ISRO.. The Committee were informed that preparation of the inventory will help to enhance agricultural productivity per unit area through efficient utilization of land resources besides other interventions. They note that project will be undertaken in phased manner by ICAR-NBSSFLUP in the first phase, 60 blocks each representing 60 agro-ecological sub-regions of the Country covering approximately 3.3 Mha area in four years duration will be covered. However, the Committee were not apprised of any details regarding timelines for coverage of all blocks of the country. The Committee also note that allocations of Rs. 3.15 crore were made available for implementation of the project during 2014-16. The Committee are of view that preparation of Land resource Inventory of entire country will be a great tool in the hand of planners for optimizing agricultural output and ensuring food security for the future generations of the country. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to submit a detailed plan for coverage of entire country under the project and that adequate finances be made available to the project in the future. At the same time, the DARE should ensure timely completion of first phase of the Project under intimation to the Committee.

Reply of the Government

In the first phase (2014-2018), the NBSSLUP is developing land resource inventory of 60 blocks each representing an Agro-Ecological Sub-Region (AESR) of the country. These will serve as a model for 60 AESRs of the country. In order to generate such information for whole country, it will be appropriate to take up such huge activities in collaboration with State Governments involving concerned state organizations, meeting out the cost and utilizing State resources (infrastructural facilities including manpower). Accordingly, MoUs have been signed with states like Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat and Meghalaya. Efforts are being made with other state governments as well.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

Comments of the Committee

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

ANIMAL SCIENCE **(Recommendation Para No. 13)**

Livestock is the economic security of the farmers and their management plays a vital role in this agrarian country. There are 19 animal research institutes, 2 deemed universities, 8 national/ Central Research Institutes, 1 National Bureau, 1 project Directorate and 6 Notional Research Centre to improve productivity, production and reproductive efficiency in livestock and poultry. The Committee note that only Rs. 955 cr. i.e. 61.89% (BE) of allocations were made for the first four year(s) as against on earmarked outlays of Rs. 1543.00 crore for XIIth Plan under the head of Animal Science. Funds have been further reduced at RE stage. The Committee also note that drastic reduction of Rs. 70 crore i.e. about 30.40% at RE stage were made during 2014-15 from 230 cr. to Rs.160 cr. The Committee are astonished to note that allocation to Central Institute for Research on Cattle, Meerut, have been reduced from Rs. 5 cr. to Rs. 1.5 Cr. at RE stage pending decision to develop the campus of CIRC at Karnal or at Meerut. Similarly, allocations to Central Avian Research Institute, Izzatnagar, have been reduced from Rs. 9 Cr. (BE) to Rs. 3 Cr. at RE stage as funds allocated under capital head were reduced from Rs. 4.60 crores to Rs. 0.45 crores. The Committee are of view that management and improvement of livestock is one of thrust area of Agriculture in the Country and in their earlier reports too Committee have time and again emphasized for higher allocation as well as proper utilisation of funds under this head so that priority research of this division do not suffer. The Committee are also unhappy about the indecisiveness of the DARE to decide on the issue of determining the location of research institute. The Committee desire the DARE to make proper assessment based on objective criteria and expedite decision with respect to developing campus of CIRC at Karnal or Meerut, so that scientists are able to focus on research rather than mundane issues. While dealing with perennial problem of reduced BE

allocations to the Department thereby afflicting the planning process, the Committee desire the DARE to enhance the allocations of the division at RE stage so that research programmes plan for XIIth plan are completed timely and do not suffer for want of funds.

Reply of the Government

Reduction in fund allocation for Animal Science Division at RE stage was necessitated due to overall reduction in allocation to the department at RE/BE stages. Accordingly, fund allocation to CIRC, Meerut as well as CARI, Izatnagar was also reduced under the Capital Head. Further, this un-proportionate cut in the capital head was reasonable as the works to be undertaken by these two institutions were new and were approved only in the second half of 2014-15. Besides, the on-going works of other schemes were to be given priority for completion.

As regards development of campus of CIRC in the XII Plan, 100 acres of land has been allocated at Karnal within NDRI premises. However, in order to strengthen the already established component of the Institute at Meerut, efforts are being made by the ICAR for additional allocation of 75 acres of land for 99 years on lease from Military Dairy Farm Authorities (Ministry of Defence) as well as extension of existing lease of allocated land from 30 to 99 years. If 75 acres of land is allocated by Military Dairy Farm, Meerut, it will be used to develop indigenous cattle breed livestock farm and its associated research and development activities for their improvement and conservation.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

Comments of the Committee

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

IMPROVEMENT OF TRADITIONAL VARIETIES OF LIVESTOCK (Recommendation Para No. 14)

India is home to largest number of cattles in the world. There are many varieties of cattles which are disease resistant, drought resistant and can survive on minimum diet. However, milk production from most of Indian varieties is less barring

few exceptions such as *Murrah, Gir Kankereji, Sahiwal etc.* The Committee note that ICAR is running a network project on buffalo improvement at Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB), Hisar under which production and dissemination of superior Murrah germplasm is done for the benefit of farmers. The Committee also note that *Gir, Kankrej and Sahiwal* breeds are also being conserved and improved under AICRP coordinated by Central Institute for Research on Cattle (CIRC) involving various stakeholders (Universities, State Livestock Farms and Gaushalas). The Committee are of the view that improvement of traditional varieties of livestock is very important as these varieties can provide farmers an option to enhance the animal products for example milk production at low cost as maintenance of traditional livestock is easy as compared to breeds based on imported varieties. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to start a dedicated programme for identification, registration, conservation and improvement of traditional varieties of livestock throughout the country. The Committee while appreciating the efforts of the Department for standardizing cloning technology would recommend that priority research of the institutes/universities/bureau/research directorate and centres involved should be fully supported with commensurate funding.

