

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE****(2008-09)****FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA****MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DAIRYING AND  
FISHERIES)****DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2008-2009)****{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations  
contained in the Thirty Ninth Report of the  
Standing Committee on Agriculture (2007-2008)}****FORTY FOURTH REPORT****LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

DECEMBER, 2008/AGRAHAYANA, 1930 (Saka)

**FORTY FOURTH REPORT  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
(2008-09)**

**FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA**

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

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2008-2009)**

**[Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained  
in the Thirty Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2007-2008)]**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 18.12.2008.

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 18.12.2008.



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

DECEMBER, 2008/AGRAHAYANA, 1930 (Saka)

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## COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2008-2009)

@ Shri Mohan Singh – Chairman

### MEMBERS

#### LOK SABHA

2. Shri Ranen Barman
3. Shri Anil Basu
4. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta
5. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava
6. Shri Khagen Das
7. Shri Dharmendra
8. Shri Gadakh Tukaram Gangadhar
9. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
10. Smt. Kalpana Ramesh Narhire
11. Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad
12. Shri Prabodh Panda
13. Shri Raosaheb Danve Patil
14. Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar Patil
15. Shri K.J.S.P.Reddy
16. Shri Y.S.Vivekananda Reddy
17. Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh
18. Shri M.P.Veerendra kumar
19. Shri Baleshwar Yadav
- \*20. Vacant
- #21. Vacant

#### RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Ishwar Singh
23. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
24. Shri Vikram Verma
25. Shri Vinay Katiyar
26. Dr. Janardhan Waghmare
27. Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi
28. Prof. M.S.Swaminathan
29. Shri M.Rajasekara Murthy
- \$30. Shri Kore Prabhakara
- %31. Vacant

@ Shri Mohan Singh has been appointed Chairman of the Committee by Hon`ble Speaker, w.e.f. 5 December, 2008 vice Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav elected to the Rajya Sabha, w.e.f. 14.11.2008.

\* Sh. Kuldeep Bishnoi ceased to be the Member of this Committee owing to disqualification under 10<sup>th</sup> Schedule by Hon`ble Speaker w.e.f. 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2008.

# Sh. Hari Rama Jogaiah ceased to be the Member of the Committee owing to his Resignation from Lok Sabha w.e.f. 6 November, 2008.

\$ Sh. Kore Prabhakara was nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, to be the Member of the Committee w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2008.

% Shri Harish Rawat ceased to be the Member of the Committee due to retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 25.11.2008.

## **SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                          |   |                     |
|----|--------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri S.K. Sharma         | - | Secretary           |
| 2. | Shri A.K.Singh           | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 3. | Smt.Veena Sharma         | - | Director            |
| 4. | Shri Raj Kumar           | - | Deputy Secretary    |
| 5. | Shri N.S.Hooda           | - | Deputy Secretary    |
| 6. | Ms. Amita Walia          | - | Under Secretary     |
| 7. | Shri Pramod Kumar Sharma | - | Executive Assistant |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Agriculture, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Forty Fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in the Thirty Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2007-2008) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries) for the year 2008-2009.

2. The Thirty Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2007-2008) on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries) was presented to Lok Sabha on 16.04.2008 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 Thirty Ninth 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 16.12.2008, approved the draft comments and adopted the Forty Fourth 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 Thirty Ninth Report (14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

**NEW DELHI;**  
**16 December, 2008**  
**25 Agrahayana, 1930 (Saka)**

**MOHAN SINGH**  
***Chairman,***  
***Standing Committee on Agriculture***

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty Ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2007-08) on Demands for Grants (2008-09) 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 16.4.2008.

