

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
**(2005-2006)**

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2005-2006)

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/  
Observations contained in the Eleventh Report of the  
Standing Committee on Agriculture (2004-2005)}**

FIFTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
***NEW DELHI***

February, 2006/Magha, 1927 (Saka)

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of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2004-2005)]**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.02.2006

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.02.2006



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
*NEW DELHI***

February, 2006/Magha, 1927 (Saka)

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**Composition of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2005-2006)**

**Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav – Chairman**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Hiten Barman
3. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta
4. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava
5. Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi
6. Smt. Anuradha Choudhary
7. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
8. Shri Khagen Das
9. Shri Dharmendra
10. Shri Sharanjit Singh Dhillon
11. Shri Raghunath Jha
12. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
13. Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Patil Nilangekar
14. Shri Sippiparai Ravichandran
15. Shri K.J.S.P. Reddy
16. Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy
17. Shri Harihar Swain
18. Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar
19. Shri Mahboob Zahedi
- 20 \* Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
- 21 # Vacant

**RAJYA SABHA**

22. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
23. Shri Harish Rawat
24. Dr. M.S.Gill
25. Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal
26. Shri Raj Nath Singh
27. Shri Sk. Khabir Uddin Ahmed
28. Shri Bhagwati Singh
29. Shri Datta Meghe
30. Shri Bashistha Narain Singh
31. Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi

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\* Shri Prakash V.Patil ceased to be the member of this Committee owing to his demise on 21 October, 2005 and the vacancy thus created was filled by nomination of Shri Deepender Singh Hooda, to this Committee vide L.S. Bulletin Part-II, Para No.1905, dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2005

# Shri Lal Chandra Kol ceased to be the member of this Committee due to

his expulsion from Lok Sabha w.e.f. 23 December, 2005.

**SECRETARIAT**

1.	Shri John Joseph	-	Secretary
2.	Shri A.K.Singh	-	Joint Secretary
3.	Shri Hardev Singh	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri K. D.Muley	-	Under Secretary
5.	Shri N.K. Touthang	-	Executive Assistant

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Agriculture, (2005-2006) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2004-2005) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) for the year 2005-2006.

2. The Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2004-2005) on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) was presented to Lok Sabha on 20.4.2005 and laid in Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received.

3. The Committee considered the action taken replies furnished by the Government at their sitting held on 18.1.2006, approved the draft comments and adopted the Fifteenth Report. Minutes of the sitting are placed at Appendix I.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Eleventh Report (14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

**NEW DELHI;**  
**18, January, 2006**  
**28 Pausa, 1927 (Saka)**

**PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV**  
*Chairman,*  
*Standing Committee on Agriculture*

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2004-2005) on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and fisheries) which was presented to the Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 20.04.2005.

1.2 Action taken replies have been received from the Government in respect of all the 18 recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorized as follows:-

- (i) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by the Government (Chapter II of the Report)

Recommendations Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15 and 16.  
(Total- 11)

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

Recommendations Sl. No. (Total – Nil)

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which reply of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee (Chapter IV of the Report to be commented upon in Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation Sl. No. 3 (Total-1)

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

Recommendation Sl. No. 7, 8, 11, 12, 17 and 18 (Total - 6)

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



## **Recommendation No. 2**

### ***Implementation of new schemes during 10<sup>th</sup> Plan***

1.4 The Committee note that the Department proposes to implement 23 schemes during 2005-06 including the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Livestock Insurance. Three other new schemes proposed to be implemented are Rural Backyard Poultry Development, Integrated Development of Small Ruminants and Setting up of National Fisheries Development Board. The Centrally Sponsored Component Scheme, “Assistance to States for Piggery Development” under the macro-management scheme, “Livestock and Poultry improvement Programme” is also yet to be revived.

The Department has informed in respect of certain major schemes introduced as new schemes in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan that significant expenditure could not be effected in the first two years since certain preliminary steps were required to be completed. The Committee are dismayed to note that even after three years of commencement of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, these new schemes are yet to be modified/finalized or get the clearance of the appraisal agencies. The Committee are perturbed to note that out of the allocation of Rs. 2,500 crore for implementation of various schemes during 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, the Department could utilize only Rs. 968.86 crore leaving Rs. 1,531.14 crore to be utilised during the remaining two years of 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. The Committee note that these schemes announced in one financial year and launched in subsequent financial year with fanfare are yet to take off. The Committee find little relevance of the schemes which are yet to get the clearance of appraisal agencies and need further modification even after three years of their introduction. Obviously, there is lack of seriousness and direction in the conception and formulation of the schemes. The entire procedure, therefore, needs to be thoroughly reviewed and streamlined so that implementation of the Schemes is not delayed by the appraisal agencies.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.5 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Department, while sharing the concern of the Committee regarding the implementation of new schemes is making concerted efforts to utilize the outlay approved for these schemes by the terminal year of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. In the Dairy sector, under the new centrally sponsored scheme viz. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality & Clean Milk Production launched during 2003-2004 (October 2003) and having a budget outlay of Rs. 30.00 crore for the Tenth Plan, an amount of Rs. 24.64 crore has already been released to various States during 2004-05.

The EFC memos for the new schemes Rural Backyard Poultry Development, Integrated Development of Small Ruminants and Assistance to States for Piggery Development are under progress.

As regards setting up of a National Fisheries Development Board (which was conceived only during 2004-2005) action has already been initiated by the Department.

### **Comments of the Committee**

1.6 **The Committee desire that the Department should not only make concerted efforts to fully utilize the balance total outlay of Rs. 1531.14 crore but should also initiate sincere steps to accelerate the process of implementation of the various schemes in such a way that implementation of schemes are not further delayed on any pretext. The process of getting clearances of appraised agencies should have been completed before their announcement.**

### **Recommendation No. 3**

#### ***Infrastructural development in Central Cattle Breeding Farm***

1.7 Seven Cattle Breeding Farms located in different agro climatic regions of the country maintain herds of some important indigenous and exotic cattle breeds as well as

buffaloes for distribution to the States for use in the Cattle and Buffalo Development Programme. The Plan allocation during 2004-05 had been increased to Rs. 8.60 crore against BE of Rs. 6.00 crore in 2003-04 towards infrastructural development necessary for production of high quality bulls in Central Cattle Breeding Farm. The Department in its Action Taken Reply to the recommendation made by the Committee in their 3<sup>rd</sup> Report on Demands for Grants 2004-2005 informed that all the developmental work in the Central Cattle Breeding Farms will be completed within the financial year 2004-2005 as desired by the Committee. The Committee, while examining the Demands for Grants 2005-2006, asked about the progress of developmental works which are being carried out in the farms and also the expenditure incurred, thereon, the Department could not furnish the desired information. The Committee further note that allocations scaled down at RE stage of 2004-2005 were again raised to Rs. 11.16 crore at BE stage of 2005-2006. The reasons put forth by the Department for enhancement of funds during 2005-2006 were some developmental works suggested by Central Management Committee in the farms like Construction of Quarantine Sheds at each farm, purchase of agricultural equipments and machinery, etc. The Committee are surprised to note that over the years while the funds are being used for enhancing developmental works in the farms, the Department was unable to give details of the works being carried out and also the actual expenditure incurred on it so far. Obviously, the Department has not been able to utilize the funds allocated. Apparently, the Management Committee and the Advisory Committee constituted by the Department have been functioning in a lackadaisical manner. The Committee would like the Department to assess the performance of the farms and initiate sincere efforts for their improvement. They also desire that the money allocated for the purpose should be fully utilized and definite time frame may be fixed for completion of the developmental works in the farms so that poor animals in the farms do not suffer. The

Committee would also like to be apprised of the efforts made to make available good breeds of indigenous cows and buffaloes during the last three years State-wise and year-wise.

### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

1.8 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the funds for civil works were released to CPWD and most of the work taken up during 2004-05 have been completed / are in the final stage of completion.

The expenditure incurred during last 3 years under various Sub-Heads and Budget provision made for 2005-06 is as under:

(Rs. in thousand)

Items of Expenditure	Actual Expenditure Incurred				Budget Provision made for 2005-06
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total	
Major works	421	1581	4699	6701	27039
Minor works	46	60	43	149	6500
Machinery & Equipments	2350	587	1933	4870	7725
Total	2817	2228	6675	11720	41264

Higher outlay provided at BE level for the year 2005-06 is essentially required for undertaking urgent major & minor works in the farms and purchase of critical machinery & equipment as recommended by the Farm Management Committee. The Management Committee discussed in detail the proposal of all the seven farms as suggested by Farm Technical Advisory Committees (FTACs) for bringing about essential improvement in the farms.

In order to accomplish the desired works to be undertaken by the farms the proposals are being processed and it is anticipated that the funds earmarked for the scheme will be utilized fully.

The mandate of the Central Cattle Breeding farms is to supply cattle and buffalo breeding bulls to various States for breed improvement programmes i.e artificial insemination and natural service. The bulls/bull calves supplied by CCBFs to different States during the last 3 years is given at Annexure-I and the cows/heifers supplied to States and Royal Govt. of Bhutan is given at Annexure-II.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.9 The Committee are surprised to note that inspite of the enhancement of funds during 2005-06 the Department is conspicuously silent about the detail developmental work being carried out in the CCBFs fuelling apprehension that the Management Committee and the Advisory Committee constituted by the Department have not been functioning as they ought to. It appears that this Committees are not taking their mandate seriously. The Committee is not at all satisfied with the state of affairs at these farms. Even after utilizing Rs.11,720 lakhs for their development since the year 2002-03, the performance of these Farms is still very poor and pitiable. For example, in the Central Cattle Breeding Farm Andesh Nagar, (U.P.) only 27 Bulls/ Bull calves had been produced/ provided since 2002-03.**

**The Committee, therefore, reiterate its demand to assess the performance of these farms on priority, especially the CCBF Andesh Nagar (UP) and take effective steps for their improvement.**

### **Recommendation No. 5**

#### ***Feed and Fodder Development***

1.10 The Centrally-Sponsored scheme, “Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development” was initiated during the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and discontinued during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. However, two components of this scheme, establishment of fodder bank and enrichment of straw/cellulosic waste were revived upto March 2005 to facilitate the States to combat the current drought situation in the country. The Committee also note that a new revised scheme on Fodder Development has been proposed with the aim to increase qualitative green and dry fodder, fodder seeds, conservation of fodder, fodder block making and popularizing high yielding varieties of fodder crops, ultimately increasing the fodder production.

