

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(2006-07)

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2006-2007)

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/
Observations contained in the Twentieth Report of the
Standing Committee on Agriculture (2005-2006)}**

TWENTY FIFTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

MARCH, 2007/PHALGUNA, 1928 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on _____

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

MARCH, 2007/, PHALGUNA 1928 (Saka)

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 Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries

Composition of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2006-2007)

Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav – Chairman

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- | | | | |
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| 2. | Shri A.K.Singh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri Hardev Singh | - | Director |
| 4. | Shri N.S.Hooda | - | Deputy Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Agriculture, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty Fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in the Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2005-2006) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries) for the year 2006-2007.

2. The Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2005-2006) on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries) was presented to Lok Sabha on 19.05.2006 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 Twentieth Report. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report have been received.

3. The Committee considered the action taken replies furnished by the Government at their sitting held on 08.3.2007, approved the draft comments and adopted the Twenty Third 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 Twentieth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
08 March, 2007
17 Phalgun, 1928 (Saka)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture¹

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2005-06) on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) which was presented to the Lok Sabha and laid in the Rajya Sabha on 19.5.2006.

1.2 The Action Taken Replies in connection with the 20th Report of the Committee relating to Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) have been examined and classified as under:-

- (i) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by the Government (Chapter II of the Report) Recommendation Sl.Nos. 8,9,11 & 13 (Total –4)
 - (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's action taken reply (Chapter III of the Report) (Total –Nil)
 - (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which action taken replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee (Chapter IV of the Report) Sl.Nos. 3,5,6 and 12 (Total-4)
 - (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited. (Chapter V) Recommendation Sl.Nos.1,2,4,7 and 10 (Total –5)
- 1.3 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of their recommendations.

Recommendation No. 1

Tenth Plan allocation and expenditure for Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

1.4 The Department have informed that the total expenditure during the Tenth Plan is expected to be around Rs. 2450.00 crore which is almost 98% of the total allocation of Rs. 2,500 crore for the entire Tenth Plan period. However, it is observed that the expenditure during the first four years of the Tenth Plan comes to Rs. 1514.52 crore which constitutes barely 60.58% of the total outlay of Rs. 2,500 crore with only one year to go. The Department in their reply had assured that with the implementation of new schemes such as Livestock Insurance, National Fisheries Development Board which are expected to take off during 2006-07, the Department would make all possible efforts to fully utilize the allocated funds and would try to get additional allocation in the course of the years, so as to reach the full Tenth Plan outlay of Rs. 2,500 crore.

Having regard to the pace of expenditure during the preceding four years, the Committee are surprised as to how the Department would utilize such a huge unspent balance of about Rs. 985.50 crore during the last year of the Tenth Plan. The utilization of around Rs. 985 crore which is almost 40% of the total allocation, during the fifth and final year as against the reported expenditure of only Rs. 1514 crore during the first four years, appears to be a formidable task given the past performance of the Department. The Committee feel that the Department also made a poor performance by not utilizing the allocated funds. The Committee would, therefore, like to be apprised of the new measures/strategies specifically proposed by the Department to ensure full and effective utilization of allocations in the final year of the Tenth Plan. The Committee would also like the Department to keep a strict watch over the pace of implementation of schemes

and expenditure incurred thereon, so as to fully utilize the allocated funds and also to enable completion of various schemes within the stipulated time schedule.

Reply of the Government

1.5 The Government in their Action Taken reply have stated that the department is making concerted efforts to fully utilize the Tenth Plan allocation. Out of the total outlay of Rs.2500 crore for the Tenth Plan, about Rs.1671.00 crore has been spent in the first four years of the Tenth Plan. Due to various measures taken by the Department by way of close monitoring of schemes, follow up of the State Governments through field visits by Officers, etc., the utilisation of the Plan Allocation has improved considerably over the years. During 2005-06, the Department was able to utilize around Rs.594.00 crore, which is over 99% of the RE for that year. The current year's outlay of Rs. 777.00 crore is also expected to be almost fully utilized. With the implementation of new schemes/component schemes viz. Livestock Insurance, National Fisheries Development Board and expected approval to the National Project for Improvement of Poultry and Small Animals, the pace of expenditure is likely to improve further. In fact, the Department may require additional allocation of funds in the course of the year, so as to reach the full Tenth Plan Outlay of Rs.2500.00 crore.

Comments of the Committee

1.6 **The Committee are not convinced with the reply given by the Department that with the implementation of new schemes/component schemes viz., Livestock Insurance, National Fisheries Development Board and expected approval of the National Project for Improvement of Poultry and Small Animals, the pace of expenditure is likely to improve, when the Department could utilize only 60% of the funds in the first four years of the Tenth Plan. The Committee, therefore, desire**

that the Department should so plan the expenditure on its schemes that the funds allocated are spent regularly and evenly over the Plan period and there is no rush of expenditure in the last year of the Plan. The Committee may also be apprised about the utilization of the funds, especially during the last year of the Tenth Plan.

Recommendation No. 2

National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

1.7 The Committee have been informed that the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and was launched in Oct. 2000 for a period of 10 years, with an allocation of Rs. 402 crore for phase-I. The scheme envisages genetic upgradation on priority basis and aims at re-organisation and re-orientation of the Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Operation in the country. It has been also noted that since May, 2000 States joined this scheme very late so Planning Commission has permitted to extend the Phase I by two years i.e. upto March, 2007. The Committee are perturbed to note that out of the 27 participating States/UTs, Phase-I will be practically completed only in 13 States/Uts by 2006-07.

The Committee recommend that this being a very important scheme to help the farmers as well as the States to breed the better kind of cattle and buffaloes, the Murra-buffaloes and Shaliwal and Tharparkar and other such breed of cows of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan should be given special attention so that the number of cattles of these breeds could be increased on a mass scale so that the farmers and dairy owners can buy these cattles at a reasonable price to augment their milk production and can be exported to other countries in case of demand.

Reply of the Government

1.8 The Government in their Action Taken reply have stated that the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) focuses on development and conservation of indigenous breeds. Funds have been released to the participating States to take up programmes for development of indigenous breeds in their breeding tracts so as to improve the genetic makeup and availability. More funds have been proposed in Phase-II of NPCBB to take up systematic bull production programme, which will further contribute towards efforts to increase the population of improved genetic breeds. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has in its meeting held on 19.05.2006 recommended continuation of the project during the current financial year. The CCEA note with a total project cost of Rs 779.87 crore has been circulated to the appraisal agencies.

Comments of the Committee

1.9 The Committee are surprised at the lackadaisical approach of the Department towards this very important scheme of the Dairying Sector. The Committee note with serious concern that Phase I of the Scheme which was launched in October, 2000, is yet to be fully implemented. For Phase II of the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB), the CCEA note has been circulated to the Appraisal Agencies. However, it is not clear from the reply whether the scheme has been approved and the funds placed at the disposal of the implementing agencies. The Committee desire that the Department should initiate immediate steps for full implementation of Phase I of the Project and expeditious

approval of Phase II of the Project so that adequate funds are made available for the scheme for the benefit of the cattle and buffalo breeders.