1.2 The Action Taken Replies in connection with the 39<sup>th</sup> Report of the Committee relating to Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) have been examined and classified as under:-

- (i) Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government (Chapter II of the Report) Recommendation Sl. Nos. 3,4,7,9,10, 12 & 13 (Total –07)
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations 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) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which action taken replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee (Chapter IV of the Report) Sl. No. 2 (Total-01)
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited. (Chapter V) Recommendation Sl.Nos.1,5,6,8,11,14 and 15 (Total –07)

**1.3 The Committee desire that the final replies in respect of recommendations for which only interim replies have been given by the Government should be furnished to the Committee expeditiously.**

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



## **(Recommendation No. 2)**

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

1.5 Regarding Setting up of Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education, the Committee had recommended as under:-

“The Committee strongly feel the need for setting up of an Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education on the lines of the Indian council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). Livestock and fisheries sectors contribute 5.6% of the total GDP. These sectors play a significant role in supplementing family incomes and provides large scale self-employment in the rural sector, particularly to the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers and women. The Committee in their earlier reports on Demand for Grants also recommended the need for setting up of a separate Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education for the all round and accelerated development of livestock, poultry and fisheries through focused research, education and services. The Committee have been informed that the issue of creation of a separate Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education is required to be examined by Department of Agricultural research and Education, which is also under the Ministry of Agriculture and accordingly the matter has been referred to Department of Agricultural Research and Education for examination and appropriate action.

The Committee are of the opinion that such an important sector cannot depend only upon ICAR for veterinary education and research because mandate of ICAR is so wide that it is not able to give required

priority and impetus to the research specifically for AHD&F sector. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Government to expedite the process of setting up of a separate Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education under the purview of Department of AHD&F. The need for such institution is essential in the present conditions. The Poultry sector is facing problem of Bird flu from a couple of years and this year, this sector has suffered a loss of Rs. 1500 crore over a period of two months only. Climate change and other such major issues which have direct effect on livestock and fisheries, require proper and focused research.

The Committee further recommend that a Livestock Development Council should also be set up under the control of the Department to take care of research in the field and also the welfare and development of livestock”.

1.6 The Government, in their Action Taken reply have stated as under:

“The setting up of an Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education has been raised from time to time and the issue has been examined carefully. The ICAR is the apex organization at the national level to plan and coordinate research and higher education in agriculture, which includes animal science, fisheries, horticulture, agricultural engineering, home science etc. It may be mentioned that a farmer is engaged in a number of farming activities such as crops, livestock, horticulture etc. Therefore, it is essential to have a holistic and integrated approach to agricultural research in order to extend technology to the farmer in an optimum manner. ICAR has a number of very strong institutions across all areas of agriculture, including horticulture, animal

science and fisheries. This collaborative and integrated approach involving crops, animal sciences and fisheries has led to significant growth in agriculture, particularly fisheries and animal sciences. Therefore, the Government feels that bifurcating ICAR would not be desirable. Further, as informed earlier, for prioritising research areas of interest in animal husbandry, dairy & fisheries sectors a more effective interface with the Department of Agricultural Research & Education has been proposed. This would enable strong reflection of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries issues in ICAR's work agenda".

### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.7 The Committee express their strong displeasure over the fact that though the issue of setting up a separate Indian council of Veterinary Research and Education has been raised from time to time by the Committee, yet the Government has been ignoring the recommendation of the Committee and giving ritualistic reply for not setting up Indian council of Veterinary Research and Education. The Committee note from the reply that the ICAR is the apex organization at the national level to plan and coordinate research and higher education in agriculture, which includes animal science, fisheries, horticulture, agricultural engineering, home science etc. and the Government feels that bifurcating ICAR would not be desirable. The Committee are of the view that the argument given by the Government is the very reason why the Committee emphasize the need for a separate Council for Veterinary Research and Education as the ICAR being involved in varied research activity is not able to give requisite attention to the livestock sector. The livestock 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. In the considered view of the Committee, there is an overriding need for policy shift in the field of veterinary education and research so that livestock sector is no longer treated as a sub-sector of Agriculture. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation for setting up of a separate Council for Veterinary Research and Education.

The Committee are unhappy to point out that the reply of the Government is completely silent over the recommendation of the Committee for setting up of a Livestock Development Council under the control of the Department. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation for setting up the Livestock Development Council so that proper care is taken for development of livestock.