Reply of the Government

In the line of the Committee's recommendation that efforts should be made for overall development, improvement and conservation of indigenous breeds throughout the country, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries is the nodal department to address these issues. Accordingly, schemes such as National Dairy Plan, National Project for Bovine Breeding, National Project for Dairy Development and the recently launched Gokul Mission are being implemented throughout the country by that Department through different state implementing agencies.

Besides this, DARE / ICAR also through its institutions such as NBAGR, Karnal (for identification, characterization and registration of new indigenous populations of livestock and poultry) is also undertaking *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation in collaboration with State Animal Husbandry Department / SAUs / NGOs. Further, institutions CIRB, Hisar and CIRC, Meerut through their institutional

as well as Network / AICRP mode projects are undertaking improvement and conservation of important breeds of both cattle and buffalo and also providing requisite technical input such as quality semen, nutritional and health related interventions, etc. to different stakeholders. The National Dairy Research Institute at Karnal too is addressing this area by developing different technologies both for production and propagation of quality germplasm as well as value addition of milk, using traditional methods as well as for commercial processing. The developed technologies are being actively taken by interested stakeholders including state governments, milk unions, cooperatives and other private agencies/farmers.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

PROMOTION OF NEW COLOUR BASED TEST FOR RAPID DETECTION OF DETERGENT IN MILK
(Recommendation Para No. 15)

The Committee note that the ICAR has developed a new colour based test for rapid detection of detergent in milk. The Committee also note that technology for the test was transferred to Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation Ltd, Mother Dairy, Delhi and Havmorelcecream Ltd. Ahmadabad. They find that Mother Dairy, Delhi has agreed (in the MoU) to bring the test to market. This test is not recommended for house-hold purpose due to the involvement of hazardous chemicals. The Committee, however, finds that officials from Dairy co-operatives industries, entrepreneurs at large are regularly invited at NDRI Industry Meet (held every year) where this technology is demonstrated and explained. This technology is also listed on NDRI website. The Committee are of view that availability of cheap and easy to use test will help immensely to stop the menace of adulterated milk (especially with detergent etc.) available in the market. The Committee, therefore, desire the DARE to make efforts to publicise and popularise the test extensively so that it can be made available to every milk co-operative. They, however, advise the Department to ensure the safety of the test by the users and also prescribe the dos & don'ts of the test.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation is noted for compliance. The National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal has been advised to take suitable action on this recommendation of the Committee.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS OPERATING IN TRIBAL AND HILL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY

(Recommendation Para No. 17)

The Committee note that 152 Krishi Vigyan Kendras are functioning in tribal and hill regions of the country. These KVKs have provided training to 7, 25,458 farmers and extension personnel, conducted 99187 On- farm trials and demonstration, produced 7855.75 tonnes Seed, 4245397.17 lakh of planting material and distributed 483613.68 lakh Live-stock strains and fingerlings during the period 2012-2015. The Committee also note that Fisheries Science Division has provided training to 5520 farmers since 2012 and Natural resource Management Division have been provided training on good farming practices to over 35,000 farmers since 2012. Apart from these training was also provided to the farmers by institutes of other division of ICAR. The Committee while noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the KVKs and ICAR institutes operating in hill and tribal regions of the country, desire the Department to make extra efforts to provide training on secondary agriculture such as dairying, food processing etc. so that income of farmers in these regions can be enhanced. The Committee also desire the Department to provide adequate funds to the KVKs operating in hill and tribal regions of the country so that they do not face problem of infrastructure and manpower while carrying out the work of agriculture extension.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation is noted for compliance and as suggested by the Committee, the KVKs have been asked to conduct more training programs on

secondary agriculture such as dairying, food processing and value addition etc. in the tribal and hilly areas of the country.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

Comments of the Committee

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

PARAMPRAGAT KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA **(Recommendation Para No. 20)**

The Committee note that 'Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana' has been announced by the Government during Budget (2015-16) for promotion of Organic Research and Development wherein, Grant-in-Aid will be provided to ICAR/SAUs/Other research institutions/State Government agencies with research facilities for development of organic package of practices specific to State and cropping on specific proposal basis. Further, setting up of a separate Organic Agriculture Research and Teaching Department for popularization of organic agriculture under State Agricultural Universities is also planned under the scheme. The Committee were informed that under this scheme, farmers will be organized in a cluster of fifty or more for encouraging them to adopt organic farming and their 50 acres of land will be brought under Organic Farming. The Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS) is being introduced under the scheme for empowering the farmers' clusters to certify their produce and access to the organic market. The Committee also note that State Government has to ensure that priority is given to Small and marginal farmers and rain-fed areas of the State while finalising the proposals. They had also been informed that Rs. 300 crore has been allocated for implementation of scheme. While noting the efforts made by the government for launching the scheme which will go a long way for encouragement of organic farming and to support small and marginal farmers who are unable to invest in organic farming, the Committee desire the DARE to pursue ICAR institutions to bring out proposals under the scheme and forge partnership with local farmers for developing organic farming

rapidly in the country. They also desire that the Department should research, innovate and modernise the traditional technology and techniques and bring out light weight implements so that the small & marginal farmers are benefitted from it. These innovations should be publicized & popularized through KVKs.

Reply of the Government

Promotion of Organic Farming is included as a component of on-going National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). Accordingly, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has prepared a road map of the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.

As per this road map, farmers are encouraged to make cluster through trainings and *ghosties* and Financial assistance will be given to farmers from seeds to harvesting and bringing the organic produce to market. The main characteristic feature of this scheme is that the organic products would be certified by farmers' groups themselves. Thus there will be no expenditure liability on the farmers for certification. In addition, every farmer will be given Rs.20,000 per acre up-to three years for adoption of organic farming. In order to implement the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in the year 2015-16, an amount of Rs.300 crores has been allocated. While finalising the proposals, State Government has to ensure that priority is given to the following criteria:

- (a) Small and marginal farmers to be encouraged.
- (b) Rainfed areas of the State to be taken.
- (c) Crops with low fertiliser demand are to be considered in first year.
- (d) Areas of the State where farmers are practicing traditional agriculture.