The Committee note that due to competing pressures on land, the green revolution and diversified use of agriculture residues, the gap between the demand and supply of fodder is increasing. Besides, due to frequent drought in several States, the need to develop fodder with drought proofing as an objective is in sharp focus. Even under normal conditions, tremendous shortage of fodder is felt in many parts of the country. The deficit aggravates further during natural calamities such as drought, floods, etc. The Committee, therefore, strongly feel that for augmenting the fodder seed and fodder production in the drought prone areas, a Regional or Sub-Regional Station be set up specially for these specific areas to facilitate production and easy availability of fodder in consultation with the ICAR.

The Committee further note that the two components of the Scheme which were revived to facilitate the States to combat the current drought situation in the country has come to an end in March 2005 and as of now the new scheme has only been proposed to the Planning Commission. The Committee observe that with the gap arising between the

conclusion of the existing Scheme and the implementation of the new proposed Scheme, the shortage of fodder will aggravate furthermore. The Committee, therefore, desire and recommend that the new revised scheme on 'Fodder Development' should be implemented at the earliest not only to combat chronic 'Fodder Shortage' in certain parts of the country but also to tackle the problem of plenty elsewhere by setting up of adequate number of Fodder Banks. The Department also needs to evolve a mechanism for timely and suitable transportation of fodder from areas of plenty to areas of scarcity in consultation with the Railways.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.11 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Department is operating 7 Regional Stations for Forage Production & Demonstration at Hissar, Haryana/Suratgarh Rajasthan/Gandhinagar, Gujarat/Kalyani, West Bengal/Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh/Chennai, Tamil Nadu/Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir and 1 Central Fodder Seed Production Farm at Hessarghatta, Bangalore. Each Fodder Station covers three to four States in its region for their fodder development programme. These Fodder Stations undertake following fodder development activities.

- (a) Multiplication of high yielding varieties of fodder crops
- (b) Training programmes for farmers as well as State Government officials engaged in fodder development programme
- (c) Field demonstrations of newly evolved high yielding varieties of fodder species at the farmers' field
- (d) Farmers' fairs/field days for extension and awareness.

During 2005-06, the Planning Commission has not allocated funds from Plan head for these Stations and has also advised the Department to stop fodder seed

production in these stations. The Department has however, taken up the matter with the Planning Commission as well as the Ministry of Finance for providing funds from suitable budget head for these Stations.

The new revised scheme on Fodder Development has been approved with total outlay of Rs. 24.50 crore for implementation during remaining period of 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. Guidelines for submission of proposals for assistance under the scheme have been issued to the States in May, 2005. In order to prevent wastage of crop residues/straw etc. left in the farmers' fields after harvesting of crops, a component on 'Assistance to fodder block making units' under which gainful utilization of crop residues by their conversion into 'Fodder blocks' has been included. Further, the Department also recommends to the Ministry of Railways from time to time on specific requests from the States to permit transportation of fodder from area of surplus to those of deficit on priority particularly during drought situations.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.12 The Committee is happy to note that a new component 'Assistance to Fodder Block making Units' under the revised scheme on Fodder Development has been approved to strengthen the prevention of wastage of crop residues/straw etc. left in the fields after harvesting of crops. The Committee hope that the new revised scheme on fodder development will be effectively implemented at the earliest.**

**The availability of Fodder in all situation whether it is drought, famine, or any other natural calamity – is a question of life and death for the poor helpless animals which can neither speak nor protest unlike human beings. Therefore it is our sacred duty to feed the animals in every circumstances, wherever they are.**



### **Recommendation No. 6**

#### ***Sheep Breeding Farm, Hissar***

1.13 The Sheep Breeding Farm at Hissar, Haryana had been established with the objective to produce around 1,000 exotic and crossbred rams annually for supply to various State Governments/Organisations for implementing Sheep Development Programme launched in the respective States. The Committee are constrained to note that out of the Tenth Plan allocation of Rs. 25.00 crore, the Department could merely spend Rs. 3.05 crore during the first three years which is a meagre 12.2%. Also out of the Tenth Plan target of production and supply of 5,000 rams to various States, the Department could supply only 1,533 rams in the first two years, i.e. 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. However, the achievement during 2004-2005 was nil and also no target has been fixed for 2005-06 reportedly due to paucity of land in the farm. The Committee also note that the issue of finalizing lease agreement and lease rent with the Haryana Government is yet to be resolved. The Department in reply to a question informed the Committee that the matter will once again be taken up with the State Government.

The Committee would, therefore, like the Department to take up the matter expeditiously with the State of Haryana de novo in order to accelerate the implementation of the National Sheep Development Programme. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the response of the Government of Haryana.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.14 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that it is not correct that in respect of supply of rams to various states there was no achievement during 2004-05 and no target has been fixed for 2005-06. As a matter of fact, 1370 rams were supplied

during 2004-05 and target of 1050 has been fixed for 2005-06 (the target is lower because of the need to cull some animals).

Regarding the issue of lease agreement, the Government of Haryana has agreed to extend the lease agreement from 1998 to 2018 at the rate of Rs. 1100 per hectare per annum. Necessary formalities are being completed for this.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.15 The Committee is happy to note that the long pending issue of extending the lease agreement with the Government of Haryana has since been resolved. The Committee now hope that the Department would make all out efforts with sincerity and take all possible steps for full utilization of the Plan funds during the remaining years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. This would go a long way not only in accelerating the implementation of the National Sheep Development Programme but also in uplifting the rural economy by producing high quality crossbred rams.**

### **Recommendation No. 7**

#### ***Assistance to Co-operatives***

1.16 The scheme 'Assistance to Co-operatives' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which was approved in January 2000 for providing assistance in the form of grants for rehabilitation of loss-making dairy co-operatives/district level unions, as well as to the State Level Federations which are set up in different parts of the country under the Operation Flood Programme. The Scheme envisages rehabilitation assistance on 50:50 sharing basis between the Government of India and the concerned State Governments.

The Committee are distressed to note that a number of these unions/federations have accumulated losses for a variety of reasons, causing severe hardships to the milk producers and their daily economy, resulting in, among other things, delayed and

irregular payments to the poor farmer members of these co-operatives. In response to a query, the Committee were informed that excessive and low manpower productivity, lower scale of operation of some milk unions with high per litre cost on procurement, transport, processing and distribution with lower sales realization and other factors as some of the reasons for the unsatisfactory performance of these unions/federations.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Plan outlay for this Scheme was Rs. 130.00 crore. Surprisingly, the Committee observe that the Department could utilize only Rs. 25.29 crore during the first three years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan leaving a huge unspent balance of Rs. 104.71 crore. The Department had stated that the pace of expenditure will increase once the progress of implementation of many unions is revived following issue of appropriate instructions to them. The Department further pointed out that in case of any shortfall in the utilization of the outlay earmarked, the same can be diverted to other schemes and the effort of the Department will be to fully utilize the total outlay for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. The Committee strongly desire that the Department should make all out and integrated efforts to fully utilize the entire outlay earmarked for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan.

The Committee also recommend that the funding pattern of the Scheme from the present sharing and rehabilitation of assistance on 50:50 sharing basis may be changed to 75:25 to ensure better participation of the States. The Committee hope that such a change in funding pattern will help mitigate the plight of the milk producers/their unions/cooperatives across the country particularly when in some parts of the country milk is being sold at rates much cheaper than the mineral water.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.17 The outlay for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan for the Central Sector Plan Scheme ‘ Assistance to Cooperatives’ is Rs 130.00 crore and the Department has utilized Rs 29.18 crore during

the first three years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. The scheme is purely demand driven and on an average, an amount of Rs 10-12 crore is required annually to meet the committed liabilities of some of the proposals already approved and new proposals.

The Department has entrusted the evaluation study of the scheme to National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, an autonomous organization under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Therefore, revision in the scheme in respect of funding pattern and other aspect will be considered after the findings of the evaluation study become available.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.18 The Committee, while appreciating the practical difficulties the Department might be experiencing in the implementation of the Scheme, desire that the MANAGE, Hyderabad should be asked to complete the study expeditiously. The Government may revise the funding pattern and other aspects of the scheme suitably within the shortest possible time period.**

### **Recommendation No. 8**

#### ***Delhi Milk Scheme***

1.19 The Department in its reply to the recommendation made by the Committee in 3<sup>rd</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05) stated that the Management Committee of DMS has taken measures to contain the losses of DMS. The DMS is able to process and pack 3.50 lakh litre of variety of milk per day. The Department is making efforts to increase the processing capacity of different type of milk up to 6.00 lakh litre per day by undertaking modifications and upgradations of the plant and machinery. It has been stated by the Department that the entire cost for upgradation and modification of the plan

to bring it to a semi-automatic level will be Rs. 23.00 crore out of which Rs. 5.00 crore have already been earmarked for DMS in the current financial year. The Committee also note that National Capital Territory (NCT) was also requested to take over DMS and to run it. However, the Government of NCT was not in favour of the proposal of taking over DMS unless the Government of India decides to accept all up-to-date liabilities of DMS and grant adequate funds for modernization of plant machinery. In the circumstances, the Committee feel that the remaining amount of Rs. 18.00 crore required for the upgradation of plant should be released in the next two years so that the fate of DMS is fully equipped with upgraded and modern plant and machinery to meet the growing milk requirement of the Capital.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.20 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that during the current year, no budget provision has been provided for the Delhi Milk Scheme. However, the Department has requested the Planning Commission to allocate Rs. 18.00 crore to DMS during 10<sup>th</sup> Plan.