Recommendation No. 3

Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP)

1.10 The Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme was earlier a component of ‘Assistance to States for Control of Livestock Disease’. It is now a new component of the Centrally sponsored macro-management scheme with 100% funding including the cost of vaccine and supporting expenses. The State Government provides manpower, infrastructure and logistical support. The Committee has noted that the programme is being implemented selectively and covered only in 54 districts throughout the country of which cattle/buffalo population are susceptible and easily affected.

The Committee are surprised to note that the schemes has not covered almost the entire eastern parts of the country including all the North Eastern States. The Committee was informed that another scheme called “Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease (ASCAD)” has been taken up in districts which are not covered under FMD –CP. The Committee note the importance of FMD-CP as its objective is to protect the cattle by vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease. The Committee would like to be apprised of all the States/Districts, excluding the 54 identified districts, that are free of Foot and Mouth Disease or the reasons therein for not including the same under FMD-CP. The Committee would also like the Department to apprise the measures being initiated for the identification of such susceptible areas.

The Committee have also been informed that rinderpest disease has been eliminated but it would take about 10 to 15 years to overcome the Foot and Mouth

Disease, as it requires regular vaccination for five years, to make an animal free from this disease. The Department informed that the population of cattle being large, it was becoming difficult to produce the vaccination on such a large scale. The Committee are of the opinion that in case of shortage the private sector can be encouraged to produce this vaccine on a mass-scale and the vaccine can be made available in abundance and it is not difficult as the human population is so large and no person is allowed to die for want of a medicine or a vaccine.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should come out with a definite and clear cut plan so that FMD could be eliminated from the country at the earliest. Since 10-15 years are too long a period. We should plan mass scale production of vaccine and also regular vaccination of the animals, first in the areas affected by this disease and later on in other areas where there are chances of its spread. A publicity campaign should be launched to make the farmers aware of the vaccination for saving their animals from Foot and Mouth Disease. The State Governments through the village panchayats should be involved in this information campaign against this disease as also the local print and electronic media.

Reply of the Government

1.11 The Government in their Action Taken reply have stated that there are at present only three vaccine manufacturers in the country, one in public sector (Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bangalore) and two in corporate or private sectors (Indian Immunologicals, Hyderabad and Intervet India, Pune). Keeping in view the requirement of FMD vaccine in the country, these manufacturers are upgrading/expanding their facilities to enhance the production. Moreover, two more manufacturers are also in the process of developing facilities for the production of vaccine.

In order to explore the possibility of expansion of the programme to other areas, it has been identified as one of the terms of reference for the Sub - Group on Animal Health Services of the Working Group on Animal Husbandry and Dairying for 11th Five Year Plan. Publicity campaign involving village Panchayats is part of the FMD control programme to make the farmers aware of the vaccination for saving their animals from Foot and Mouth Disease. The State Governments have already started information campaign against this disease by publishing pamphlets/booklets in local/vernacular language and by organising public meetings at state, district, block and village levels.

Comments of the Committee

1.12 The Department in their reply have informed that there is a shortage of vaccines for the Foot and Mouth Disease due to which all animals cannot be regularly vaccinated. The Department is silent about the measures initiated by them for identification of the susceptible areas which are prone to the Foot and Mouth disease. The Committee reiterate their recommendation that the Department should launch production of vaccines on a war footing so that all the animals in the country could be vaccinated and there is no loss of animal life due to Foot and Mouth disease and the disease could be eliminated in the near future.

Recommendation No. 4

Livestock Insurance

1.13 It has time and again been recommended by the Committee that live stock insurance should be introduced immediately so that the farmers can freely breed the milch cattles without fear of their losses due to disease or death. The Committee have been informed that livestock insurance has been approved and the funds have been

released. However, the first policies are yet to be issued. The Government have decided that the insurance scheme will at first run only in 100 selected districts where there is a substantial population of highly productive cattle.

The Committee, recommend that the livestock insurance scheme should not be further delayed and also should not be confined to 100 districts only, rather it should cover the whole of the country in phases within a period of two years. The Committee feel that the scheme should not be confine to two animals per beneficiary, and should be extended to cover 4-5 animals per household in due course. The premium of 50% is too high for a poor farmer to pay. It should be in the ratio of 75:25 for government and the farmers respectively.

The Committee also recommend that the period of insurance coverage should be at lease five years (and not three years as at present) as the milch animals give milk for at least 8-10 years.

Reply of the Government

1.14 The Government in their Action Taken Reply have stated that the Livestock Insurance Scheme has been approved for implementation on pilot basis in 100 districts during 2005-06 and 2006-07. Soon after approval of the Scheme by the Government of India in February, 2006, an amount of Rs.2421.14 lakh was released in March, 2006 for its implementation. An additional amount of Rs.24.00 crore has already been approved for release.

On the basis of the review of the performance of the Scheme during the pilot stage, the scheme will be extended during 11th Five Year Plan. The implementation of the Scheme in the pilot stage will help in standardizing the norms of insurance premium rates, selection of Insurance Companies, and bringing further improvement in the system

based on experience. The Livestock Insurance Scheme is expected to grow big in short time. Various recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee viz., implementing the scheme in the entire country, covering 4-5 animals per household, increasing subsidy on premium to the tune of 75%, increasing the period of insurance coverage, etc. will be kept in view at the time of extending the scheme in the 11th Plan.

Comments of the Committee

1.15 The Committee note that the Livestock Insurance Scheme is being implemented on a pilot basis in 100 districts since 2005-06. The Committee would like to know the results of the implementation of the Pilot Scheme.

Recommendation No. 5

Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds

1.16 The Committee have been informed that during the Tenth Plan the 'conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds' of small ruminants, pack animals, pigs and equine was introduced as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which aims at conserving and protecting threatened or near extinct breeds of livestock, whose population is less than 10,000. Several species of goats, sheeps, yaks etc. are threatened breeds. But the Committee are dismayed to note that even after 4 years of the scheme being in operation, the Government has not been able to make an authentic data-base of the threatened livestock breed and is satisfied by being a signatory to the UN, FAO sponsored 'State of the World Animal Genetic Resources' programme. As the UN will also take the help of the local governments, NGOs, experts groups etc. for this purpose, the Government of India can also take their help alongwith the 'National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources' a

research center of ICAR and State Governments to survey the threatened breeds in a time bound manner.

Reply of the Government

1.17 The Government in their Action Taken Reply have stated that the cataloguing of all threatened breeds of livestock in a Country of continental size is a mammoth task. The Department has sourced information about the threatened breeds of livestock from the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal, the species specific institutions/research center of the ICAR, and State Governments. Preparation of an exhaustive list of threatened breeds would involve extensive breed survey, which not only will go beyond the scope of the scheme but will overlap with other programmes.

It is proposed to approach the ICAR for conducting a breed survey through the NBAGR with a view to compiling a foolproof identification of threatened breeds and their status.