ICAR is promoting research and development on organic farming through ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (ICAR-IIFSR), Modipuram and a Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) operating since 2004 with 13 cooperating centres covering 12 states. So far, package of practices for 18 crops and cropping systems have been developed. Seven new centres have been added to cover the niche areas and these centres are functional from 2015-16. The institute and centres are involved in promotion of organic agriculture through capacity

building of stake holders under different schemes such as Tribal Sub Plan mainly focusing on small and marginal farmers.

With regard to creation of separate organic agriculture research and teaching department, it is stated that already three State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) viz., Choudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya (CSKHPKVV), Palampur, UAS-Dharwad and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore are having the separate departments for carrying out the research on organic farming and sustainable agriculture. The remaining SAUs working under NPOF scheme will also be encouraged to submit the suitable proposal to Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for establishing the separate department for organic farming research and teaching.

Several light weight and low cost hand tools, implements and machines have been developed by the institutes and the centres of AICRPs located at different State Agricultural Universities for the benefit of small & marginal farmers. These technologies are demonstrated, publicized & popularized to the farmers through on-farm trails, front line demonstrations, exhibitions and kisanmelas. In addition, the institutes also undertake capacity building programmes on its technologies for the farmers, manufacturers, processors, entrepreneurs, farm women, rural youth and extension personnel of state developmental agencies, etc.

Besides, a number of the KVKs are already focusing their programmes and activities on various aspects of organic farming including production of on-site agri-inputs like compost vermi-compost, bio-fertilizer, and bio-agents along with promotion of organic farming practices.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

KRISHI CHANNEL
(Recommendation Para No. 21)

The Committee note that 'Krishi Channel' for broadcasting programmes related to Agriculture channel is likely to be launched in April, 2015 by the Ministry of

Information and Broadcasting shortly as 'DD Kisan'. The Committee also note that DARE/ICAR has been given responsibilities for making available a database of resource persons group on core agricultural subjects and topics by drawing experts from ICAR Institutes and Subject Matter Divisions. The Secretary (DARE) during the evidence submitted that they have suggested to prepare programmes based on interview with 10 successful farmers of all Districts of the Country. This will benefit the farmers of the country immensely and it will provide healthy competition among the farming fraternity. The Committee are of view that launch of dedicated Channel for broadcasting programmes on agriculture is need of the hour as it will help farmers to update their knowledgebase, resolve queries related to agriculture, get weather information on real time basis and take adequate measures to safeguard crops in case of any eventualities and weather aberrations. The Channel may also become an important platform for promotion of research outcome of ICAR institutes thus enhancing scope for Lab to land initiatives. It can also help Planners and administrators to implement and improve upon District Contingency Plan in case of drought or flood or any other Natural calamities. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to make adequate informative programmes showcasing their research findings and crop varieties so that farmers of entire country can derive benefits. The Committee also desire the DARE to encourage their scientists to actively take part in programmes of Krishi channel.

Reply of the Government

The 24 hours Kisan Channel "DD Kisan" has been launched on 26th of May 2015 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at Vigyan Bhawan. The "DD Kisan" is being looked after by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting/ PrasarBharati. Ministry of Agriculture is an important contributor of inputs for the stakeholders who view DD Kisan Channel as far as providing/creation of contents of the hard core Agricultural programmes is concerned.

At DAC level a Coordinator with Kisan Channel has been nominated under the supervision of Addl. Commissioner (Extn). Every division of DAC has been requested to nominate a suitable contact person or nodal officer with topics to be covered during first three months immediately to hand over to PrasarBharati.

Further, in order to disseminate the research output of ICAR Institutes and Agricultural Universities, the DD Kisan channel will be provided the technical contents. For this purpose, the scientists of all R&D organizations in agriculture will technically contribute and give scientific advice through studio and farm based TV programmes. For this purpose, a nation-wide pool of experts is helping in the development of agricultural programmes for DD Kisan Channel. The programmes /contents shall include production as well as post-harvest management and value addition of farm produce. The success stories of technologies/ farmers are likely to be covered extensively. Apart from interactive sessions with subject matter experts on various aspects of agriculture, video films will be made for telecast on this Channel.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

VACANCY OF SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS IN INSTITUTES OF ICAR
(Recommendation Para No. 22)

The Committee are concerned to note that as on date positions of 1570 Scientific, 1374 technical and 964 posts of administrative grade are vacant in various ICAR Institutes. Needless to deduce these vacancies would definitely be affecting the functioning of ICAR Institutions adversely. They, therefore, wonder how the Government expects the Council to deliver without even their personnel requirements being met. The Committee note that recruitment process for the 551 posts of scientists is at various stages of requisition by the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB). The Committee also note that 380 positions comprising of Administrative Officers, Assistant Directors, Assistants, LDC etc. are likely to be got filled up before December, 2015 for posts in Administrative category wherein recruitment is centralized through the ASRB. The Committee noted that 16 out of 100 Institutes do not have regular Directors as on date and that 6-8 months are required for advertising the posts as per procedure for selection. The Committee were informed that the process for selection begin 6 months before the personnel who are retiring but do face problems in starting the process for the personnel who

resign from job or other eventualities abruptly. The representative also mentioned that it is not possible for any system to have 100% strength. While appreciating the formalities, the Committee are not at all convinced that 24.24% in scientific posts, 18.28% in technical posts and 19.78 % in administrative grades are lying vacant due to resignation or abrupt contingencies. They also do not appreciate that premier Institutions like IARI is without head (Director) for more than 6 months. The Committee fail to understand how such a premier Institution is functioning in absence of direction from top most personnel. The Committee deprecate this lackadaisical attitude of Department and desire that they should attend this grave situation with alacrity and leave no stone unturned to seek best of the expert for high end skills and low end skills at the earliest. The Committee exhort upon the Government to expedite the process of selection & fill up the existing vacant posts at the earliest so that the research and development activities in the agriculture sector are not adversely affected.