### **Comments of the Committee**

1.21 **The Committee would like to be apprised of all the new developments and progress made in this regard. The Government must extend all the help to the DMS since after the white revolution India ranks number one in milk production. When other milk companies like Amul, milkfed and other private players in this field can tap this market to their benefits, why DMS should be lagging behind in providing safe and hygienic milk and milk products to the common men. DMS has the credibility and support of the Government which is not available to other players in the field.**



**Recommendation No. 11*****Export of Marine Fisheries***

1.22 The Committee note the importance of the fisheries sector which occupies a very important place in the socio-economic development of the country by providing employment to over 11 million people mostly belonging to backward/weaker sections, engaged partially or in subsidiary activities associated with the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The Committee are pleased to note that there has been steady growth in the export of fish and fish products and that efforts are being made to boost the export potential through diversification of products for exports. The Department in reply to a question raised by the Committee stated that the main reasons for the fall in export of frozen fish are stringent SPS conditions imposed by EU, anti-dumping duty imposed by the US and problems of muddy and moldy smell of shrimps in certain parts of the eastern coast. The Committee, therefore, hardly need to underline the need for launching new and sustained measures so as to maintain at least the steady growth in the export of fish and fish products. The Committee also desire the Department to ensure effective utilization of funds allocated during the terminal years of the Tenth Plan so that the intended objectives are achieved.

**Reply of the Government**

1.23 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in consultation with this Ministry has initiated a number of measures to tackle the issue of antibiotics residues in the marine products exported from India, especially shrimp and also the anti-dumping duty imposed by USA as well as on the other problems related to exports.

During the visit of the European Union Mission to India in October, 2003 to evaluate the level of residue on banned antibiotics and environmental contaminants, an assurance was given by the Ministry of Commerce that for violating the conditions the license of a firm can be cancelled and further operations stopped on the basis of the test results in respect of samples drawn from the firms testing positive for the banned drugs. A Core Group comprising representatives from Aquaculture Authority, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Export Inspection Council, MPEDA, Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Sea Food Exporters' Association, was constituted to prepare the guidelines for this purpose, which shall be adopted to prevent the use of antibiotics in shrimp farming in tune with the sanitary requirements (SPS) of European Union (EU).

An Indian Delegation led by the Minister of State for Commerce visited USA during the first week of April 2005 to negotiate the issue of anti-dumping duty in the background of Tsunami incident. The US Administration had decided to have a review of the anti-dumping duty imposed on our exports.

The Coastal Aquaculture Authority Bill (2005) passed by both Houses of Parliament has received President's assent. This will definitely help in increasing the area under brackish water aquaculture and thereby increasing employment and exports.

Suitable measures are being taken to ensure effective utilization of funds allocated for the various fisheries development schemes by the terminal year of the Tenth Plan and thereby to achieve their desired objectives.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.24 The Committee desire to know the details of the guidelines prepared by the Core Group comprising the representatives from Aquaculture Authority, etc. and whether there has been any improvement in exports as a result of such guidelines.**



### **Recommendation No. 12**

#### ***Safety of Fishermen at Sea***

1.25 Having regard to the hazardous nature of sea fishing which often results in loss of life, fishing boats and implements, injury and permanent impairment of fishermen and even in their capture as prisoners by foreign countries for unwittingly straying in their Exclusive Economic zone, the Committee enquired as to what measures were taken by the Government for the safety of fisherman. The Committee also noted the result of the recent studies which have pointed out that calamities occur due to ill equipped vessels and non-availability of an early warning system on board. The scheme, “Safety of Fisherman at Sea” is being taken up to address this issue by equipping the small mechanized craft by providing a package of position finding and communication equipment. This component envisages installing one Global Positioning System (GPS) and a wireless set on the small-mechanised fishing vessels. The unit cost of these equipments together works out to about Rs. 1.50 lakh, 20% of which (but not exceeding Rs. 30,000) is provided as backended subsidy through the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) to benefit 1,666 boats in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. In response to a query, the representative of the Department confessed that the Government has not achieved the target of vessel monitoring system but assured of definite progress in the matter.

The Committee strongly urge the Department to give utmost priority to the safety of fishermen specially in the deep-sea fishing by taking necessary measures at the earliest by providing them with advance mechanized boats, updated modern communication systems and fishing gears and other necessary modern equipments. The Committee,

further desire the Department to ensure that the overall outlay approved for the scheme during the Tenth Plan is fully utilized by the terminal years of the plan.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.26 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the macro scheme on 'Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations' launched in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan has safety of fishermen at sea as one of its component. It envisages to equip the fishing vessels with Global Positioning System (GPS), wireless set, vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in a phased manner. The Central assistance is extended to the implementing agencies as per need basis on receipt of proposals. The progress in utilization of funds earmarked under various schemes implemented by the Department is reviewed regularly and it is expected that outlay approved for the fishing sector for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan will be utilized fully by the terminal year of the Plan. The implementation of the component relating to safety of fishermen will be taken up during the current year.

### **Comments of the Committee**

1.27 **Since the safety of the fishermen at sea is of utmost concern and importance, the Committee desire that the Department should give top priority to the installation of GPS, Wireless sets and Vessel Monitoring System in the fishing Vessels.**

**The Committee desire to know what type of standing search and rescue mechanisms are in position or planned to meet any eventuality and offer medical aid or Insurance cover to the trapped fishermen away from the shore.**

**The Committee further desire that a comprehensive Study regarding welfare measures to be taken or proposed to be taken, may be conducted and the Committee may be apprised at the earliest.**

### **Recommendation No. 13**

#### ***Strengthening of Database and Information Networking for Fisheries Sector***

1.28 The Committee are surprised to note that due to delay in creation of posts under the scheme, “Strengthening of Data base and Information Networking for fisheries sector”, it is not possible to submit economically viable and technically feasible proposal seeking financial assistance for IT and other components. The Department, in reply to a question by the Committee, stated that all the States/Union Territories have not been able to create the posts as the matter is stated to be pending in concerned state Finance Departments. The Committee feel that the Department should take up the matter with the responsible State Departments at the highest level so that the database and information system for fisheries sector is put in place either by enjoining additional duties/re-deployment of existing staff or by creating additional posts.

#### **Reply of the Government**

1.29 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Department took up the matter with the Fishery Departments of all the State Governments to create the posts sanctioned under the scheme on ‘Strengthening of Database and Information Networking’ for the fisheries sector. The requisite posts have been created in the last quarter of 2004-05 in 17 States and the same are likely to be filled shortly by redeployment of existing staff in the States or otherwise.

#### **Comments of the Committee**

1.30 **The Committee desire that the Department should pursue the matter of creation of posts with the remaining States so that shortage of staff does not become**

**a hindrance for positive development in strengthening of database and information of Data base and Information Networking for fisheries sector.**

**The Committee also desire that the progress made in this regard may be monitored regularly and the Committee may be apprised of the same.**

### **Recommendation No. 15**

#### ***Setting up of Fisheries Development Board***

1.31 It hardly needs reiteration that the Fisheries Sector is such a vital sector of our economy which has enormous potential of generating income and improve the economic status of the people by providing gainful employment to over 11.00 million people engaged fully, partially or in subsidiary activities pertaining to the Sector, with an equally impressive segment of the population engaged in ancillary activities associated with fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee also note that Fisheries were brought under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the hope that such an important sector of activity would receive due attention commensurate with its vast potential.

The Committee are happy to note that India is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of fish in the world and second largest producer of fresh water fish in the world. The fish production during 2003-2004 is estimated to be 63.99 lakh tonnes. The country exported 5.21 lakh tonnes of marine products valued at Rs. 6,793.05 crore in 2002-2003 compared to 4.58 lakh tonnes of marine products, valued at Rs. 5,815 crore in 2001-2002. However, the Committee are also aware of the decline in fish and fish products for 2003-04 mainly due to the decline in the export of frozen fish as compared to the previous years.

Undoubtedly, the Fisheries sector deserves much greater investment for its further growth and expansion. Most importantly, fisheries sector being one of the most

important source of livelihood for a very large section of the economically backward population of the country, greater and concerted efforts are required for augmenting production and productivity. The Committee are well aware of the fact that India has not been able to develop modern fishing technology to utilize its huge potential of fishery resources. The harvesting of such highly potential resource is being done mostly by non-motorised traditional crafts due to shortage/non-availability of mechanized boats, modern communication system and fishing gears, nets and other necessary modern equipments, with the result that hardly one-third of this potential is being exploited. The Committee also feel that allocation with regard to fisheries sector may be enhanced so that shortage of funds does not become a hindrance in the proper functioning and updating of all infrastructural facilities and for maintenance and upkeep of the same.