**(Recommendation No. 6)**

**Conservation of Threatened Breeds**

1.8 Regarding Conservation of Threatened Breeds, the Committee had recommended as under:

“The Committee note that the programme for ‘Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breed,’ is not being implemented efficiently as the allocation made in 2008-09 is only Rs. 1.90 crore. Most of the native breeds are disappearing due to less attention and care taken by the State Governments. For example, cattle like Nellore, Ongole and Kangeyam in Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu and Rathi in Rajasthan, most of them are dwindling now largely owing to holistic approach of the Government. Pashmina goats in Ladakh are dying in winter due to lack of feed and

fodder. Yak and Mithone are also disappearing for want of food. Like wise 'Bhadavari' Buffalo whose milk contains a very high percentage of fat, is also disappearing slowly. Even a special Farm House for Bhadavari was built in the Uttar Pradesh but that is not functioning properly.

The Committee recommend that urgent steps should be taken to conserve these threatened native breeds. The Central Government should take initiatives suo moto for the cause rather than waiting for the demand from the State Governments. The Committee further feel that the amount of Rs. 1.90 crore allocated for the scheme during 2008-09 is not sufficient enough, therefore, more funds should be allotted at RE stage so that these endangered breeds could be saved”.

1.9 The Government in their Action Taken Reply have stated as follows:

“Concerns of the Committee regarding conservation of indigenous breeds is shared by the Government. Notwithstanding the efforts of Government and the International agencies like Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) towards conservation of domesticated livestock breeds, extinction of breeds continues to be a global phenomenon, which can be ascribed to breeds becoming uneconomical or loss of habitat because of pressure on grazing land. It is of great significance to note that burden of conservation cannot be and should not be passed on to the farmer and hence, the farmer will continue exercise his choice of rearing a breed which provides him the highest remuneration.

Approved parameters of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on “Conservation of Threatened Breeds of Livestock” do not cover Cattle, Buffalo and Poultry breeds. However, conservation of indigenous cattle

and buffalo breeds is covered under the “National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding” (NPCBB), which has an allocation of Rs.61.00 crore for 2008-09. An amount of Rs.6.00 crore has been released under the scheme for procurement of bulls which also include Nellore (Ongole) and Rathi breeds. An amount of Rs.15.00 crore have been released for developing systematic field performance recording system which is meant to cover among other indigenous breeds, Rathi and Ongole cattle. Besides this, the Central Herd Registration Scheme has a field unit at Ongole which is engaged in performance recording of Ongole (Nellore) cattle.

Three projects for conservation of yak in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh and one project for conservation of Mithun in Mizoram have been sanctioned under the scheme ‘Conservation of Threatened Breeds of Livestock’.

Evaluation of the scheme for Conservation of Threatened Breeds has been entrusted to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Services (NABCONS) who are likely to submit final report shortly. Based on the recommendations of the report, the parameters of the scheme will be revised so as to obtain greater participation of States and more proactive role for the Department. Enhancing allocation under the scheme will also be considered subject to overall availability of funds at the disposal of the Department”.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.10 The Committee desire that the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development Consultancy Services(NABCONS), who has been entrusted the responsibilities of submitting report on the evaluation of the**

**Scheme for Conservation of Threatened Breeds, should be persuaded to submit their report expeditiously so that the parameters of the scheme are revised. They also desire that more funds should be allocated under the scheme for 2009-10 so that threatened Livestock breeds are taken care of.**

**(Recommendation No. 14)**

**Deep Sea Fishing**

1.11 Regarding Deep Sea Fishing, the Committee had recommended as under:

“The Committee note that a sizeable quantity of oceanic tuna and allied species in the Exclusive Economic Zone remain practically unexploited due to inability of earlier introduced stern trawlers/shrimp trawlers. Therefore, conversion of these trawlers to mono-filament long lining is considered technological intervention, to meet the challenges of under-utilization of the existing trawler fleet and of the tuna resources. The Committee have been informed that there are about 90 vessels deployed for deep sea fishing. Further, 50 deep sea fishing trawlers are proposed to be converted into tuna long liners with a total subsidy outgo of Rs. 750.00 lakh during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