Reply of the Government

The observations of the Committee have been noted for compliance and implementation.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

Comments of the Committee

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

INCENTIVE SCHEMES FOR SCIENTISTS **(Recommendation Para No. 23)**

Availability of lucrative career opportunity and presence of a well defined incentive scheme are necessary for attracting the best talent for agricultural research institutes and motivate Scientists working in ICAR institutes. The Committee note that the Council has adopted the pay package and the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) of the University Grants commission (UGC) for attracting and retaining the best available scientific talent which has in-built flexibility

in the CAS for upward movement, subject to fulfillment of certain criteria, irrespective of occurrence of vacancies. Recently the Council has also revised the scheme of ICAR Awards to further motivate and incentivize to bring out the best from the scientific cadre. All special allowances of the GOI have been made applicable for the scientists serving in remote and difficult areas. Special weightage is also accorded for lateral selections of scientists who have served in remote and backward areas. However, the Committee are concerned to note that no scientist has been rewarded under the scheme of incentivizing research with rewards which was started in 2014-15 for incentivizing scientist for undertaking research in defined areas. The Committee feel that if the best available talent is to be attracted towards the ICAR institutions, proper and time bound implementation of this schemes is necessary. The motivation which the proper implementation of this scheme will provide to Scientists will also help in enhancing the research outcome(s) of ICAR institutes. The Committee, therefore, desire the ICAR to implement this scheme in true spirit at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has put in place several incentives for attracting best talent for agricultural research besides motivating the Scientists working in agricultural institutes by way of adopting UGC pay package and Career Advancement Scheme Special allowances are provided for the scientists working in remote and difficult areas. The scheme of Incentivising the scientists for undertaking research in cutting edge areas for solving challenging problems such as C3-C4 intermediate pathway and functionality of C4 genes in rice, newer genetic modification for improving biological nitrogen fixation in cereals, molecular genetic analysis of stress resistance in wheat, chickpea and mustard, increasing rice yield under low light intensity, semen sexing in cattle are being pursued. All these projects are aimed at enhancing the deployment of scientific manpower in cutting edge areas besides acting as an incentive to pursue emerging newer trends in agricultural science research. The envisaged technical and research contingency support shall act as an incentive for pursuit of advanced research besides encouraging the scientist for appropriate output in the emerging area.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of
Agricultural Research and Education]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.34 of Chapter I of
this Report.

CHAPTER - III

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

REVENUE RECEIPT (Recommendation Para No. 5)

The Committee in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) has observed that revenue generated from the Institutes under ICAR are not reflected in revenue receipt presented to Lok Sabha. The Committee had further opined that revenue generated under administrative control of the Department should be reflected in Budget Documents including detailed Demands for Grants. They had desired the DARE to clarify the issue and rectify the irregularity, if any. In this regard, the Committee were informed that the revenue generated by ICAR is netted while submitting the demand of funds to the Ministry of Finance and as such the Revenue generated by ICAR is utilized by ICAR itself and utilization of internal resources as such is permitted by Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance. The Committee were informed that revenue generated by ICAR is not transferred to the Department Viz., DARE and as such do not form a part of Non-Tax revenues of DARE. On perusal of approval of Ministry of Finance, the Committee note that the Ministry of Finance had suggested the DARE to utilise money generated from internal resources every year with the approval of their Finance Committee/Governing Council without any approval of the Government. The Committee also note that ICAR has netted approximately Rs.368.35 crore while submitting Demands for Grants during the period of 2012-2015. The Committee are not convinced with the reply of the Department regarding validity of approval of Ministry of Finance without approval by the Parliament. The Committee find this practice as violation of this provision of the Constitution as any money earned by the Government institutes ought to be deposited to the Consolidated Fund of India and therefore, require approval of Parliament for expenditure. The Committee, therefore, direct the Department to convey the serious concern of the Committee to the Ministry of Finance and to present a note on constitutional provisions regarding competence of

the Government to allow use of commercial earnings of Government Departments without the approval and sanction of Parliament.

Reply of the Government

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is an autonomous organisation fully funded by the Government. The Revised Rules of the ICAR adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society held at New Delhi on 18th January, 1975 were duly approved by the Government vide File No. 1-1/75-Reogn. (DARE).

The Rule 74 of *Rules and Bye-laws of ICAR* states:

The funds of the Society shall consist of the following:-

- 1) *Income from Cess realised under the Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1970 (Act. No. XXVII of 1940).*
- 2) *Lumpsum and recurring grants made by the Government of India.*
- 3) *Income from Investments.*
- 4) *Income from Other sources.*

As prescribed by the above Rule, the ICAR had been utilising its own Income besides the Govt. Grants received through Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE). However, it is pertinent to mention here that the Accounts of ICAR, audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, every year contain elaborate details of all such Income and expenditure incurred out of Govt. Grant and that incurred out of other sources (Internal Resources of ICAR).

The Audited Annual Accounts of ICAR are duly laid in the Parliament, every year.

The following provisions contained in the General Financial Rules, 2005 may kindly be seen:

Rule 208 (iii) -All autonomous organisations, new or already in existence should be encouraged to maximise generation of Internal resources and eventually attain self-sufficiency.

Rule 208 (iv) - Instead of giving recurring grants, where ever possible, the Ministry or Department may consider creating a Corpus Fund, the returns of investment of which, alongwith their Internally generated resources should enable the autonomous organisation to meet its Revenue expenditure.

Rule 209 (6) (xiv) - The grant sanctioning authorities should not only take into account the Internally generated resources while regulating the award of Grants but should consider laying down targets for Internal Resources generation by the grantee institutions or organisations every financial year, particularly where grants are given on a recurring basis year after year.

In view of the above Rules of the GFR and the fact that the ICAR submits its demand of Grant-in-Aid only after netting the Income from Internal Resources, it is submitted that the system in place at ICAR do not violate any of the existing provision laid down by the Govt.