The Committee get an unmistakable impressions that a vast sector like fisheries, having great potential for further growth is not being accorded the focused and undivided attention that it ought to get. The Committee, therefore, recommends strongly that Government must set up expeditiously an apex board to exclusively look after the various problems and aspects associated with the fisheries sector for its accelerated growth.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.32 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that during the Tenth Plan, two macro schemes namely Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and post Harvest Operations and Development of Inland Fisheries and aquaculture covering gamut of activities have been put in place to enhance production and productivity in the fishery sector and thereby to improve the socio-economic condition of the people employed in the sector. The scheme for the marine sector has motorisation of traditional crafts as one of its component. During 2004-05, Central assistance of Rs. 410.00 lakh has been released to States/Uts to motorise 4100 traditional crafts.

Action has already been initiated to establish a National Fisheries Development Board with the Broad objective to bring all activities relating to Fisheries and Aquaculture under a single umbrella with a view to improve the production, processing and marketing of the fishing products. The Planning Commission when approached in this regard have suggested to have a detailed feasibility report before the proposal is considered by them for 'in principle' approval. A feasibility study has since been awarded in the first week of May 2005 for submission of the report in 3 month's time. Simultaneously the other details for setting up the proposed Board are being worked out in consultation with the concerned organizations.

#### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.33 The Committee are happy to note that the Department has initiated a feasibility study for the establishment of a National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). The Committee desires to know what further action has been taken on the findings of the study and the progress towards the establishment of the NFDB. Other details, like composition of the NFDB, its functions and powers, date by which the Board is likely to be established, etc. may be sent for information of the Committee. It need hardly be emphasized that the Board should become functional at the earliest for improving the production, processing and marketing of fishing products to give a boost to all activities relating to fisheries and aquaculture.**

**Recommendation No. 17*****Rehabilitation of Tsunami-affected farmers/fishermen***

1.34 The Committee note that the Tsunami waves played havoc in the Southern Coastal Areas and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The devastating waves rendered several agricultural land incultivable and wiped out the lives of so many people and their place of settlement besides the loss of a great number of livestock severely affecting the poor farmers in particular. The Committee also take note of the loss of 56,000 boats and the damage of around 20,000 boats in the Tsunami tragedy which has affected around 37 fishing harbours in the country.

In response to a query, the Committee were informed in the course of evidence that Rs. 11.00 crore are kept for rehabilitation which would be limited for the purpose of providing boats to fishermen for restoration of their means of livelihood. The Committee also note the programme of the Government with regard to housing which would be of a short and also a long-term housing policy. The Committee are happy to note that the Government of India has set up a separate cell in the Planning Commission to monitor the proper implementation of this schemes and also to ensure the availability of funds. The Secretary assured the Committee that in the Andamans, where the housing is getting delayed, temporary houses will be constructed well before the Monsoon season, 'though the permanent housing is going to be a long affair'.

The Committee hope that the package approved for the rehabilitation of fishermen which is 100% assistance for replacement/repair of traditional crafts/nets and also both subsidy and loans from the banks in the case of motorized/mechanized boats is implemented scrupulously and speedily so as to provide much needed succour to the affected fishermen. The Committee also take note of the oral reply from the Department

that housing will not be a problem for the Tsunami-affected people but that the problem would be the location and acquisition of land. The Committee strongly desire that the Department should make concerted efforts to popularize the availability of 100% assistance for replacement/repair of traditional crafts and also the loans and subsidy available from the banks so that the affected people take advantage of the opportunity and restart their normal activity at the earliest. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the long term action plan drawn and put in place for construction of permanent houses for fishermen state-wise.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.35 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that under the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas, assistance (as 100% subsidy) for replacement of catamaran boats plus nets up to the unit cost of Rs. 32000 has been provided. The affected fishermen who want to replace boats and motors are entitled to get part of the cost as subsidy and the balance as bank loan at 7% rate of interest with repayment period of 7 years after one and a half year moratorium. Further subsidy of 2 % will be paid in case of prompt repayment. A Sub- Group on Fisheries has been set in the Department to review the progress of rehabilitation programme of Tsunami affected fishers and its meeting are convened periodically. The Core Group set up in the Planning Commission is in the process of finalizing Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme including construction of permanent houses and details would be available once the proposal is approved by the competent authority.



**Comments of the Committee**

1.36 The Committee desire that immediate assistance be given to the fishermen affected by the recent tsunami for their rehabilitation. The progress of the rehabilitation programme may be reviewed by the Sub Group on Fisheries constituted by the Department on a regular basis so that the means of livelihood of the affected persons are restored immediately. The Committee may be apprised of the action taken.

## **CHAPTER-II**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### ***Plan allocation for the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries***

#### **Recommendation No. 1**

2.1 The Committee note that the Department has been allocated Rs. 669.08 crore (Plan) for the year 2005-06. The Plan budgetary allocation for the year 2004-05 was Rs. 500.00 crore at BE stage which was enhanced to Rs. 575 crore at RE stage of 2004-05. The expenditure during 2004-2005, as reported up to February 2005 was Rs. 458.2 crore which has certainly increased in comparison to previous years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. Surprisingly, the total expenditure during the first three years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan was Rs. 968.86 crore constituting barely 38.75% of the total 10<sup>th</sup> Plan outlay of Rs. 2,500.00 crore. The representative of the Department stated that the expenditure in the first three years of 10<sup>th</sup> Plan is expected to be over Rs. 1,068.00 crore leaving a balance amount of Rs. 1,440.00 crore, but assured its utilisation in the remaining two years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. Having regard to the pace of expenditure during the preceding three years, the Committee are surprised as to how the Department would utilize such a huge amount of Rs. 1440.00 crore in the remaining two years. The Committee are fully aware of the significant role and potential of a sector like Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in generating gainful employment in the rural sector, particularly among the landless, small and marginal farmers and the other disadvantaged social groups. The Committee feel that despite this, it is not only the Government which accorded low priority in allocation of funds, the Department also made a poor performance by under-utilisation of the allocated funds. The utilization of Rs. 1,440 crore during the remainder two years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan as against the reported expenditure of Rs. 1,068 crore during the first 3 years appears to

be a formidable task given the past performance of the Department. The Committee, would, therefore, like to be apprised of the new measures/strategies proposed by the Department to ensure full and effective utilization of allocations in the remainder two years of the Tenth Plan.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.2 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Department is taking all possible steps for full utilization of the Tenth Plan allocation. Out of the total outlay of Rs. 2500.00 crore for the Tenth Plan, about Rs. 1076.00 crore has been spent in the first three years of the Tenth Plan. Due to various measures taken by the Department in terms of constant monitoring of schemes, evaluation studies, interaction with States, field visits by Officers, utilization of the plan allocation has improved considerably over the years. During 2004-2005, the Department has been able to utilize around Rs. 566.00 crore, which is over 98% of RE 2004-05. Current year's outlay of Rs. 669.08 crore is also expected to be almost fully utilized. The Department is fully confident of utilizing the balance amount of Rs. 754 crore in the concluding year of the Tenth Plan. In fact, the Department hopes of get and utilize additional allocation over and above the Tenth Plan outlay of Rs. 2500 crore.

### **Recommendation No. 2**

#### ***Implementation of new schemes during 10<sup>th</sup> Plan***

2.3 The Committee note that the Department proposes to implement 23 schemes during 2005-06 including the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Livestock Insurance. Three other new schemes proposed to be implemented are Rural Backyard Poultry Development, Integrated Development of Small Ruminants and Setting up of National Fisheries Development Board. The Centrally Sponsored Component Scheme,

“Assistance to States for Piggery Development” under the macro-management scheme, “Livestock and Poultry improvement Programme” is also yet to be revived.

The Department has informed in respect of certain major schemes introduced as new schemes in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan that significant expenditure could not be effected in the first two years since certain preliminary steps were required to be completed. The Committee are dismayed to note that even after three years of commencement of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, these new schemes are yet to be modified/finalized or get the clearance of the appraisal agencies. The Committee are perturbed to note that out of the allocation of Rs. 2,500 crore for implementation of various schemes during 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, the Department could utilize only Rs. 968.86 crore leaving Rs. 1,531.14 crore to be utilised during the remaining two years of 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. The Committee note that these schemes announced in one financial year and launched in subsequent financial year with fanfare are yet to take off. The Committee find little relevance of the schemes which are yet to get the clearance of appraisal agencies and need further modification even after three years of their introduction. Obviously, there is lack of seriousness and direction in the conception and formulation of the schemes. The entire procedure, therefore, needs to be thoroughly reviewed and streamlined so that implementation of the Schemes is not delayed by the appraisal agencies.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.4 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Department, while sharing the concern of the Committee regarding the implementation of new schemes is making concerted efforts to utilize the outlay approved for these schemes by the terminal year of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. In the Dairy sector, under the new centrally sponsored scheme viz. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality & Clean Milk Production launched during 2003-

2004 (October 2003) and having a budget outlay of Rs. 30.00 crore for the Tenth Plan, an amount of Rs. 24.64 crore has already been released to various States during 2004-05.

The EFC memos for the new schemes Rural Backyard Poultry Development, Integrated Development of Small Ruminants and Assistance to States for Piggery Development are under progress.

As regards setting up of a National Fisheries Development Board (which was conceived only during 2004-2005) action has already been initiated by the Department.

### **Comments of the Committee**

2.5 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.6 of Chapter-I of the Report.

### **Recommendation No. 4**

#### ***National Veterinary Biological Products Quality Control***

2.6 The Indian Veterinary Research Institute has been assisting in the task of maintaining the quality of vaccines and biologicals. But for effective monitoring of the quality, it is essential to establish a separate Institute. The Committee are happy to note that a Centre is being constructed in Chaudhary Charan Singh Institute of Veterinary Health at Baghpat and the works on various activities are being carried out by the Department. The approved 10<sup>th</sup> Plan outlay for this project is Rs. 21.10 crore of which an amount of Rs. 10.70 crore has been incurred so far. The allocation for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 11.00 crore. The Committee would like the Department to keep a strict watch over the pace of expenditure so as to adhere to its self-stipulated time schedule for completion of the Centre by the end of the financial year 2005-2006.