Comments of the Committee

1.18 **The Committee note with concern that even after four years of the scheme being in operation, the Department has not been able to prepare an authentic data base of the threatened livestock breed. The last livestock census held in 2003 also did not yield the required results. The Committee reiterate their recommendation that the Department should seek the help of the State Governments and the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) for preparing a database of the threatened breeds. The data so compiled could be further refined on the basis of results of the next livestock census to be held in 2008.**

Recommendation No. 6

Bird Flu

1.19 The Committee have noted with great concern that Avian Influenza (popularly known as 'Bird Flu') has come to India, though till now in a localized way. The poultry is a major source of income for the landless labourers and small farmers whose sole livelihood depends on poultry. Lakhs of birds have been culled out in Nawapore and Jalgaon areas of Maharashtra. The Committee feel that it is the lack of stringent measures for import of poultry products and non-compliance on surveillance and sampling of migratory birds that led to the spread of bird flu which resulted in a very damaging effect on the entire poultry industry in the country causing tremendous sufferings and losses to the poultry producers.

The Committee recommend that stringent measures should be taken towards formulating processes and policies for the import of poultry and its products. The poultry Venture Capital Scheme should be started in a large scale, instead of a small scale as at present, to cover large poultry farmers as well as poor backyard poultry producers in rural areas.

Reply of the Government

1.20 The Government in their Action Taken Reply have stated that the import of poultry and poultry products are regulated through Livestock and Livestock Products Importation Act, 1898 (9 of 1898) as amended in 2001 (No.28 of 2001). The import is allowed on the basis of the sanitary import permit issued by the Department and the consignment is checked at the port of entry by the Quarantine Officers. Under

Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund, a total of 49 poultry units involving a financing of Rs. 2.17 crore have already been approved in 2005-06.

Comments of the Committee

1.21 The Committee note that despite the existence of the Livestock and Livestock Products Importation Act, 1898 (as amended in 2001), bird flu could enter India which led to heavy loss of poultry and consequent financial loss to the poultry owners. Had the concerned authorities be vigilant enough, the tremendous loss could have been prevented. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that stringent measures should be taken for surveillance of migratory birds / import of poultry birds and early detection and treatment of the infected birds so that this deadly disease does not enter India again.

Recommendation No. 7

Dairying

1.22 The Committee have noted that though dairying sector not only provides employment and income generating opportunities but has also become an important secondary source of income for millions of rural families, yet the total outlay for this sector for the whole of 10th Plan was Rs. 361 crore out of which only Rs. 175 crore could be utilized during first four years of this Plan, which shows poor planning and low priority given to dairy industry. The Committee deprecate this kind of approach of the Government. Even a single manufacturing industry in other sector is given loan more than this 10th Plan outlay for dairy sector. The Committee failed to understand how the Assistance to Co-operatives, Intensive Dairy Development Programme, Strengthening of Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production, Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Funds etc. could be run by this amount and still 52% of the total plan outlay remain

undisbursed even after a lapse of four years of 10th Plan. Funds allotted for 'Assistance to Co-operatives' was Rs. 130 crore and even out of this only Rs. 34.65 crore i.e. 27% could be disbursed during the first four years of 10th Plan period, which shows the poor state of priority given to this sector. It shows poor planning and low priority towards this sector on the part of the government which needs to be addressed seriously. The Committee strongly recommend that the dairy sector should be developed in a holistic manner enhancing in outlay and giving priority to the dairy development schemes in a planned and given time frame, so that our farmers could also produce quality milk and other milk products comparable to Western countries and get remunerative price for their products. Government should strengthen the Intensive dairy development programme and give more assistance to cooperatives to bring about white revolution in our country.

Reply of the Government

1.23 The Government in their action taken reply have stated as under :

Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP): With the release of funds directly to the implementing agencies in the States and coverage of more area for assistance under the scheme (districts with nil and investment less than 50 lakh during Operation Flood are now eligible for assistance under the scheme). In the revised IDDP scheme, the utilization of funds has improved significantly. During the year 2005-06, an amount of Rs.39.91 crore was utilized against BE provision of Rs.50.00 crore and RE of Rs 42.70 crore.

Assistance to Cooperatives: The 10th Plan outlay for the Scheme "Assistance to Cooperatives" is Rs.130.00 crore. The Department could utilize Rs.34.65 crore i.e. 27% during first four years of the 10th Plan. The scheme is purely demand driven and, on an

average, an amount of Rs.5-6 crore is actually required annually to meet the committed liabilities of some of the proposals already approved and new proposals.

The Department entrusted the evaluation study of the scheme to the National Institute of Agricultural Extension management (MANAGE), Hyderabad an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The MANAGE has stressed the need to review the sharing mechanism between Central and State Government from 50:50 basis to 90:10 or at least 75:25 for more effective (pro-active) participation of the State Governments. The Department is also of the opinion that if the present sharing mechanism between Centre and State is changed from 50:50 basis to 90:10 or at least 75:25, it will lead to better utilisation of funds under the Scheme “Assistance to Cooperatives”, as the State Governments are not in position to provide their 50% matching share in time.

Comments of the Committee

1.24 The Committee note with concern that under the scheme ‘Assistance to Cooperatives’, the Department could utilize only Rs. 34.65 crore (i.e. 27%) of the total 10th Plan outlay of Rs. 130 crore, during the first four years of the 10th Plan. The Committee also note that under the revised IDDP scheme also, the Department could not utilize the full amount allocated. The Committee desire that the Implementing Agencies in the States should be impressed upon to fully utilize the assistance available under the IDDP for proper and holistic development of the dairy sector.

Recommendation No. 10

Welfare of Fishermen

1.25 The Committee note that the National Scheme for Welfare of Fisherman which consists of three components, viz. development of model fishermen villages, group accident insurance and saving-cum-relief for active fisherman, has been implemented in various States/Union Territories. The Department, on a query with regard to the numbers of fisherman villages that have been developed during the past three years in the Tsunami affected areas and also if the targets set were met, has not given clear and specific replies but in a general response has cited that “the package approved for Tsunami Rehabilitation Programmes covers housing, fisheries, ports and jetties, roads and bridges, social infrastructure, environmental and coastal protection measures. The Rehabilitation Programme has provision of Rs. 3096.88 crore for construction of houses in the Tsunami-affected areas, which will cover fishermen as well.”