The demand of funds received from the units of ICAR is consolidated Scheme-wise/division-wise/discipline-wise viz. Crop Science, Horticultural Sciences etc. and the Division-wise Internal resources anticipated to be generated during a given year are netted from the consolidated requirement. The net demand is thereafter submitted to the Ministry of Finance for allocation of funds. The relevant information in this respect during past three years is as under:

ICAR-NON PLAN(<i>Rs. In crore</i>)						
S. No.	Year	Actual demand by the Units of ICAR	Revenue Receipts reported to be generated during the year by the Units	Actual Demand submitted to the Ministry of Finance after netting the Internal Resources	Revised Estimates finally approved	Expenditure**
1.	2012-13	2280.76	95.47	2185.29	2090.90	2172.92
2.	2013-14	2511.07	122.95	2388.12	2270.00	2362.47
3.	2014-15	2761.27	149.93	2611.34	2373.36	2616.21*

*** The excess expenditure over and above the Govt. Grant approved has been met from the Internal Resources of ICAR.*

** Provisional*

In this regard, it may be relevant here to add that while implementing Sixth Central Pay Commission (Sixth CPC) for autonomous organisations, the Govt. had issued clear instructions that 10% of the budgetary support required to meet the additional expenditure due to implementation of Sixth CPC is required to be met through Internal Resource Generation of the autonomous organisation. The copy of relevant OM is enclosed as Annexure-II.

It may also be stated here ICAR is an autonomous organisation under DARE and is not a subordinate / attached office of DARE. Therefore, the units of ICAR cannot be termed as Government Institutions and as such the money earned by them do not form Non-Tax Revenues for DARE. The organisations similar to ICAR viz. CSIR also utilises the Internal Resources generated by its laboratories.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

CHAPTER - IV

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

HORTICULTURE SCIENCE (Recommendation Para No. 9)

The Committee find that Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR), Bengaluru had developed many post harvest technologies such as Reverse Osmosis i.e. Osmotic Dehydration Technologies for fruits and vegetables, for enhancing longevity of raw fruits and vegetables, Crushed Tomato Technology, Dry flower technology, technology Ready to Serve Beverages for Amla, Mango & Pineapple etc. The Committee are of the view that such technologies provide immense potential for commercialization and enhancement of income of farmers. The Committee note that the IIHR has earned revenue of Rs 11.58 Lakh as one time up front license fee from licensing of Post-Harvest Technologies to 14 private organizations. However, the Committee observe that most of these private firms were situated in southern and western part of the country. The IIHR is yet to tap the market available in other parts of the country where huge potential for commercialization of these technologies exist. The Committee also observe that the Institution is yet to transfer these technologies to farmers or Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) despite their willingness for licensing some of these technologies at much lower price than to other private licensees. The Committee are of the considered opinion that proper marketing of post harvest technologies are not only important from the point of revenue generation but also for providing alternate avenues to farmers of the country so that they can get remunerative pricing for their products. The Committee, therefore recommend the DARE to take effective steps for proper marketing of these technologies and organise organic Melas, exhibition & fairs so as to tap potential market of the entire country besides reducing post harvest losses. The Committee would also like the DARE to provide adequate incentives and

training to farmers so that they can be encouraged to start agri- ventures and develop agri-business on their own based on these technologies.

Reply of the Government

Due to logistic and other limitations, some of the important technologies developed at ICAR-IIHR could not be effectively transferred to far off places in the country. But efforts will be intensified to transfer these potential technologies to end users through Zonal Project Directors of the Council, State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

Comments of the Committee

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

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA **(Recommendation Para No. 16)**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra is important mechanism for dissemination of knowledge and information to the farmers and is a pivotal agricultural extension component. Existence of a robust system of KVKs is very much necessary for transfer of knowledge from lab to land. However, the Committee note that KVKs are not being provided necessary infrastructure and manpower for achieving the aim of extension services for farmers of the country. The Committee was apprised that performance of the KVKs was not up to the mark due to lack of manpower and lack of funds due to budget cut. The Committee note that as many as 2402 posts out of 10272 scientific (Programme Coordinators and Subject Matter Specialists), technical and administrative and other posts are vacant in KVKs as on 31.03.2015. The Committee were informed that budget cut in operational contingency has also affected the activities of KVKs. Each KVK is provided modest infrastructure depending upon the need and availability of funds for the purpose. So far ICAR has provided Administrative building to 563 KVKs, Farmers Hostel in 513 KVKs,

Demonstration units in 493 KVKs and Soil Water Testing Labs in 389 KVKs. During XII Plan, the KVKs are proposed to be provided different types of infrastructure like office buildings, farmer's hostel, staff quarters, demonstration units and other additional facilities in selected KVKs. These additional facilities include soil and water testing labs, rain water harvesting facility, minimal processing facility, mini seed processing facility, carp hatcheries, integrated farming system units, solar panels, technology information units, micro-nutrient analysis facility and 25 KVA genset. Besides, the KVKs are also proposed to be provided need based office equipments and audio-visual aids, laboratory equipments and different types of farm equipments and machinery. The provisions have been recommended by the EFC of the KVK scheme for the XII Plan and the proposals are under consideration of the Cabinet. Further, the Department could not provide funds for construction of farmers hostels, facilities for promoting farm mechanisation, facilities for food processing etc. due to reduced allocations during current plan. The Committee in their earlier reports have time and again emphasized on the importance of KVKs in the scheme for agricultural extension. The Government must understand that we cannot hope to improve the wellbeing of farmers unless they are provided information relating to latest research in techniques, seeds, methods, implements and other necessary inputs for making agriculture remunerative. The Committee, therefore, desire the government to enhance the fund allocations to KVKs so that they can be equipped with all necessary infrastructure and manpower and be up to date. The Committee desire the Department to revisit the fund allocation, utilisation & strength monitoring mechanisation as well, so far as KVKs are concerned. The DARE should also make efforts in consultation with the State Governments for filling vacancies available in KVKs. They also recommend that Department should ensure that KVKs including private sector KVKs provide the mandated activities to the farmers without any exception.