## **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

2.7 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Department is taking all steps to keep to the time schedule for completion of the activities by way of monitoring the progress of work at different levels. Secretary (ADF) also reviews the progress on a regular basis.

### **Recommendation No. 5**

#### ***Feed and Fodder Development***

2.8 The Centrally-Sponsored scheme, “Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development” was initiated during the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and discontinued during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. However, two components of this scheme, establishment of fodder bank and enrichment of straw/cellulosic waste were revived upto March 2005 to facilitate the States to combat the current drought situation in the country. The Committee also note that a new revised scheme on Fodder Development has been proposed with the aim to increase qualitative green and dry fodder, fodder seeds, conservation of fodder, fodder block making and popularizing high yielding varieties of fodder crops, ultimately increasing the fodder production.

The Committee note that due to competing pressures on land, the green revolution and diversified use of agriculture residues, the gap between the demand and supply of fodder is increasing. Besides, due to frequent drought in several States, the need to develop fodder with drought proofing as an objective is in sharp focus. Even under normal conditions, tremendous shortage of fodder is felt in many parts of the country. The deficit aggravates further during natural calamities such as drought, floods, etc. The Committee, therefore, strongly feel that for augmenting the fodder seed and fodder production in the drought prone areas, a Regional or Sub-Regional Station be set up

specially for these specific areas to facilitate production and easy availability of fodder in consultation with the ICAR.

The Committee further note that the two components of the Scheme which were revived to facilitate the States to combat the current drought situation in the country has come to an end in March 2005 and as of now the new scheme has only been proposed to the Planning Commission. The Committee observe that with the gap arising between the conclusion of the existing Scheme and the implementation of the new proposed Scheme, the shortage of fodder will aggravate furthermore. The Committee, therefore, desire and recommend that the new revised scheme on 'Fodder Development' should be implemented at the earliest not only to combat chronic 'Fodder Shortage' in certain parts of the country but also to tackle the problem of plenty elsewhere by setting up of adequate number of Fodder Banks. The Department also needs to evolve a mechanism for timely and suitable transportation of fodder from areas of plenty to areas of scarcity in consultation with the Railways.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.9 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Department is operating 7 Regional Stations for Forage Production & Demonstration at Hissar, Haryana/Suratgarh Rajasthan/Gandhinagar, Gujarat/Kalyani, West Bengal/Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh/Chennai, Tamil Nadu/Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir and 1 Central Fodder Seed Production Farm at Hessarghatta, Bangalore. Each Fodder Station covers three to four States in its region for their fodder development programme. These Fodder Stations undertake following fodder development activities.

- (e) Multiplication of high yielding varieties of fodder crops

- (f) Training programmes for farmers as well as State Government officials engaged in fodder development programme
- (g) Field demonstrations of newly evolved high yielding varieties of fodder species at the farmers' field
- (h) Farmers' fairs/field days for extension and awareness.

During 2005-06, the Planning Commission has not allocated funds from Plan head for these Stations and has also advised the Department to stop fodder seed production in these stations. The Department has however, taken up the matter with the Planning Commission as well as the Ministry of Finance for providing funds from suitable budget head for these Stations.

The new revised scheme on Fodder Development has been approved with total outlay of Rs. 24.50 crore for implementation during remaining period of 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. Guidelines for submission of proposals for assistance under the scheme have been issued to the States in May, 2005. In order to prevent wastage of crop residues/straw etc. left in the farmers' fields after harvesting of crops, a component on 'Assistance to fodder block making units' under which gainful utilization of crop residues by their conversion into 'Fodder blocks' has been included. Further, the Department also recommends to the Ministry of Railways from time to time on specific requests from the States to permit transportation of fodder from area of surplus to those of deficit on priority particularly during drought situations.

### **Comments of the Committee**

2.10 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.12 of Chapter-I of the Report.



### **Recommendation No. 6**

#### ***Sheep Breeding Farm, Hissar***

2.11 The Sheep Breeding Farm at Hissar, Haryana had been established with the objective to produce around 1,000 exotic and crossbred rams annually for supply to various State Governments/Organisations for implementing Sheep Development Programme launched in the respective States. The Committee are constrained to note that out of the Tenth Plan allocation of Rs. 25.00 crore, the Department could merely spend Rs. 3.05 crore during the first three years which is a meagre 12.2%. Also out of the Tenth Plan target of production and supply of 5,000 rams to various States, the Department could supply only 1,533 rams in the first two years, i.e. 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. However, the achievement during 2004-2005 was nil and also no target has been fixed for 2005-06 reportedly due to paucity of land in the farm. The Committee also note that the issue of finalizing lease agreement and lease rent with the Haryana Government is yet to be resolved. The Department in reply to a question informed the Committee that the matter will once again be taken up with the State Government.

The Committee would, therefore, like the Department to take up the matter expeditiously with the State of Haryana de novo in order to accelerate the implementation of the National Sheep Development Programme. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the response of the Government of Haryana.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.12 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that it is not correct that in respect of supply of rams to various states there was no achievement during 2004-05 and no target has been fixed for 2005-06. As a matter of fact, 1370 rams were supplied

during 2004-05 and target of 1050 has been fixed for 2005-06 (the target is lower because of the need to cull some animals).

Regarding the issue of lease agreement, the Government of Haryana has agreed to extend the lease agreement from 1998 to 2018 at the rate of Rs. 1100 per hectare per annum. Necessary formalities are being completed for this.

### **Comments of the Committee**

2.13 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.15 of Chapter-I of the Report.

### **Recommendation No. 9**

#### ***Integrated Fisheries Project (IFP), Cochin***

2.14 The Integrated Fisheries Project is engaged in the development of technologies for harvesting and post-harvesting of marine fish resources. It has a well established fishery complex. It has also well equipped processing unit for processing and marketing of diversified value added fish products and a Research and Development laboratory. The Project has the objective to popularize fishing methods, crafts and gear, processing and development of products of fish landed by projects vessels, repair and maintenance of fishing craft, etc. It also aims to contribute towards fisheries education of the country by way of providing training and also to strengthen value added product processing activities, strengthening the domestic market, stabilizing the price and ensuring returns to primary producers. For the purpose, the project is also engaged in imparting institutional training in different disciplines relating to fisheries.

The Committee are constrained to note the low utilization of plan funds by the Department. During the first three years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, the Department could utilize only Rs. 1.54 crore out of the total allocated amount of Rs. 5.60 crore for the entire 10<sup>th</sup>

Plan period. The Committee were informed that some of the reasons for the shortfall are insufficient raw material (fish) landed by the vessels from FSI and CIFNET to cater to the requirement of processing plant. It was also mentioned that due to poor landings and variation in the price, the quality procured was limited and the fish processing and product development was also limited to the availability of the raw material. The Committee do not accept the reasons for the shortfall since IFP, Cochin is an extension of the Department. The Committee, therefore, expect the Department to ensure that the measures instituted for galvanizing different schemes and projects are monitored scrupulously so that such shortfall does not recur and the envisaged targets are achieved by the close of the Tenth Plan.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.15 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Integrated Fisheries Project (IFP) is engaged in technology development, training in post harvest technology and popularization of value added products. The quantity of fish processed by IFP depends on the availability of required varieties for procurement from open market as the fish landed by vessels from FSI and CIFNET are inadequate to meet the requirement of processing plant. The Department is making all efforts to increase the procurement of fish from open market and Matsyafed.

The Project processed more than 100 tonnes of fish during 2004-05 as against 57.65 tonnes in 2003-04. The Project has been going through transitional stage subject to re-organization and redefining of its mandate. Notwithstanding this, action has been initiated to accelerate the process to implement the schemes for utilization of approved outlay. The performance of the Project is also being monitored on monthly basis to ensure that the targets are achieved and shortfall does not occur.

**Recommendation No. 10*****Development of Fisheries***

2.16 The Committee note that having almost reached plateau in production from coastal waters, the scope for increasing fish production now lies in the deep sea which brings to the foremost the safety of the fishermen at sea. Since there is a large scope and potential in the deep-sea fishing, the Committee feel that there is an imperative need to strengthen the infrastructure to facilitate landing and berthing and post harvest operations which would also benefit the consumers and processing industry as well. The Committee also note that out of the total 10<sup>th</sup> Plan outlay of Rs. 750.00 crore for Fisheries Sector, the Department have incurred an expenditure of only Rs. 260.17 crore during first three years of 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. The Committee would like to be apprised of the new measures initiated to speed up the tardy pace of expenditure. The Committee also note that since fishery is a State subject and the State Governments, are responsible for overall development of the sector, the Union Government should supplement their efforts by extending and enhancing financial assistance to the States who are starved of funds. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to ensure that the funds allocated are fully utilized by the close of the Tenth Plan on infrastructure development for increasing production and productivity of fish thereby raising the socio-economic conditions of the fishing community.

**Reply of the Government**

2.17 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that in order to exploit the deep-sea fishery resources and increase in the overall fish production of the country, the Department has been providing necessary financial and technical assistance for development of the fishery sector. In this direction, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on

“Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations” encompassing various components namely i) Development of Marine Fisheries- a) Introduction of Intermediate crafts of Improved Design, b) Resource specific Deep Sea Fishing Vessels including Vehicle Monitoring System (VMS), c) Motorization of Traditional Craft, d) Safety of Fishermen at Sea, e) Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD; ii) Development of Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations-a) Establishment of Fishing Harbour and Fish Landing Centres and b) Strengthening of Post Harvest Infrastructure; iii) Maintenance of Dredger TSD Sindhuraj, have been implemented. Certain components namely Resource specific Deep sea Fishing Vessels including VMS, Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD, Introduction of Intermediate Craft of improved design etc have been introduced during the Tenth Plan primarily to exploit the deep sea fishery resources.