It has been more than a year since the devastating Tsunami waves caused unimaginable havoc and losses to the people. The Committee in their Report on DFG of the Department (2005-06) had recommended that the approved package for rehabilitation of fishermen affected by Tsunami, should be implemented scrupulously and speedily to provide the much needed succour to the affected fishermen. However, the Committee are disheartened to note that in many instances the rehabilitation packages meant for the affected people are yet to be taken up in full swing which gives an unmistakable impression that these rehabilitation programmes are not being accorded the required and focused attention by the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should implement the rehabilitation packages on war footings to provide much needed succour to the affected people. The Committee desire to be apprised of all

the developmental and rehabilitation programmes including long-term plans and results thereof that have already been completed

Reply of the Government

1.26 The Government in their action taken reply have stated that the Department deals with cases of fishermen affected by Tsunami and the financial assistance to be given to them under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme. About 80% of the boats fully or partially damaged have been repaired/replaced in the Tsunami affected States of the country. There is a provision for up gradation of fisheries infrastructure which includes i) Rehabilitation of the damaged fishing harbours/fish landing centres ii)Construction of twenty new fish landing centres and iii)Conducting techno-economic feasibility studies through reputed agencies for setting up of modern fishing harbours. In Kerala, two fish landing centres have already been restored into functional position and such works for other four harbours are at advanced stage of construction. The construction of two new fishing harbours in Kerala, one at Arthungal and another at Chellanam, are under consideration and necessary activities are taking place. Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed to construct three fish landing centres, one at Antarvedit, another at Vodalarevu and the third one at Lakshipuram Pallipalem. The necessary activities in this regard are at advanced stage. In Tamilnadu, repair and renovation of all the affected fishing harbours/landing centres are at various stages of completion and it is expected that it will be done shortly. Government of Tamilnadu has also identified sites for construction of 10 new fish landing centres. In Pondicherry also, repair and renovation of fishing harbour/landing centres are at various stages of completion and the Government has also decided to construct a new fish landing centre at Yanam.

Comments of the Committee

1.27 The Committee are concerned to learn that a number of fishing harbours/fish landing centers in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are still at various stages of repair/renovation despite lapse of a period of more than two years since the Tsunami, affecting the livelihood of the poor fishermen. The Committee desire that the rehabilitation programmes for the fishermen affected by Tsunami should be taken up on a war footing and all fishing harbours/fish landing centers should be repaired and new ones constructed urgently and the Committee be apprised of the progress in the matter.

Recommendation No. 12

Development of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in the North Eastern States

1.28 The Committee have been informed that the Department is earmarking 10% of its Plan allocation to the North Eastern States and is implementing a number of Plan schemes in the North Eastern and Sikkim to assist the respective State Governments for development of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries sector. The Department has also informed that as most of the Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to Marine and Coastal Fisheries are not implementable in North Eastern Region, it has not always been possible to fully utilize the 10 % allocation.

In order to develop inland fisheries and aquaculture across the country including North Eastern States, macro scheme named 'Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture' has been launched in the Tenth Plan. The scheme includes development of fresh water aquaculture, cold water fisheries and aquaculture in hilly regions,

waterlogged areas into aquaculture estates, construction of new and renovation of old ponds and tanks, running water fish culture, fish feed mills, etc. The Committee have also been apprised that the Centrally sponsored schemes on 'welfare of fishermen', 'marketing and strengthening of database and infrastructure', Networking for fisheries sector are also in operation in the North Eastern States.

The Committee are surprised to find that the scheme "Assistance to States for Piggery Development" is yet to get approval though four years of the Tenth Plan have already expired. The scheme is expected to be approved during 2006-07 which means that it can be implemented only during the next Five Year Plan, which shows the lackadaisical attitude of the Government towards this scheme. The Committee strongly recommend that all the schemes including the 'Piggery Development', should be formulated, approved and implemented in a given time frame and should not be allowed to linger on for a long time. Piggery development especially has a big role in the economic upliftment of the people in the North Eastern States.

Reply of the Government

1.29 The scheme on Assistance to States for Piggery Development was discontinued after Ninth Plan as a consequence of an exercise undertaken in the Planning Commission to weed out ineffective Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Attempts to revive the Scheme could not succeed because of insistence on the part of Planning Commission for an evaluation of the Ninth Plan Scheme. Evaluation of the Scheme by NABARD was completed by third quarter of 2004-05. Thereafter fresh attempts to revive the Scheme could not succeed because Planning Commission advised during last quarter of 2004-05, merger of a number of small schemes into a National Project for Improvement of Poultry and Small Animals, which was to subsume the scheme on piggery development as a

component of the new project to be implemented in macro-management mode. The National Project for Poultry and Small Animals was formulated which had a component on piggery development and the scheme was circulated to appraisal agencies during third quarter of 2005-06. However, a meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) to consider the proposal could not be organized because Planning Commission has not yet appraised the proposal. The matter is being pursued with Planning Commission with the hope of getting the scheme initiated during 2006-07.

Comments of the Committee

1.30 The Committee note that the scheme “Assistance to States for Piggery Development” was discontinued after the Ninth Plan and subsumed as a component of the new scheme “National Project for improvement of Poultry and Small Animals”. The new scheme was circulated to the Appraisal Agency during the third quarter of 2005-06. However, the Planning Commission has yet to appraise the proposal. The Committee note with concern that after discontinuation of the scheme on Piggery Development after the Ninth Plan, no assistance has been made available to the people of North-Eastern States and Sikkim for development of piggery affecting their livelihood. It is clear that the Department has not been able to convince the Planning Commission about the utility and usefulness of the scheme which is so important for the people of the North-East. The Committee recommend that the Department should pursue the matter with the Planning Commission immediately, convince them about the utility and usefulness of the scheme and get their approval urgently for the benefit of the people of the North-Eastern Region, and other areas also.

CHAPTER –II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation No. 8

Milk Productivity

2.1 The Committee have been told that India has the highest cattle population in the world. About 16% of the cattle and 57% of the buffaloes of the total world population are in India. However, while the world average of milk production is about 2050 litres per lactation, ours is still around a thousand litre. In Israel it is 9000 litres. The Committee are of the considered view that we need to make determined and concerted efforts towards the genetic upgradation and disease control of the cattle as also fodder development, to improve the milk productivity of the milch animals. The National Programme for the Cattle and Buffalo Breeding of which the phase-I is in operation, whereas the phase-II is still at formation stage, should be vigorously implemented. Immediate steps should be taken to improve upon our own indigenous breeds, such as Murra-buffalo for which there is a big demand from some foreign countries. This breed can be exported, if bred in large numbers, thereby earning valuable foreign exchange.

Reply of the Government

2.2 Efforts are being made through Centrally Sponsored macro management scheme 'Livestock Health & Disease Control' for controlling the diseases of the cattle.

As regards Fodder development, the Department is implementing two fodder development schemes.

1. **Central Sector Scheme:** There are Seven Regional Stations for Forage Production & Demonstration located in different agro-climatic zones of the country and one Central Fodder Seed Production Farm, Hessarghatta, for production and propagation

of certified seeds of high yielding varieties of fodder crops and pastures/legumes. Besides, there is one Central Minikit Testing Programme on Fodder crops under which high yielding varieties of fodder crops are provided to the Department of Animal Husbandry in the States for free distribution to the farmers. This increases overall fodder production in the country.

2. **Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme:** The acute shortage of nutritious green/dry fodder is a major constraint in the livestock production. For augmentation of fodder production, a new Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme is being implemented by the Department from 2005-06 with the following components.

S.No.	Component	Funding Pattern
1.	Assistance to Fodder Block Making Units.	25:75 Central:State/implementing agency share basis.
2.	Grassland Dev. Including grass reserves	100 Central share basis
3.	Fodder Seed Distribution	75:25 Central:State/implementing agency share basis.
4.	Biotechnology research projects.	100% Central share basis.