The Committee further note that the financial requirement for conversion of a single trawler to tuna long liner is about Rs. 40.00 lakh. The Committee fail to understand as to when the subsidy of 50 per cent of the cost is to be given, why it is limited to Rs. 15.00 lakh instead of Rs. 20.00 lakh per trawler. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the total subsidy for conversion of 50 deep sea fishing trawlers should be enhanced to Rs. 10.00 crore instead of Rs. 750.00 lakh. Moreover, on Public Private Partnership model, the National Fisheries Development Board should develop a strategy for more efficient use of EEZ, both for

fisheries and other purposes. This will not only help in proper exploitation of natural resources in deep sea but also improve the livelihood conditions of fishermen as well as promote exports.

1.12 The Government in their Action Taken Reply have stated as follows:

“The Programme has been restructured for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan to attract entrepreneurship for tapping the under-exploited resources and also to reduce fishing pressure in the coastal water mainly by using trawl net, gill nets etc. It is proposed to provide assistance under Resource Specific Fishing Vessels of three categories under the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Scheme. These consists of (i) 10-15 meters Over All Length (OAL) with subsidy upto 50% cost of conversion subject to ceiling of Rs.5.0 lakh, (ii) 16-20 meter OAL subject to ceiling of Rs.10.0 lakh, and (iii) above 20 meters OAL subject to ceiling of Rs.15.0 lakh. The total cost of this component for implementation during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period (2007-12) works out to Rs.10.0 crore. The 11<sup>th</sup> Plan schemes are presently under finalization”.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.13 The Committee note that the restructured programme for 11<sup>th</sup> five year Plan to attract entrepreneurship for tapping under-exploited fishing resources is yet to be finalized. The Committee desire that the restructured programme should be finalized expeditiously and special care should be taken to allocate adequate funds for conversion of trawler to tuna long liner, so that at least 50% of the cost could be given as subsidy for the purpose.**



## **(Recommendation No. 15)**

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

1.14 Regarding Safety of Fishermen at Sea, the Committee had recommended as under:

“The Committee note that the hazardous nature of sea fishing often results in loss of lives and fishing boats and implements, besides injury and permanent impairment. Again during on-the-spot visit of the Committee to Andaman and Nicobar Islands it was brought to the notice that unknowingly fishermen enter into Exclusive Economic Zone of other countries and often arrested or assaulted by the other countries. The Department informed that under, ‘Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations scheme’, small mechanized boats, which are below 20metre length are provided with one Global Positioning System (GPS) and a wireless set for position finding and communication respectively. For this purpose a back-ended subsidy of 20 per cent, not exceeding Rs. 30,000 is provided.

The Committee recommend that back-ended subsidy should be increased so that fishermen could have supportive efficient items. Further fishermen should be provided with a cell phone, which can give them data on wave heights, fish shoals, location of fish etc. GPS data can be fed with Internet cell phone synergy. This could be worked out with the help of the Department of Information Technology, which is putting up 100,000 common service centres. This process will help fishermen to find out their position, reduce their work and also help them during natural calamity.

The Committee further recommend that special steps should be taken for safety and welfare of fishermen in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

as they are living in difficult conditions and have not come out of Tsunami aftermath”.

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

“Capsizing of boats due to inclement weather, collision and other accidents are common in Sea Fishing, often resulting in casualties. Improving safety is of paramount importance to reduce loss of human life and property at Sea. Keeping this in view, the component on safety of fishermen at sea under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled ‘Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations’ has been restructured for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. Under the scheme a kit consisting of direction finder (GPS), Communication equipment, depth finder (Echo Sounder) and search & Beacon is proposed to be supplied to the small mechanized fishing boats below 20 meters length to reduce the loss of life while fishing at sea and to improve shore to boat communication system especially during times of distress. The unit cost of proposed kit has been estimated at Rs.1.50 lakh and it is proposed to increase the back-ended subsidy under this component. The proposed kit contains all necessary equipment required during the operation of fishing boats. The scheme is presently under finalization for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan . Soon after approval, the matter would be taken up with the Ministry of Information Technology for developing synergies”.