So far as development of safe landing and berthing facilities are concerned, 40 new projects comprising of 10 fishing harbours and 30 fish landing centres are proposed for implementation during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07). Besides, modernization of 16 existing fishing harbours and fish landing centres is also proposed. It is estimated that once these projects are completed, they would provide safe landing and berthing facilities to an additional 1500 small-mechanized boats and 4500 traditional / artisanal craft, besides benefiting consumers and processing industries etc. During the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-05), financial assistance has been extended to the implementing agencies for the construction of nine fishing harbours and 19 fish landing centres and these are at various stages of construction. Further central assistance has been extended for modernization of four fishing harbours during the same period. In order to ensure utilization of funds, periodical review, dialogue with the State Governments and other implementing agencies, field visits are undertaken by the officials of the

Department. It is expected that funds provided to implement the schemes would be fully utilized during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan.

### **Recommendation No. 13**

#### ***Strengthening of Database and Information Networking for Fisheries Sector***

2.18 The Committee are surprised to note that due to delay in creation of posts under the scheme, “Strengthening of Database and Information Networking for fisheries sector”, it is not possible to submit economically viable and technically feasible proposal seeking financial assistance for IT and other components. The Department, in reply to a question by the Committee, stated that all the States/Union Territories have not been able to create the posts as the matter is stated to be pending in concerned state Finance Departments. The Committee feel that the Department should take up the matter with the responsible State Departments at the highest level so that the database and information system for fisheries sector is put in place either by enjoining additional duties/re-deployment of existing staff or by creating additional posts.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.19 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Department took up the matter with the Fishery Departments of all the State Governments to create the posts sanctioned under the scheme on “Strengthening of Database and Information Networking” for the fisheries sector. The requisite posts have been created in the last quarter of 2004-05 in 17 States and the same are likely to be filled shortly by redeployment of existing staff in the States or otherwise.

### **Comments of the Committee**

2.20 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.30 of Chapter-I of the Report.

### **Recommendation No. 14**

#### **Development of Inland Fisheries.**

2.21 The Committee have been constantly emphasizing the need for tapping the vast fish potential of the inland fisheries including the Himalayan region which is full of rivers, rills and rivulets, lakes and ponds. There are other vast areas of marshy/waterlogged land in the Gangetic plains particularly in western UP and Bihar suitable for fresh water and saline fish. Further, there are other inland water bodies of different varieties and sizes spread across the country in ponds, lakes, rills and rivulets. The Committee are surprised to note that the Department has not done any study or preliminary survey of such areas to harness the fishing potential in recent years as seen from their reply. Further, a large area over three lakh hectare is submerged under irrigation dams/reservoirs, which by the admission of the Department can increase fish production by 12 to 15 times.

The Committee, therefore, desire that concrete and time-bound action plan must be taken up for development and tapping of fisheries in the vast Himalayan region, inland waters and the water in irrigation dams. The Committee also feel, should the need arise, the budget allocation for the Scheme can also be increased in the coming years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

2.22 As per the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing committee on Demands for Grants of the year 2000-01, a High Level Expert Committee was set up by the Department in July 2000 to evaluate potential available for development of fresh water aquaculture in the country. In this direction, Government formulated and launched the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture under Macro Management Approach in States / UTs during the Tenth Plan. The

components approved under the scheme are i) Development of Freshwater Aquaculture; ii) development of Brackishwater Aquaculture; iii) Coldwater Fisheries and Aquaculture; iv) Development of Waterlogged Areas; v) Productive Utilization of Inland Saline / Alkaline soil for Aquaculture; and vi) Integrated Development of Inland Capture Resources (reservoirs / rivers etc.)

The expenditure on developmental activities is shared on 75:25 basis by the Government of India and State / UT Governments in respect of all aforesaid components. While the expenditure on this scheme during the first two years of the plan was Rs. 21.17 crore, the expenditure in 2004-05 was Rs. 21.12 crore.

### **Recommendation No. 15**

#### ***Setting up of Fisheries Development Board***

2.23 It hardly needs reiteration that the Fisheries Sector is such a vital sector of our economy which has enormous potential of generating income and improve the economic status of the people by providing gainful employment to over 11.00 million people engaged fully, partially or in subsidiary activities pertaining to the Sector, with an equally impressive segment of the population engaged in ancillary activities associated with fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee also note that Fisheries were brought under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the hope that such an important sector of activity would receive due attention commensurate with its vast potential.

The Committee are happy to note that India is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of fish in the world and second largest producer of fresh water fish in the world. The fish production during 2003-2004 is estimated to be 63.99 lakh tonnes. The country exported 5.21 lakh tonnes of marine products valued at Rs. 6,793.05 crore in 2002-2003 compared to 4.58 lakh tonnes of marine products, valued at Rs. 5,815 crore in 2001-2002.



However, the Committee are also aware of the decline in fish and fish products for 2003-04 mainly due to the decline in the export of frozen fish as compared to the previous years.

Undoubtedly, the Fisheries sector deserves much greater investment for its further growth and expansion. Most importantly, fisheries sector being one of the most important source of livelihood for a very large section of the economically backward population of the country, greater and concerted efforts are required for augmenting production and productivity. The Committee are well aware of the fact that India has not been able to develop modern fishing technology to utilize its huge potential of fishery resources. The harvesting of such highly potential resource is being done mostly by non-motorised traditional crafts due to shortage/non-availability of mechanized boats, modern communication system and fishing gears, nets and other necessary modern equipments, with the result that hardly one-third of this potential is being exploited. The Committee also feel that allocation with regard to fisheries sector may be enhanced so that shortage of funds does not become a hindrance in the proper functioning and updating of all infrastructural facilities and for maintenance and upkeep of the same.

The Committee get an unmistakable impressions that a vast sector like fisheries, having great potential for further growth is not being accorded the focused and undivided attention that it ought to get. The Committee, therefore, recommends strongly that Government must set up expeditiously an apex board to exclusively look after the various problems and aspects associated with the fisheries sector for its accelerated growth.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.24 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that during the Tenth Plan, two macro schemes namely Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations and Development of Inland Fisheries and aquaculture covering gamut

of activities have been put in place to enhance production and productivity in the fishery sector and thereby to improve the socio-economic condition of the people employed in the sector. The scheme for the marine sector has motorization of traditional crafts as one of its component. During 2004-05, Central assistance of Rs. 410.00 lakh has been released to States/UTs to motorize 4100 traditional crafts.

Action has already been initiated to establish a National Fisheries Development Board with the broad objective to bring all activities relating to Fisheries and Aquaculture under a single umbrella with a view to improve the production, processing and marketing of the fishing products. The Planning Commission when approached in this regard have suggested to have a detailed feasibility report before the proposal is considered by them for 'in principle' approval. A feasibility study has since been awarded in the first week of May 2005 for submission of the report in 3 month's time. Simultaneously the other details for setting up the proposed Board are being worked out in consultation with the concerned organizations.

### **Comments of the Committee**

2.25 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.33 of Chapter-I of the Report.

### **Recommendation No. 16**

#### ***Acquisition of new vessel for Fisheries Survey of India***

2.26 Fisheries Survey of India is the nodal agency for survey and assessment of marine fisheries resources of the India Exclusive Economic Zone with headquarters at Mumbai. At present, the Institute has 13 vessels for the Survey of Fisheries. The thirteen vessels are deployed from seven operational bases at Porbandar, Mumbai, Mormugao, Kochi, Chennai Vishakhapatnam and Port Blair for fisheries resources, survey and monitoring.

In reply to a question, the Committee were informed that 6-8 ships are more than 20-years old and need to be replaced. The Committee have been recommending in the past in their earlier reports for formation and implementation of perspective plan of purchase of new vessels to replace the ineffective old survey vessels. The Committee note that pursuant to their recommendation, the Department has replaced two old vessels and have acquired two new vessels, namely Matsya Drushti and Matsya Vrushti on 21 February 2005 which will conduct tuna surveys in the Exclusive Economic Zone. The Committee, further, feel that repair of old vessel is causing heavy recurring expenditure and thus desire that the Department should formulate a plan to purchase a few more fishing survey vessels with modern technologies to carry out the survey work to achieve the targets of FSI.

The Committee are distressed to note that, despite endowed with a vast coast line and exclusive economic zone in the wide stretch of the Indian ocean, our marine wealth therein is being exploited by unscrupulous foreign vessels. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the Government to take immediate measures to ensure that foreign vessels/fishermen are barred and prevented from fishing in our exclusive economic zone with the active involvement and cooperation of the Indian Coast Guard. More sophisticated survey ships, if necessary, be acquired for the purpose. Simultaneously, suitable and expeditious measures need to be taken to equip our fishermen with necessary fishing facilities/equipments for deep fishing.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.27 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Tenth Five Year Plan proposal of FSI included the activities of ongoing nature, which need to be continued and new activities such as acquisition of new survey vessels, technologies and related requirements for successful implementation of exploratory surveys, fish stock

production in EEZ. The proposal also included the blue print for phasing out the eight old vessels and acquisition of new ones in their place. FSI has carried out the exercise and scrutinized the condition of the vessels in its fleet and adopted a schedule of decommissioning and replacement of the vessels based on their age, physical and operational condition. FSI has acquired two monofilament long liners on 21.02.2005 for conducting tuna survey in EEZ. The vessels have already commenced survey operations of oceanic and pelagic Tuna resources of the west and east coast of sub-continent.