Reply of the Government

Efforts are being made for making higher allocations to scheme of KVKs. The allocation has been enhanced from Rs.533.60 crore at RE stage in 2014-15 to Rs. 644.85 crore at BE stage in 2015-16. As suggested, the monitoring mechanism will also be strengthened by deploying more scientific manpower in the Zonal Project

Directorates (ZPDs) and increasing the number of ZPDs from 8 to 11 after the approval of the Government.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER - V

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

SEPARATE FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF INITIATIVES FOR XII PLAN (Recommendation Para No. 18)

The Committee note that many initiatives planned for implementation such as Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA), Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana (READY), Farmers FIRST, Agriculture and Technology Forecast Centre are yet to commence even after three years after the commencement of the Plan. The Committee were apprised that these schemes are under the process of getting approval of the Government. Similarly, projects envisaged under Extra Mural Funds are still in the process of seeking approval of the Government. The Committee have also been informed that sixteen Consortia Research projects have been sanctioned at a total XII Plan outlay of Rs. 1651.80 crore as part of EFC's of different schemes and are likely to start as per approved programme during the year 2015-16 and onwards. The Committee also note that Indian Agriculture e-Extension Research Institute (IAeRI) Scheme has not yet been conceptualized by the DARE due to reduced funding. The Committee recall that in their second report (16th Lok Sabha) had deplored the slow pace of work in implementation of new initiatives during the XII Plan and desired the Department to complete requisite formalities for launching these schemes/projects during the 2014-15 so that intended benefits planned under these schemes are made available in time. However, the DARE have not been provided adequate funds to start these innovative projects which has immense potential to upscale farmers-scientist interaction and to make agriculture education attractive for new generation. The Committee strongly feel that implementation of these Schemes have already been delayed inordinately. They, therefore, desire the Department give their best to ensure that all formalities pertaining to these initiatives are completed with utmost promptitude and their implementation commences within specific time frame. At the same time, the Committee desire the Department to make available additional funds

in ongoing fiscal so that benefits as planned from these schemes can be reaped during the current plan itself.

Reply of the Government

The new activities of XII plan viz., Students READY and Agriculture Technology Forecast Centre are at different stages of seeking approval of the Government. The Department has ensured that all formalities pertaining these activities are completed and awaiting approval from the Government. The activity namely "Farmers FIRST" is under the process of implementation. Some of Consortia Research Projects (CRPs), as part of EFC's of different schemes are being implemented and remaining will be taken up after getting adequate funding at RE Stage 2015-16.

As far as ARYA is concerned, this scheme has been sanctioned in December, 2014. This programme is conceptualized for mentoring/handholding rural youth in villages by providing technical and financial support to upscale/commercialize promising technologies and grass root innovations. An amount of Rs. 100 crore is approved in XII Plan for this activity.

Further, regarding Indian Agricultural e-Extension Research institute (IAeRI), the department has again requested NITI Aayog to expedite the matter for communicating "in principle" approval.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation Para No.19

The Committee note that process for establishment of Central Agricultural Universities at Bihar, Barapani (Meghalaya and Nagaland) are under process whereas, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi (Bundelkhand) was created as an institution of national importance in March, 2014 only. The

Committee are concerned with the tardy progress in the establishment of Central Agricultural Universities in Bihar and Barapani as envisaged in the XIIth plan. The Committee also note that formalities for establishment of Agriculture University in Andhra Pradesh and Horticulture University in Telangana have been started. However, the Committee had not been provided timelines for commissioning of each of these Universities. The Committee are of view that a scheduled timeline for establishment of these universities will go a long way for timely commissioning of these universities, establishment of which has already been delayed. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to formulate timelines in consultation with concerned State Governments so that requisite funds be made available by the Ministry of Finance accordingly.

Reply of the Government

The department is in the process of finalizing EFC for Rajendra- Central Agricultural University(CAU), Pusa, Bihar and for CAU-Barapani the Govt. of Meghalaya is still to allot the requisite land. For establishment of agricultural university in Andhra Pradesh and horticultural University in Telangana, the process has already been initiated and to that effect an amount of Rs. 10.00 Crore has been released to each University during Financial Year 2014-15 and an amount of Rs. 75.00 crore has been earmarked for each University as BE for the Financial Year 2015-16, and the same amount will be released as soon as AUC is received for the earlier released amount. DARE is making all round efforts to complete these projects at the earliest possible time in the line of suggestion of the Committee on Agriculture. The Department is pursuing the matter with the concerned State Governments to formulate timeliness for the establishment of these universities.

[Ministry of Agriculture O.M No.7 (3)/2015, dated 13th July, 2015, Department of Agricultural Research and Education]

Comments of the Committee

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

NEW DELHI;
14 December, 2015
23 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

HUKM DEO NARAYAN YADAV
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

ANNEXURE-I

LIST OF ON GOING CASES & ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF ICAR HQRS. AND INSTITUTES DURING 2014-15

(Vide Para 1.6 of Chapter 2 of Report)

S. No	Name of the Institute(s)	Name of the Charged Officer	Nature of irregularities committed	Status of the disciplinary / criminal proceedings
1.	CIRG, Makhdoom	--Dr. S.V. Singh, Principal Scientist --Dr. B. Rai, Principal Scientist --Dr. Puneet Kumar, Principal Scientist --Dr. D.K. Sharma, Principal Scientist --Shri S.L.V. Prasad, Sr. AO	Irregularities in purchases of Bio-safety Cabinet at CIRG	Inquiry Officer (IO) & Presenting Officer (PO) appointed. Inquiry in progress.
2.	IVRI, Izatnagar	--Dr. M. C. Sharma, Ex-Director	Irregularities in various Purchase/works at IVRI, Izatnagar.	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
3.	IVRI, Izatnagar	--Dr. (Mrs.) Rupasi Tiwari, Sr. Scientist --Shri Triveni Dutt, Jt. Director -- Dr. S. S. Rawat, CTO	Irregularity in purchase of Learning Management Information System Software. Irregularity in procurement of books	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
4.	IVRI, Izatnagar	--Shri Rajiv Kumar, O.C. Engg --Shri Rajiv Gupta, Technical Officer(Civil) --Dr. Rakesh Pandey, Incharge, Farm Section --Dr. Putan Singh, Coordinator	Irregularity in splitting the works to avoid Open Tender and Vetting by Director (Works) Irregularities in the Contract given for harvesting of green fodder.	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.