The main objectives of the scheme are (i) Establishment of Fodder Block Making Units, which will utilize the crop residues for commercial production of balanced feed fodder blocks for easy transportation, storage and supply of requisite nutrients for increasing productivity of cows and buffaloes in fodder scarcity areas, (ii) creation of grass reserves in common property resources for growing perennial grasses for regular supply of greens to the cows and buffaloes, (iii) enhancement of production of fodder seeds of high yielding varieties of cropped fodder/grasses and (iv) taking up specific

research programmes using biotechnology for increasing nutritive value of fodder and its better utilization.

In order to develop buffalo population, Murrah bull production programme is proposed to be taken up during Phase-II of the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) at a total cost of Rs 128.28 crores. For developing indigenous cattle breeds, an extensive cattle bull production programme has also been proposed in Phase-II involving a total cost of Rs 84.00 crores.

Recommendation No. 9

DMS

2.3 The Committee are happy to note that Delhi Milk Scheme which was once a loss making entity of Government of India, has improved a lot and the present sale of milk has reached 2.75 lakh litres per day and the losses which were Rs. 20.70 crore during 2003-04 have come down to about Rs. 1.93 crore during 2005-06. The Department has informed that the DMS is likely to get an ISO and HACCP Certificate for its procurement, manufacturing, storage and marketing facilities shortly.

The DMS was earlier to be transferred to the Delhi Government. However, the Govt. of NCT, Delhi was not in favour of taking over DMS unless the Govt. of India accepts all the liabilities of DMS and grant adequate funds for modernization of the plant machinery.

The Committee recommend that if the assistance to dairy cooperatives is increased and intensive dairy development scheme is vigorously promoted in and around Delhi, then DMS could be run profitably and the Delhi Government or Mother Dairy would not feel reluctant to take over its activity. The successful running of the DMS

would be a boon both to the milk producers in and around Delhi as also to the consumers who can get quality milk at fair prices.

Reply of the Government

2.4 Delhi Milk Scheme has been recently awarded the ISO Certificate from M/s SGS United Kingdom Limited (System and Services Certification) for raw material procurement, processing, packing, storage and distribution of milk and milk products. The HACCP certificate has been obtained from M/s HACCP Codex Alimentations for systematic working in manufacture and marketing of quality product.

The sale of DMS milk is increasing regularly during 2006-07 and was 2.67 lakhs litres per day (LLPD) during June, 2006 as against 2.52 LLPD during June, 2005.

Lot of financial assistance is being given to the States around Delhi under various schemes for Dairy Development including 'Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP)'. Continuous efforts are being made to improve the operational efficiency of the plant and increasing the sale of milk and milk products by DMS.

Recommendation No. 11

National Fisheries Development Board

2.5 The Fisheries sector is a powerful employment generator and cheap source of nutritious food and also a foreign exchange source. However, the Committee have noted that in this sector there is a huge underutilization of funds and out of Rs. 740 crore sanctioned for the Tenth Plan only Rs. 429.43 crore, i.e. 58%, have been utilized during the first four years of the Tenth Plan period which shows poor planning and implementation of the schemes in this sector. The main challenges facing fishery development are development of sustainable technologies for fin and shell fish culture, yield optimization, infrastructure for harvest and post harvest operations and landing and

berthing facilities for fishing vessels. The fisheries sector, in particular the inland fisheries, has tremendous potential which needs to be tapped on priority basis.

The Committee desire that since the approval of Planning Commission and Expenditure Finance Committee have already been accorded, National Fisheries Development Board should be set up without any further delay so that all activities relating to fisheries and aquaculture could be co-ordinated in a professional and focused way and the potential for increasing the fish production and its marketing could be fully tapped leading to generation of more employment opportunities.

Reply of the Government

2.6 The National Fisheries Development Board has been set up with the approval of Cabinet in its meeting held on 16th June, 2006 and was registered under Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001 on 10th July, 2006.

Recommendation No. 13

Women in Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Sector

2.7 The Committee have noted with great concern that the Department does not prescribe separate targets for women beneficiaries in animal husbandry and fisheries sector, though woman work in large numbers in this sector. Various schemes concerning fisheries, implemented by the Department are beneficial to the women directly or indirectly but no separate allocation is made for them nor any targets are fixed for women beneficiaries in the field of training.

The Committee strongly recommend that women should be given special training in handling the animal husbandry and fisheries work, especially in selling the milk and milk products and fisheries in the market near their places of residence so that they can contribute towards the household income alongwith the other members of their family.

Women should be encouraged for forming Self Help Groups and they should be trained for marketing of dairying and fishing products.

Reply of the Government

2.8 The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries does not have any specific scheme designated as one for empowerment of women. As the schemes implemented by this Department are not gender specific, it has not been feasible for the Department to make separate allocation of funds for Women. However, the Department has always emphasized for providing benefits to weaker sections of the society. In the poultry sector, especially in the scheme for promotion of rural poultry, it has been emphasized that as rural poultry is an income supplementing scheme and mostly implemented by women, hence emphasis, especially in training should be given to women. However, there is no segregation in the scheme for women as such. Similarly, in the scheme for conservation of breeds, the conservation of sheep, goat and small ruminants are especially directed towards sectors in which women are being identified to take up such schemes.

The women have been at the forefront of dairy cooperative movement, which was initially spear-headed through Operation Flood Programme and later also under the Integrated Dairy Development Programme implemented by the Government. Taking note of women participation in dairy movement, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is implementing a Woman Dairy Cooperative Leadership Programme in 50 district unions across the country. This has resulted in increasing the participation of women dairy farmers in Dairy Cooperatives. The Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Human Resources Development is implementing “Support for

Training & Employment Programme (STEP)” under which they also consider Women Dairy Projects (WDP) received from various States.

A centrally sponsored scheme on fisheries training and extension is implemented by the Department under which fishers irrespective of male or female are imparted training for their skill up gradation. In addition, Integrated Fisheries Project, an Institute under the administrative control of this Department, imparts training to persons including women on processing of fish products.

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

Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP)

4.1 The Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme was earlier a component of ‘Assistance to States for Control of Livestock Disease’. It is now a new component of the Centrally sponsored macro-management scheme with 100% funding including the cost of vaccine and supporting expenses. The State Government provides manpower, infrastructure and logistical support. The Committee has noted that the programme is being implemented selectively and covered only in 54 districts throughout the country of which cattle/buffalo population are susceptible and easily affected.

The Committee are surprised to note that the schemes has not covered almost the entire eastern parts of the country including all the North Eastern States. The Committee was informed that another scheme called “Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease (ASCAD)” has been taken up in districts which are not covered under FMD –CP. The Committee note the importance of FMD-CP as its objective is to protect the cattle by vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease. The Committee would like to be apprised of all the States/Districts, excluding the 54 identified districts, that are free of Foot and Mouth Disease or the reasons therein for not including the same under FMD-CP. The Committee would also like the Department to apprise the measures being initiated for the identification of such susceptible areas.