In accordance with the above Plan, FSI has formulated a proposal for acquisition of two mid water trawler as well. Simultaneously, with the acquisition of the two new vessels, a decommissioning scheme for old and obsolete vessels has also been chalked out so as to phase out aged vessels which are main cause of huge expenditure for maintenance and repairs. With the introduction of two monofilament long liners in the fleet, two older vessels, viz. Matsya Jeevan and Matsya Mohini are processed for decommissioning.

**CHAPTER III**

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

**NIL**

**CHAPTER IV****RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF  
WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT  
BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE****Recommendation No. 3*****Infrastructural development in Central Cattle Breeding Farm***

4.1 Seven Cattle Breeding Farms located in different agro climatic regions of the country maintain herds of some important indigenous and exotic cattle breeds as well as buffaloes for distribution to the States for use in the Cattle and Buffalo Development Programme. The Plan allocation during 2004-05 had been increased to Rs. 8.60 crore against BE of Rs. 6.00 crore in 2003-04 towards infrastructural development necessary for production of high quality bulls in Central Cattle Breeding Farm. The Department in its Action Taken Reply to the recommendation made by the Committee in their 3<sup>rd</sup> Report on Demands for Grants 2004-2005 informed that all the developmental work in the Central Cattle Breeding Farms will be completed within the financial year 2004-2005 as desired by the Committee. The Committee, while examining the Demands for Grants 2005-2006, asked about the progress of developmental works which are being carried out in the farms and also the expenditure incurred, thereon, the Department could not furnish the desired information. The Committee further note that allocations scaled down at RE stage of 2004-2005 were again raised to Rs. 11.16 crore at BE stage of 2005-2006. The reasons put forth by the Department for enhancement of funds during 2005-2006 were some developmental works suggested by Central Management Committee in the farms like Construction of Quarantine Sheds at each farm, purchase of agricultural equipments and machinery, etc. The Committee are surprised to note that over the years while the funds are being used for enhancing developmental works in the farms, the Department

was unable to give details of the works being carried out and also the actual expenditure incurred on it so far. Obviously, the Department has not been able to utilize the funds allocated. Apparently, the Management Committee and the Advisory Committee constituted by the Department have been functioning in a lackadaisical manner. The Committee would like the Department to assess the performance of the farms and initiate sincere efforts for their improvement. They also desire that the money allocated for the purpose should be fully utilized and definite time frame may be fixed for completion of the developmental works in the farms so that poor animals in the farms do not suffer. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the efforts made to make available good breeds of indigenous cows and buffaloes during the last three years State-wise and year-wise.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

4.2 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the funds for civil works were released to CPWD and most of the work taken up during 2004-05 have been completed / are in the final stage of completion.

The expenditure incurred during last 3 years under various Sub-Heads and Budget provision made for 2005-06 is as under:

(Rs. in thousand)

Items of Expenditure	Actual Expenditure Incurred				Budget Provision made for 2005-06
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total	
Major works	421	1581	4699	6701	27039
Minor works	46	60	43	149	6500
Machinery & Equipments	2350	587	1933	4870	7725
Total	2817	2228	6675	11720	41264

Higher outlay provided at BE level for the year 2005-06 is essentially required for undertaking urgent major & minor works in the farms and purchase of critical machinery & equipment as recommended by the Farm Management Committee. The Management Committee discussed in detail the proposal of all the seven farms as suggested by Farm Technical Advisory Committees (FTACs) for bringing about essential improvement in the farms.

In order to accomplish the desired works to be undertaken by the farms the proposals are being processed and it is anticipated that the funds earmarked for the scheme will be utilized fully.

The mandate of the Central Cattle Breeding farms is to supply cattle and buffalo breeding bulls to various States for breed improvement programmes i.e artificial insemination and natural service. The bulls/bull calves supplied by CCBFs to different States during the last 3 years is given at Annexure-I and the cows/heifers supplied to States and Royal Govt. of Bhutan is given at Annexure-II.

#### **Comments of the Committee**

4.3 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.9 of Chapter-I of the Report.



## CHAPTER V

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

#### Recommendation No. 7

##### *Assistance to Co-operatives*

5.1 The scheme 'Assistance to Co-operatives' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which was approved in January 2000 for providing assistance in the form of grants for rehabilitation of loss-making dairy co-operatives/district level unions, as well as to the State Level Federations which are set up in different parts of the country under the Operation Flood Programme. The Scheme envisages rehabilitation assistance on 50:50 sharing basis between the Government of India and the concerned State Governments.

The Committee are distressed to note that a number of these unions/federations have accumulated losses for a variety of reasons, causing severe hardships to the milk producers and their daily economy, resulting in, among other things, delayed and irregular payments to the poor farmer members of these co-operatives. In response to a query, the Committee were informed that excessive and low manpower productivity, lower scale of operation of some milk unions with high per litre cost on procurement, transport, processing and distribution with lower sales realization and other factors as some of the reasons for the unsatisfactory performance of these unions/federations.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Plan outlay for this Scheme was Rs. 130.00 crore. Surprisingly, the Committee observe that the Department could utilize only Rs. 25.29 crore during the first three years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan leaving a huge unspent balance of Rs. 104.71 crore. The Department had stated that the pace of expenditure will increase once the progress of implementation of many unions is revived following issue of appropriate instructions to

them. The Department further pointed out that in case of any shortfall in the utilization of the outlay earmarked, the same can be diverted to other schemes and the effort of the Department will be to fully utilize the total outlay for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. The Committee strongly desire that the Department should make all out and integrated efforts to fully utilize the entire outlay earmarked for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan.

The Committee also recommend that the funding pattern of the Scheme from the present sharing and rehabilitation of assistance on 50:50 sharing basis may be changed to 75:25 to ensure better participation of the States. The Committee hope that such a change in funding pattern will help mitigate the plight of the milk producers/their unions/cooperatives across the country particularly when in some parts of the country milk is being sold at rates much cheaper than the mineral water.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.2 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the outlay for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan for the Central Sector Plan Scheme ‘ Assistance to Cooperatives’ is Rs 130.00 crore and the Department has utilized Rs 29.18 crore during the first three years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. The scheme is purely demand driven and on an average, an amount of Rs 10-12 crore is required annually to meet the committed liabilities of some of the proposals already approved and new proposals.

The Department has entrusted the evaluation study of the scheme to National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, an autonomous organization under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Therefore, revision in the scheme in respect of funding pattern and other aspect will be considered after the findings of the evaluation study become available.

### **Comments of the Committee**

5.3 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.18 of Chapter-I of the Report.

### **Recommendation No. 8**

#### ***Delhi Milk Scheme***

5.4 The Department in its reply to the recommendation made by the Committee in 3<sup>rd</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05) stated that the Management Committee of DMS has taken measures to contain the losses of DMS. The DMS is able to process and pack 3.50 lakh litre of variety of milk per day. The Department is making efforts to increase the processing capacity of different type of milk up to 6.00 lakh litre per day by undertaking modifications and upgradations of the plant and machinery. It has been stated by the Department that the entire cost for upgradation and modification of the plan to bring it to a semi-automatic level will be Rs. 23.00 crore out of which Rs. 5.00 crore have already been earmarked for DMS in the current financial year. The Committee also note that National Capital Territory (NCT) was also requested to take over DMS and to run it. However, the Government of NCT was not in favour of the proposal of taking over DMS unless the Government of India decides to accept all up-to-date liabilities of DMS and grant adequate funds for modernization of plant machinery. In the circumstances, the Committee feel that the remaining amount of Rs. 18.00 crore required for the upgradation of plant should be released in the next two years so that the fate of DMS is fully equipped with upgraded and modern plant and machinery to meet the growing milk requirement of the Capital.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.5 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that during the current year, no budget provision has been provided for the Delhi Milk Scheme. However, the Department has requested the Planning Commission to allocate Rs 18.00 crore to DMS during 10<sup>th</sup> Plan.

### **Comments of the Committee**

5.6 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.21 of Chapter-I of the Report.

### **Recommendation No. 11**

#### ***Export of Marine Fisheries***

5.7 The Committee note the importance of the fisheries sector which occupies a very important place in the socio-economic development of the country by providing employment to over 11 million people mostly belonging to backward/weaker sections, engaged partially or in subsidiary activities associated with the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The Committee are pleased to note that there has been steady growth in the export of fish and fish products and that efforts are being made to boost the export potential through diversification of products for exports. The Department in reply to a question raised by the Committee stated that the main reasons for the fall in export of frozen fish are stringent SPS conditions imposed by EU, anti-dumping duty imposed by the US and problems of muddy and moldy smell of shrimps in certain parts of the eastern coast. The Committee, therefore, hardly need to underline the need for launching new and sustained measures so as to maintain at least the steady growth in the export of fish and fish products. The Committee also desire the Department to ensure effective utilization of

funds allocated during the terminal years of the Tenth Plan so that the intended objectives are achieved.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.8 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in consultation with this Ministry has initiated a number of measures to tackle the issue of antibiotics residues in the marine products exported from India, especially shrimp and also the anti-dumping duty imposed by USA as well as on the other problems related to exports.

During the visit of the European Union Mission to India in October, 2003 to evaluate the level of residue on banned antibiotics and environmental contaminants, an assurance was given by the Ministry of Commerce that for violating the conditions the license of a firm can be cancelled and further operations stopped on the basis of the test results in respect of samples drawn from the firms testing positive for the banned drugs. A Core Group comprising representatives from Aquaculture Authority, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Export Inspection Council, MPEDA, Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Sea Food Exporters' Association, was constituted to prepare the guidelines for this purpose, which shall be adopted to prevent the use of antibiotics in shrimp farming in tune with the sanitary requirements (SPS) of European Union (EU).