IO – Inquiry Officer
PO – Presenting Officer

5.	IIVR, Varanasi	--Dr D Dutta Principal Scientist	Irregularities in purchases/works at IIVR, Varanasi	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
6.	IVRI, Izatnagar.	--Dr. Deepak Sharma, Principal Scientist --Dr. Ranvir Singh, Sr. Scientist --Shri Yashpal Singh, Scientist (SS)	Irregularity in purchase of Chemicals Irregularity in Purchase of Human Resource Management System Software.	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
7.	NRC on Orchid, Sikkim	--Dr. L. C. Day, Principal Scientist	Fraudulent claim	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
8.	NBAGR, Karnal	Dr. R. K. Viz, Principal Scientist	Irregularities in up-gradation of DNA Sequencer.	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
9.	NRC on Mithun, Nagaland	--Dr. Kobukhate, T-7-8 --Shri Dipal, Meiti, Assistant	Misconduct and discrepancies in sale of milk coupons	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
10.	ICAR Res. Barapani	Shri K. C Joshi, Chief A.O.,	Irregularities in appointment of Caretaker in the Hostel and financial irregularities in maintaining the hostel at Asiad Village Complex, New Delhi	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
11.	KVK, CPCRI, Kasargod	--Dr. Manoj Kumar. T.S, Programme coordinator	Irregularities in purchase of vehicle	Penalty of Reduction to a lower stage in the time scale of pay for a period of one year without cumulative effect and without adversely affecting his pension imposed.
12.	CISH, Lucknow	--Dr. Anil Verma, Scientist (SG) --Shri Ramendra Tiwari, Sr.T.O. -Sh. Ravi Bhadra, AFAO	Irregularities in installation of Drip Irrigation System.	Penalty of Reduction to a lower stage by one stage for a period of one year without cumulative effect imposed.
13.	NBAGR, Karnal	Dr. B. K. Joshi, Ex-Director	Irregularities in up-gradation of DNA Sequencer.	Penalty of Five Percent cut in pension for a period of six months imposed
14.	IVRI, Izatnagar	Dr. Om Singh, Sr. Scientist	Misuse of Govt. Vehicle while on LTC	Penalty of Reduction to a lower stage in the time scale of pay by two stages for a period of two years with cumulative effect imposed.
15.	IGFRI, Jhansi	Dr. A.K.Pandey, TO Dr. K.A.Singh, Pr Scientist.	Unauthorized cutting of trees.	In its 2 nd stage advice, CVC has advised for imposition for Major penalty on Dr. K.A.Singh and drop charges against Dr.

		Dr. M.S.Sharma, TO.		A.K.Pandey and Dr. M.S Sharma. Matter under consideration.
16	DSR, Hyderabad	Dr. J.V.Patil, Director Sh.W.S. Bhatt, AO	Financial irregularities in purchase of furniture, renovation of sabhagar and renovation of guest house	Chargé Sheet served. IO & PO to be appointed.
17	CRIDA, Hyderabad	Dr. S.R. Yadav AD(OL)	Fraudulent claim of TA and LTC	Penalty of Reduction to a lower stage by one stage for two years with cumulative effect imposed
18	CRIJAF, Barrackpore	Shri H.K. Sammadar, F&AO (now retd.) Shri D. Moitra, CAO	Irregularity in splitting of work	Copy of CVCs 2 nd stage advice, findings of IO sent to charged officers for their submissions for imposition of major penalty. Reply received are examined.
19	PDFSR, Modipuram	Shri Anil Aggarwal, F&AO (Now Retd.) Shri H.S. Chauhan, AO (Now Retd.) Dr. B. Gangwar, Director	Irregularities in fixing of vitrified tiles, purchase of vertical blinds purchase of furniture etc.	Penalty of Censure imposed on Shri H.S. Chauhan. Penalty of reduction to lower stage imposed on Shri Anil Aggarwal. IO & PO appointed in case of Dr. B. Gangwar.
20	NBAIM, Modipuram	Dr. Alok Srivastava, Sr. Scientist	Financial irregularity in purchase of equipments.	IP & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
21	NBPGR, New Delhi	Ms. Sunita Sharma, DS Shri R.P. Chamola, F&AO Shri R.P. Mathur, TO	Irregularity in award of security contract	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
22	CIAE, Bhopal	Shri R.C. Meena, SAO	Allegation of misuse of official power and non-settlement of LTC advance.	IO & PO appointed. Inquiry in progress.
23	NBSSLUP, Nagpur	Dr. Arun Chaturvedi, Prin. Sc. Dr. T.N. Hazare, Prin. Sc.	Various financial irregularities	Reply to the Charge Sheet under examination.
24	DSR, Mau	Dr. A.B. Mandal, Director Dr. A.K. Sinha, Sr. Scientist Shri Suresh Chand, AF&AO (Now retd.)	Financial irregularities in award of contract	Penalty of reduction to one lower stage in the time scale of pay for a period of one year imposed on Dr Mandal and Dr Sinha. Further penalty of reduction to one lower stage of pay till 29.11.2014 without adversely affecting his pension imposed on Shri Suresh Chand