The Committee have also been informed that rinderpest disease has been eliminated but it would take about 10 to 15 years to overcome the Foot and Mouth

Disease, as it requires regular vaccination for five years, to make an animal free from this disease. The Department informed that the population of cattle being large, it was becoming difficult to produce the vaccination on such a large scale. The Committee are of the opinion that in case of shortage the private sector can be encouraged to produce this vaccine on a mass-scale and the vaccine can be made available in abundance and it is not difficult as the human population is so large and no person is allowed to die for want of a medicine or a vaccine.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should come out with a definite and clear cut plan so that FMD could be eliminated from the country at the earliest. Since 10-15 years are too long a period. We should plan mass scale production of vaccine and also regular vaccination of the animals, first in the areas affected by this disease and later on in other areas where there are chances of its spread. A publicity campaign should be launched to make the farmers aware of the vaccination for saving their animals from Foot and Mouth Disease. The State Governments through the village panchayats should be involved in this information campaign against this disease as also the local print and electronic media.

Reply of the Government

4.2 There are at present only three vaccine manufacturers in the country, one in public sector (Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bangalore) and two in corporate or private sectors (Indian Immunologicals, Hyderabad and Intervet India, Pune). Keeping in view the requirement of FMD vaccine in the country, these manufacturers are upgrading/expanding their facilities to enhance the production. Moreover, two more manufacturers are also in the process of developing facilities for the production of vaccine.

In order to explore the possibility of expansion of the programme to other areas, it has been identified as one of the terms of reference for the Sub - Group on Animal Health Services of the Working Group on Animal Husbandry and Dairying for 11th Five Year Plan. Publicity campaign involving village Panchayats is part of the FMD control programme to make the farmers aware of the vaccination for saving their animals from Foot and Mouth Disease. The State Governments have already started information campaign against this disease by publishing pamphlets/booklets in local/vernacular language and by organising public meetings at state, district, block and village levels.

Comments of the Committee

4.3 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para 1.2 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Recommendation No. 5

Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds

4.4 The Committee have been informed that during the Tenth Plan the 'conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds' of small ruminants, pack animals, pigs and equine was introduced as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which aims at conserving and protecting threatened or near extinct breeds of livestock, whose population is less than 10,000. Several species of goats, sheeps, yaks etc. are threatened breeds. But the Committee are dismayed to note that even after 4 years of the scheme being in operation, the Government has not been able to make an authentic data-base of the threatened livestock breed and is satisfied by being a signatory to the UN, FAO sponsored 'State of the World Animal Genetic Resources' programme. As the UN will also take the help of the local governments, NGOs, experts groups etc. for this purpose, the Government of India can

also take their help alongwith the 'National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources' a research center of ICAR and State Governments to survey the threatened breeds in a time bound manner.

Reply of the Government

4.5 The cataloguing of all threatened breeds of livestock in a Country of continental size is a mammoth task. The Department has sourced information about the threatened breeds of livestock from the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal, the species specific institutions/research center of the ICAR, and State Governments. Preparation of an exhaustive list of threatened breeds would involve extensive breed survey, which not only will go beyond the scope of the scheme but will overlap with other programmes.

It is proposed to approach the ICAR for conducting a breed survey through the NBAGR with a view to compiling a foolproof identification of threatened breeds and their status.

Comments of the Committee

4.6 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para 1.18 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Recommendation No. 6

Bird Flu

4.7 The Committee have noted with great concern that Avian Influenza (popularly know as 'Bird Flu') has come to India, though till now in a localized way. The poultry is a major source of income for the landless labourers and small farmers whose sole livelihood depends on poultry. Lakhs of birds have been culled out in Nawapore and Jalgaon areas of Maharashtra. The Committee feel that it is the lack of stringent

measures for import of poultry products and non-compliance on surveillance and sampling of migratory birds that led to the spread of bird flu which resulted in a very damaging effect on the entire poultry industry in the country causing tremendous sufferings and losses to the poultry producers.

The Committee recommend that stringent measures should be taken towards formulating processes and policies for the import of poultry and its products. The poultry Venture Capital Scheme should be started in a large scale, instead of a small scale as at present, to cover large poultry farmers as well as poor backyard poultry producers in rural areas.

Reply of the Government

4.8 The import of poultry and poultry products are regulated through Livestock and Livestock Products Importation Act, 1898 (9 of 1898) as amended in 2001 (No.28 of 2001). The import is allowed on the basis of the sanitary import permit issued by the Department and the consignment is checked at the port of entry by the Quarantine Officers. Under Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund, a total of 49 poultry units involving a financing of Rs. 2.17 crore have already been approved in 2005-06.

Comments of the Committee

4.9 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para 1.21 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Recommendation No. 12

Development of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in the North Eastern States

4.10 The Committee have been informed that the Department is earmarking 10% of its Plan allocation to the North Eastern States and is implementing a number of Plan

schemes in the North Eastern and Sikkim to assist the respective State Governments for development of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries sector. The Department has also informed that as most of the Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to Marine and Coastal Fisheries are not implementable in North Eastern Region, it has not always been possible to fully utilize the 10 % allocation.

In order to develop inland fisheries and aquaculture across the country including North Eastern States, macro scheme named 'Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture' has been launched in the Tenth Plan. The scheme includes development of fresh water aquaculture, cold water fisheries and aquaculture in hilly regions, waterlogged areas into aquaculture estates, construction of new and renovation of old ponds and tanks, running water fish culture, fish feed mills, etc. The Committee have also been apprised that the Centrally sponsored schemes on 'welfare of fishermen', 'marketing and strengthening of database and infrastructure', Networking for fisheries sector are also in operation in the North Eastern States.

The Committee are surprised to find that the scheme "Assistance to States for Piggery Development" is yet to get approval though four years of the Tenth Plan have already expired. The scheme is expected to be approved during 2006-07 which means that it can be implemented only during the next Five Year Plan, which shows the lackadaisical attitude of the Government towards this scheme. The Committee strongly recommend that all the schemes including the 'Piggery Development', should be formulated, approved and implemented in a given time frame and should not be allowed to linger on for a long time. Piggery development especially has a big role in the economic upliftment of the people in the North Eastern States.

Reply of the Government

4.11 The scheme on Assistance to States for Piggery Development was discontinued after Ninth Plan as a consequence of an exercise undertaken in the Planning Commission to weed out ineffective Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Attempts to revive the Scheme could not succeed because of insistence on the part of Planning Commission for an evaluation of the Ninth Plan Scheme. Evaluation of the Scheme by NABARD was completed by third quarter of 2004-05. Thereafter fresh attempts to revive the Scheme could not succeed because Planning Commission advised during last quarter of 2004-05, merger of a number of small schemes into a National Project for Improvement of Poultry and Small Animals, which was to subsume the scheme on piggery development as a component of the new project to be implemented in macro-management mode. The National Project for Poultry and Small Animals was formulated which had a component on piggery development and the scheme was circulated to appraisal agencies during third quarter of 2005-06. However, a meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) to consider the proposal could not be organized because Planning Commission has not yet appraised the proposal. The matter is being pursued with Planning Commission with the hope of getting the scheme initiated during 2006-07.