An Indian Delegation led by the Minister of State for Commerce visited USA during the first week of April 2005 to negotiate the issue of anti-dumping duty in the background of Tsunami incident. The US Administration had decided to have a review of the anti-dumping duty imposed on our exports.

The Coastal Aquaculture Authority Bill (2005) passed by both Houses of Parliament has received President's assent. This will definitely help in increasing the area under brackish water aquaculture and thereby increasing employment and exports.

Suitable measures are being taken to ensure effective utilization of funds allocated for the various fisheries development schemes by the terminal year of the Tenth Plan and thereby to achieve their desired objectives.

### **Comments of the Committee**

5.9 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.24 of Chapter-I of the Report.

### **Recommendation No. 12**

#### ***Safety of Fishermen at Sea***

5.10 Having regard to the hazardous nature of sea fishing which often results in loss of life, fishing boats and implements, injury and permanent impairment of fishermen and even in their capture as prisoners by foreign countries for unwittingly straying in their Exclusive Economic zone, the Committee enquired as to what measures were taken by the Government for the safety of fisherman. The Committee also noted the result of the recent studies which have pointed out that calamities occur due to ill equipped vessels and non-availability of an early warning system on board. The scheme, "Safety of Fisherman at Sea" is being taken up to address this issue by equipping the small mechanized craft by providing a package of position finding and communication equipment. This component envisages installing one Global Positioning System (GPS) and a wireless set on the small-mechanised fishing vessels. The unit cost of these equipments together works out to about Rs. 1.50 lakh, 20% of which (but not exceeding Rs. 30,000) is provided as backended subsidy through the National Co-operative

Development Corporation (NCDC) to benefit 1,666 boats in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. In response to a query, the representative of the Department confessed that the Government has not achieved the target of vessel monitoring system but assured of definite progress in the matter.

The Committee strongly urge the Department to give utmost priority to the safety of fishermen specially in the deep-sea fishing by taking necessary measures at the earliest by providing them with advance mechanized boats, updated modern communication systems and fishing gears and other necessary modern equipments. The Committee, further desire the Department to ensure that the overall outlay approved for the scheme during the Tenth Plan is fully utilized by the terminal years of the plan.

#### **Reply of the Government**

5.11 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the macro scheme on “Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations” launched in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan has safety of fishermen at sea as one of its component. It envisages to equip the fishing vessels with Global Positioning System (GPS), wireless set, vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in a phased manner. The Central assistance is extended to the implementing agencies as per need basis on receipt of proposals. The progress in utilization of funds earmarked under various schemes implemented by the Department is reviewed regularly and it is expected that outlay approved for the fishing sector for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan will be utilized fully by the terminal year of the Plan. The implementation of the component relating to safety of fishermen will be taken up during the current year.

#### **Comments of the Committee**

5.12 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.27 of Chapter-I of the Report.

**Recommendation No. 17**

***Rehabilitation of Tsunami-affected farmers/fishermen***

5.13 The Committee note that the Tsunami waves played havoc in the Southern Coastal Areas and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The devastating waves rendered several agricultural land incultivable and wiped out the lives of so many people and their place of settlement besides the loss of a great number of livestock severely affecting the poor farmers in particular. The Committee also take note of the loss of 56,000 boats and the damage of around 20,000 boats in the Tsunami tragedy which has affected around 37 fishing harbours in the country.

In response to a query, the Committee were informed in the course of evidence that Rs. 11.00 crore are kept for rehabilitation which would be limited for the purpose of providing boats to fishermen for restoration of their means of livelihood. The Committee also note the programme of the Government with regard to housing which would be of a short and also a long-term housing policy. The Committee are happy to note that the Government of India has set up a separate cell in the Planning Commission to monitor the proper implementation of this schemes and also to ensure the availability of funds. The Secretary assured the Committee that in the Andamans, where the housing is getting delayed, temporary houses will be constructed well before the Monsoon season, 'though the permanent housing is going to be a long affair'.

The Committee hope that the package approved for the rehabilitation of fishermen which is 100% assistance for replacement/repair of traditional crafts/nets and also both subsidy and loans from the banks in the case of motorized/mechanized boats is implemented scrupulously and speedily so as to provide much needed succour to the affected fishermen. The Committee also take note of the oral reply from the Department



that housing will not be a problem for the Tsunami-affected people but that the problem would be the location and acquisition of land. The Committee strongly desire that the Department should make concerted efforts to popularize the availability of 100% assistance for replacement/repair of traditional crafts and also the loans and subsidy available from the banks so that the affected people take advantage of the opportunity and restart their normal activity at the earliest. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the long term action plan drawn and put in place for construction of permanent houses for fishermen state-wise.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.14 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that under the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas, assistance (as 100% subsidy) for replacement of catamaran boats plus nets up to the unit cost of Rs. 32000 has been provided. The affected fishermen who want to replace boats and motors are entitled to get part of the cost as subsidy and the balance as bank loan at 7% rate of interest with repayment period of 7 years after one and a half year moratorium. Further subsidy of 2 % will be paid in case of prompt repayment. A Sub- Group on Fisheries has been set in the Department to review the progress of rehabilitation programme of Tsunami affected fishers and its meeting are convened periodically. The Core Group set up in the Planning Commission is in the process of finalizing Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme including construction of permanent houses and details would be available once the proposal is approved by the competent authority.

### **Comments of the Committee**

5.15 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No.1.36 of Chapter-I of the Report.

### **Recommendation No. 18**

#### ***Setting up of Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education***

5.16 The Committee have time and again emphasized the need for setting up of an Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education on the line of ICAR. The Department in the earlier Action Taken Replies to the recommendations of the Committee have been holding the view that there is a need for an integrated approach to farming, encompassing agricultural live-stock and fisheries sector and, therefore, expresses their satisfaction in the standing arrangements under which the Department banks upon the research conducted by Indian Institute of Veterinary Research under the ICAR. The Committee observed that the live-stock sector provides more self-employment for the socially disadvantaged including rural women and youth and has a vast potential for employment generation and export earnings as India is endowed with 57% of the buffalo, 16% of the cattle, 17% of goats and 5% of sheep population of the world. Undoubtedly, India can emerge as a major player in the export of animal products if the major issues confronting the animal production are addressed to meet the norms of international trade. In the considered view of the Committee, there is an overriding need for policy shift in the field of veterinary education, research and extension so that the livestock sector is no longer treated as a sub-sector of Agriculture. The Nation can ill-afford to club veterinary education and research with the ICAR which essentially deals with plant sciences. The Committee further noted that the Government has prudently, set-up specific Councils like Indian council of Medical Research, Dental Council of India, Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, Central Council for Research in Homeopathy etc. The Committee, therefore, reiterate the need for setting up a Council for Indian Veterinary Research and Education within the specific cognizance of Animal

Husbandry, dairying and Fisheries for the all round and accelerated development of live-stock, poultry and fisheries through focused research, education and services.

**Reply of the Government**

5.17 The Government in their action taken reply has stated that the matter is under examination of the Department.

**NEW DELHI;**  
**18 January, 2006**  
**28 Pausa, 1927 (Saka)**

**PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV**  
***Chairman,***  
***Standing Committee on Agriculture***

**APPENDIX –I****MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2006 AT 1100 HRS. IN ROOM, '139', FIRST FLOOR, PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI**

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1330 hrs.

**PRESENT**

Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav – Chairman

**MEMBERS****LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Hiten Barman
3. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta
4. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava
5. Shri Khagen Das
6. Shri Raghunath Jha
7. Smt. Rupatai D.Patil Nilangekar
8. Shri Y.S.Vivekananda Reddy
9. Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar

***RAJYA SABHA***

10. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
11. Shri Harish Rawat
12. Dr.M.S.Gill
13. Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal
14. Shri Sk. Khabir Uddin Ahmed
15. Shri Bashistha Narain Singh
16. Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                   |   |                  |
|----|-------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri A.K.Singh    | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Shri Hardev Singh | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. | Shri K.D. Muley   | - | Under Secretary  |
| 4. | Shri D.S. Malha   | - | Under Secretary  |

At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairman, welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and requested them to deliberate on the first item of the agenda of that day, i.e., the consideration of the statement prepared by the Committee Secretariat comprising the comments/suggestions received from various organisations on 'The Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005' and after some deliberation decided that the draft report on the said Bill may be prepared by the Secretariat and be circulated to the Committee for their consideration by the first week of February, 2006.

2. Thereafter, the Committee took up Memoranda No. 2 containing draft 13<sup>th</sup> Action Taken Report on the 9<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) for consideration and adoption.

[Smt. Mohsina Kidwai, MP in the chair.]

The Committee also took up Memoranda Nos. 3, 4 and 5 containing draft 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Action Taken Reports on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Reports on Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education); Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries); and Ministry of Food Processing Industries for consideration and adoption.

3. The Committee then adopted the draft Action Taken Reports with certain additions/modifications as suggested by members of the Committee.

4. The Committee thereafter authorized the Chairman to present the above-mentioned Reports to the House on a date and time convenient to him.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

## APPENDIX II

### *ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON*

#### THE FIFTEENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (14<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	18
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Serial Nos. 1,2,4,5,6,9,10,13,14,15 and 16	
	Total	11
	Percentage	61.1%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Serial No. NIL	
	Percentage NIL	
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies Of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Serial No. 3	
	Total	1
	Percentage	5.5%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Serial No. 7,8,11,12,17 and 18	
	Total	6
	Percentage	33.3%