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25	NCIPM, New Delhi	--Dr. O.M. Bambawale, Director (Retd.) --Dr. O.P. Sharma, Prin. Sc. --Dr. Someshwar Bhagat, Sr. Sc. --Shri S.P. Singh, TO	Irregularities in purchase of HaNPV	In its 2 nd stage advice, CVC has advised to impose major penalty on Dr. Bambawale and Dr. O.P. Sharma and drop charges against Dr. Someshwar Bhagat and Shri S.P. Singh. Matter under examination
26	CSWCR&TI, Chandigarh	Dr. A.K. Tiwari, Head Shri R.S. Nain, Farm Manager Shri Basu Deo, T.O. Shri S.K. Chauhan, T.O.	Irregular felling of trees causing revenue loss	Reply to charge sheet under examination in consultation with CVC.
27	NBPGR, New Delhi	Shri Suresh Kumar, CAO	Tampering in note portion thereby causing loss to the institute.	Penalty of reduction to a lower stage by one stage in the time scale of pay for a period of one year imposed
28	IISR, Lucknow	Shri Rajiv Lal, SAO	Negligence of violating the provisions of clause of agreement with a firm causing financial loss to the Council.	Penalty of Censure imposed on Shri Rajiv Lal

(Vide Letter JII JB P/2008)

No 7/23/2008-E-III (A)
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Expenditure

New Delhi, dated the 30th September, 2008

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Pay revision of employees of Quasi-Government Organizations, Autonomous Organizations, and Statutory Bodies, etc set up by and funded/controlled by the Central Government --Guidelines regarding.

Orders have been issued by the Government to implement the revised pay structure for the Central Government employees on the basis of the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission as accepted by the Government. It has now been decided that these orders may be extended to the employees of Autonomous Organizations etc whose pattern of emolument structure i.e. pay scales and allowances (in particular the Dearness Allowance, the House Rent Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance) are identical to those of the Central Government employees. This is further subject to the stipulation that conditions of service of employees of those organizations, especially those relating to hours of work, payment of OTA etc, would also be exactly similar to those in Government Departments. There is no objection to the Autonomous Organizations etc adopting the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008. It is, however, clarified that the revised pay structure as incorporated in Section I and II of Part A of the First Schedule to the Rules ibid alone may be adopted. It is further added that the revised pay structure would be admissible to those employees who opt for the same in accordance with the extant Rules. Likewise, deductions on account of Provident Fund or Contributory Provident Fund, as the case may be, will have to be made on the basis of the revised pay w.e.f the date the employee opts to elect the revised pay structure.

2. In case of those categories of employees whose pattern of emoluments structure i.e. pay scales and allowances and conditions of service are not similar to those of the Central Government employees, a separate 'Group of Officers' in respect of each of the Autonomous Bodies may be constituted in the respective Ministry/Department. The Financial Adviser of the respective Ministry/Department will represent the Ministry of Finance on this Group. The Group would examine the proposals for revision of pay scales etc taking into account the views, if any, expressed by the staff representatives of the concerned organizations. It would be necessary to ensure that the final package of benefits proposed to be extended to the employees of these Autonomous Organizations etc is not more beneficial than that admissible to the corresponding categories of the Central Government employees. The final package recommended by the 'Group of Officers' will require

the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance or the Department of Personnel & Training, as the case may be.

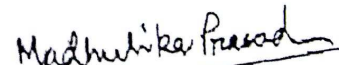
3. The mode of payment of arrears of pay shall be as laid down in Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008 ~~for the~~ Central Government employees.

4. The adoption of revised pay structure based on these orders by Autonomous Organizations, etc, both where the pattern of emoluments structure is identical to the Central Government and where emoluments structure is not similar, will be subject to the following conditions as far as budgetary support for additional expenditure is concerned :-

- (a) 80% of the additionality will be met by the Central Government;
- (b) 10% of the additionality will be met by the Autonomous Organizations, etc through additional generation of revenue; and
- (c) Balance 10% of the additionality will be managed by the Autonomous Organizations etc through savings.

4.1 In the case of Autonomous Organizations, etc, which have no source of generating revenue, 90% of the additional expenditure will be met by the Central government.

5. If the additional expenditure cannot be met in accordance with the funding pattern mentioned in paragraph 4 and 4.1 above, each request for funds in excess of the amount worked out as per this formula will be examined on merits by the administrative Ministry and sent to this Department for consideration.


(Madhulika P. Sukul)
Joint Secretary (Per)

To

All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India
All Financial Advlsers (By name).

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2015-16)

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 10th December, 2015 from 1000 hrs. to 1050 hrs. in Chamber of the Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Room No. 138 (Third Floor), Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav – Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Prof. Richard Hay
3. Shri Sanganna Karadi
4. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
5. Md. Badaruddoza Khan
6. C. Mahendran
7. Dr. Tapas Mandal
8. Shri Janardan Mishra
9. Shri Ajay Nishad
10. Shri Mukesh Rajput
11. Shri Satyapal Singh (Sambhal)
12. Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa

RAJYA SABHA

13. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
14. Shri Rajpal Singh Saini
15. Shri Ram Nath Thakur

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri U.B.S. Negi	–	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Arun K. Kaushik	–	Director
3.	Shri C. Vanlalruata	–	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri Sumesh Kumar	–	Under Secretary

2. At the outset, Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the following draft Reports:

* (i) **** **** **** **** ****

* (ii) **** **** **** **** ****

* (iii) **** **** **** **** ****

(iv) Draft Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 10th Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2014-15) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

* (v) **** **** **** **** ****

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Reports without any modification. They authorized the Chairperson to finalize and present these Reports to Parliament after getting them factually verified from the concerned Departments/Ministry.

*4. **** **** **** **** ****

*Matter not related to this Report.

Appendix

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON
THE TENTH REPORT (16th LOK SABHA) OF
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2014-15)
(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	23
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22 and 23	
	Total	18
	Percentage	78.26%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Para No. 5	
	Total	01
	Percentage	4.34%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para Nos. 9 and 16	
	Total	02
	Percentage	8.68%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para Nos. 18 and 19	
	Total	02
	Percentage	8.68%