Comments of the Committee

4.12 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para 1.32 of Chapter-I of this Report.

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation No. 1

Tenth Plan allocation and expenditure for Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

5.1 The Department have informed that the total expenditure during the Tenth Plan is expected to be around Rs. 2450.00 crore which is almost 98% of the total allocation of Rs. 2,500 crore for the entire Tenth Plan period. However, it is observed that the expenditure during the first four years of the Tenth Plan comes to Rs. 1514.52 crore which constitutes barely 60.58% of the total outlay of Rs. 2,500 crore with only one year to go. The Department in their reply had assured that with the implementation of new schemes such as Livestock Insurance, National Fisheries Development Board which are expected to take off during 2006-07, the Department would make all possible efforts to fully utilize the allocated funds and would try to get additional allocation in the course of the years, so as to reach the full Tenth Plan outlay of Rs. 2,500 crore.

Having regard to the pace of expenditure during the preceding four years, the Committee are surprised as to how the Department would utilize such a huge unspent balance of about Rs. 985.50 crore during the last year of the Tenth Plan. The utilization of around Rs. 985 crore which is almost 40% of the total allocation, during the fifth and final year as against the reported expenditure of only Rs. 1514 crore during the first four years, appears to be a formidable task given the past performance of the Department. The Committee feel that the Department also made a poor performance by not utilizing the allocated funds. The Committee would, therefore, like to be apprised of the new measures/strategies specifically proposed by the Department to ensure full and effective

utilization of allocations in the final year of the Tenth Plan. The Committee would also like the Department to keep a strict watch over the pace of implementation of schemes and expenditure incurred thereon, so as to fully utilize the allocated funds and also to enable completion of various schemes within the stipulated time schedule.

Reply of the Government

5.2 The department is making concerted efforts to fully utilize the Tenth Plan allocation. Out of the total outlay of Rs.2500 crore for the Tenth Plan, about Rs.1671.00 crore has been spent in the first four years of the Tenth Plan. Due to various measures taken by the Department by way of close monitoring of schemes, follow up of the State Governments through field visits by Officers, etc., the utilisation of the Plan Allocation has improved considerably over the years. During 2005-06, the Department was able to utilize around Rs.594.00 crore, which is over 99% of the RE for that year. The current year's outlay of Rs. 777.00 crore is also expected to be almost fully utilized. With the implementation of new schemes/component schemes viz. Livestock Insurance, National Fisheries Development Board and expected approval to the National Project for Improvement of Poultry and Small Animals, the pace of expenditure is likely to improve further. In fact, the Department may require additional allocation of funds in the course of the year, so as to reach the full Tenth Plan Outlay of Rs.2500.00 crore.

Comments of the Committee

5.3 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para 1.6 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Recommendation No. 2

National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

5.4 The Committee have been informed that the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and was launched in Oct. 2000 for a period of 10 years, with an allocation of Rs. 402 crore for phase-I. The scheme envisages genetic upgradation on priority basis and aims at re-organisation and re-orientation of the Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Operation in the country. It has been also noted that since May, 2000 States joined this scheme very late so Planning Commission has permitted to extend the Phase I by two years i.e. upto March, 2007. The Committee are perturbed to note that out of the 27 participating States/UTs, Phase-I will be practically completed only in 13 States/Uts by 2006-07.

The Committee recommend that this being a very important scheme to help the farmers as well as the States to breed the better kind of cattle and buffaloes, the Murra-buffaloes and Shaliwal and Tharparkar and other such breed of cows of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan should be given special attention so that the number of cattles of these breeds could be increased on a mass scale so that the farmers and dairy owners can buy these cattles at a reasonable price to augment their milk production and can be exported to other countries in case of demand.

Reply of the Government

5.5 The National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) focuses on development and conservation of indigenous breeds. Funds have been released to the

participating States to take up programmes for development of indigenous breeds in their breeding tracts so as to improve the genetic makeup and availability. More funds have been proposed in Phase-II of NPCBB to take up systematic bull production programme, which will further contribute towards efforts to increase the population of improved genetic breeds. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has in its meeting held on 19.05.2006 recommended continuation of the project during the current financial year. The CCEA note with a total project cost of Rs 779.87 crore has been circulated to the appraisal agencies.

Comments of the Committee

5.6 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para 1.9 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Recommendation No. 4

Livestock Insurance

5.7 It has time and again been recommended by the Committee that live stock insurance should be introduced immediately so that the farmers can freely breed the milch cattles without fear of their losses due to disease or death. The Committee have been informed that livestock insurance has been approved and the funds have been released. However, the first policies are yet to be issued. The Government have decided that the insurance scheme will at first run only in 100 selected districts where there is a substantial population of highly productive cattle.

The Committee, recommend that the livestock insurance scheme should not be further delayed and also should not be confined to 100 districts only, rather it should cover the whole of the country in phases within a period of two years. The Committee

feel that the scheme should not be confine to two animals per beneficiary, and should be extended to cover 4-5 animals per household in due course. The premium of 50% is too high for a poor farmer to pay. It should be in the ratio of 75:25 for government and the farmers respectively.

The Committee also recommend that the period of insurance coverage should be at lease five years (and not three years as at present) as the milch animals give milk for at least 8-10 years.

Reply of the Government

5.8 The Livestock Insurance Scheme has been approved for implementation on pilot basis in 100 districts during 2005-06 and 2006-07. Soon after approval of the Scheme by the Government of India in February, 2006, an amount of Rs.2421.14 lakh was released in March, 2006 for its implementation. An additional amount of Rs.24.00 crore has already been approved for release.

On the basis of the review of the performance of the Scheme during the pilot stage, the scheme will be extended during 11th Five Year Plan. The implementation of the Scheme in the pilot stage will help in standardizing the norms of insurance premium rates, selection of Insurance Companies, and bringing further improvement in the system based on experience. The Livestock Insurance Scheme is expected to grow big in short time. Various recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee viz., implementing the scheme in the entire country, covering 4-5 animals per household, increasing subsidy on premium to the tune of 75%, increasing the period of insurance coverage, etc. will be kept in view at the time of extending the scheme in the 11th Plan.

Comments of the Committee

5.9 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para 1.15 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Recommendation No. 7

Dairying

5.10 The Committee have noted that though dairying sector not only provides employment and income generating opportunities but has also become an important secondary source of income for millions of rural families, yet the total outlay for this sector for the whole of 10th Plan was Rs. 361 crore out of which only Rs. 175 crore could be utilized during first four years of this Plan, which shows poor planning and low priority given to dairy industry. The Committee deprecate this kind of approach of the Government. Even a single manufacturing industry in other sector is given loan more than this 10th Plan outlay for dairy sector. The Committee failed to understand how the Assistance to Co-operatives, Intensive Dairy Development Programme, Strengthening of Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production, Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Funds etc. could be run by this amount and still 52% of the total plan outlay remain undisbursed even after a lapse of four years of 10th Plan. Funds allotted for 'Assistance to Co-operatives' was Rs. 130 crore and even out of this only Rs. 34.65 crore i.e. 27% could be disbursed during the first four years of 10th Plan period, which shows the poor state of priority given to this sector. It shows poor planning and low priority towards this sector on the part of the government which needs to be addressed seriously. The Committee strongly recommend that the dairy sector should be developed in a holistic manner enhancing in outlay and giving priority to the dairy development schemes in a planned and given time frame, so that our farmers could also produce quality milk and

other milk products comparable to Western countries and get remunerative price for their products. Government should strengthen the Intensive dairy development programme and give more assistance to cooperatives to bring about white revolution in our country.

Reply of the Government

5.11 Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP): With the release of funds directly to the implementing agencies in the States and coverage of more area for assistance under the scheme (districts with nil and investment less than 50 lakh during Operation Flood are now eligible for assistance under the scheme). In the revised IDDP scheme, the utilization of funds has improved significantly. During the year 2005-06, an amount of Rs.39.91 crore was utilized against BE provision of Rs.50.00 crore and RE of Rs 42.70 crore.

Assistance to Cooperatives: The 10th Plan outlay for the Scheme “Assistance to Cooperatives” is Rs.130.00 crore. The Department could utilize Rs.34.65 crore i.e. 27% during first four years of the 10th Plan. The scheme is purely demand driven and, on an average, an amount of Rs.5-6 crore is actually required annually to meet the committed liabilities of some of the proposals already approved and new proposals.

The Department entrusted the evaluation study of the scheme to the National Institute of Agricultural Extension management (MANAGE), Hyderabad an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The MANAGE has stressed the need to review the sharing mechanism between Central and State Government from 50:50 basis to 90:10 or at least 75:25 for more effective (pro-active) participation of the State Governments. The Department is also of the opinion that if the present sharing mechanism between Centre and State is changed from 50:50 basis to

90:10 or at least 75:25, it will lead to better utilisation of funds under the Scheme “Assistance to Cooperatives”, as the State Governments are not in position to provide their 50% matching share in time.

Comments of the Committee

5.12 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para 1.24 of Chapter-I of this Report.

Recommendation No. 10

Welfare of Fishermen

5.13 The Committee note that the National Scheme for Welfare of Fisherman which consists of three components, viz. development of model fishermen villages, group accident insurance and saving-cum-relief for active fisherman, has been implemented in various States/Union Territories. The Department, on a query with regard to the numbers of fisherman villages that have been developed during the past three years in the Tsunami affected areas and also if the targets set were met, has not given clear and specific replies but in a general response has cited that “the package approved for Tsunami Rehabilitation Programmes covers housing, fisheries, ports and jetties, roads and bridges, social infrastructure, environmental and coastal protection measures. The Rehabilitation Programme has provision of Rs. 3096.88 crore for construction of houses in the Tsunami-affected areas, which will cover fishermen as well.”

It has been more than a year since the devastating Tsunami waves caused unimaginable havoc and losses to the people. The Committee in their Report on DFG of the Department (2005-06) had recommended that the approved package for rehabilitation of fishermen affected by Tsunami, should be implemented scrupulously and speedily to

provide the much needed succour to the affected fishermen. However, the Committee are disheartened to note that in many instances the rehabilitation packages meant for the affected people are yet to be taken up in full swing which gives an unmistakable impression that these rehabilitation programmes are not being accorded the required and focused attention by the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should implement the rehabilitation packages on war footings to provide much needed succour to the affected people. The Committee desire to be apprised of all the developmental and rehabilitation programmes including long-term plans and results thereof that have already been completed

Reply of the Government

5.14 The Department deals with cases of fishermen affected by Tsunami and the financial assistance to be given to them under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme. About 80% of the boats fully or partially damaged have been repaired/replaced in the Tsunami affected States of the country. There is a provision for up gradation of fisheries infrastructure which includes i) Rehabilitation of the damaged fishing harbours/fish landing centres ii) Construction of twenty new fish landing centres and iii) Conducting techno-economic feasibility studies through reputed agencies for setting up of modern fishing harbours. In Kerala, two fish landing centres have already been restored into functional position and such works for other four harbours are at advanced stage of construction. The construction of two new fishing harbours in Kerala, one at Arthungal and another at Chellanam, are under consideration and necessary activities are taking place. Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed to construct three fish landing centres, one at Antarvedit, another at Vodalarevu and the third one at Lakshipuram Pallipalem. The necessary activities in this regard are at advanced stage. In Tamilnadu,

repair and renovation of all the affected fishing harbours/landing centres are at various stages of completion and it is expected that it will be done shortly. Government of Tamilnadu has also identified sites for construction of 10 new fish landing centres. In Pondicherry also, repair and renovation of fishing harbour/landing centres are at various stages of completion and the Government has also decided to construct a new fish landing centre at Yanam.

Comments of the Committee

5.15 For Comments of the Committee Please refer to Para 1.29 of Chapter-I of this Report.

**NEW DELHI;
08 March, 2007
17 Phalguna, 1928 (Saka)**

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV
*Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture²*

APPENDIX -I

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 8TH MARCH, 2007 AT 1500 HRS. IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'B', GROUND FLOOR, PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1500 HRS TO 1630 HRS

PRESENT

Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav - Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta
3. Shri Khagen Das
4. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
5. Shri Hari Rama Jogaiah
6. Shri M.P.Veerendra Kumar
7. Shri Baleshwar Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

8. Shri Harish Rawat
9. Shri Vikram Verma
10. Shri Sk. Khabir Uddin Ahmed
11. Shri Datta Meghe

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri A.K.Singh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Hardev Singh | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri N.S.Hooda | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Ms. Amita Walia | - | Under Secretary |

At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairman, welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and requested them to take up the following Memoranda on draft Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food Processing Industries for consideration and adoption:

- (1) Memorandum No. 2 regarding 23rd Action Taken Report on recommendations contained in the 18th Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) in respect of Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture and Co-operation)
 - (2) Memorandum No. 3 regarding 24th Action Taken Report on recommendations contained in the 19^h Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) in respect of Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agricultural Research and Education)
 - (3) Memorandum No. 4 regarding 25th Action Taken Report on recommendations contained in the 20th Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) in respect of Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries)
 - (4) Memorandum No. 5 regarding 26th Action Taken Report on recommendations contained in the 21st Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) in respect of Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- 2 The Committee then considered and adopted the draft Action Taken Reports with minor additions/modifications as suggested by members of the Committee.
3. 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 TWENTIETH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (14TH LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	13
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Serial Nos. 8,9,11 and 13	
	Total	4
	Percentage	31%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Serial No. Nil	
	Total	Nil
	Percentage	Nil
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies Of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Serial Nos.3,5,6 and 12	
	Total	3
	Percentage	31%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Serial No. 1,2,4,7, and 10	
	Total	5
	Percentage	38%