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

**1.16 The Committee feel that for ‘Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-harvest Scheme’, back-ended subsidy should be increased so that fishermen could have GPS and wireless for their small**

**mechanized boats. Further, the process of installation of GPS and wireless set for position finding and communication for safety of fishermen at sea, should be carried out expeditiously.**

## CHAPTER II

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

#### **(Recommendation No. 3)**

##### **New Schemes**

2.1 The Committee are constrained to note that there are inordinate delays in conceptualization and final implementation of the various schemes. The Committee have been informed that nine Schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries are pending at various stages of approval. The Committee note that many new schemes are proposed in the new Plan and thereafter, either the schemes are dropped or start at later phase of the Plan. Further, the States are also involved in these schemes with the perception, that the target set will be achieved if the State utilise the allocated the amount.

The Department while clarifying the reasons as why the implementation of the schemes has been delayed, informed that it is due to discussions held in the Planning Commission or prioritization of various schemes are fixed on the basis of resource availability and if Plan allocations are not available then the schemes have to be dropped. There are many such schemes like Poultry Development, Project for Slaughter Houses and CU Plants, Livestock Extension and Delivery Services, etc. which have not started yet and for these schemes either the token amount was allocated or no allocations were made during 2007-08. This year also, either no outlay has been provided to some of the schemes, or schemes are under consideration of the evaluating agency or generally it is stated that an EFC memo for the scheme has been prepared or in pipeline.

The Committee observe that since sometimes appraisal agencies also take long time to submit their comments, a definite time frame should be given to

them, failing which it should be deemed that they don't have anything to comment and further, process should continue.

The Committee desire that the Department should concentrate more on the proper formulation of the schemes at conceptualising stage before sending the scheme to the Planning Commission. The Committee urge upon the Planning Commission to have a detailed scrutiny and send any suggestion/clarification for modification or otherwise before granting 'in principle' approval so as to avoid wastage of time in redrafting memos and project reports again and again which result in inordinate delays in implementing the schemes for the welfare of farmers.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.2 The Department had proposed to take up nine new schemes in the Eleventh Plan with an outlay of Rs.6370.00 crore for those schemes in the Department's projected requirement of Rs.17695.17 crore for the Eleventh Plan. However, the Planning Commission finalized an outlay of Rs.8174.00 crore, which was intimated to the Department in October 2007. As a result, new schemes had to be reworked to a much lower scale in view of the significantly reduced allocations. Further, action to obtain approvals from the competent authorities for new schemes is already underway. Three new schemes could not be included in the implementation programme for the current financial year, as the budgetary allocation indicated for the year does not permit provision of funds for them.

In response to this recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Planning Commission has advised the Department to expedite the submission of

Standing Finance Committee (SFC) proposals in respect of all new schemes at the earliest for grant of 'In Principle' approval and detailed scrutiny. The Department is taking necessary action in this regard.

#### **(Recommendation No. 4)**

##### **Bird Flu**

2.3 The Committee, with great concern, have noted that Avian Influenza once again broke-out in thirteen Districts covering 49 blocks and 2 municipalities of West Bengal and has affected 8% of the geographical area and 6% of the poultry population of the State. According to WHO it is the country's most serious outbreak of bird flu. The bird flu has shaken not only the poultry industry which provides income to almost 50% of landless labourers but also the confidence of the consumers.

According to the Ministry the poultry industry has suffered loss of Rs. 1500 crore over a period of two months due to the current episode of Avian Influenza in West Bengal. As many as 40.32 lakh poultry birds have been culled in West Bengal. Further, 14.91 lakh eggs and over 80,000 kg. feed material have also been destroyed in these operations.

The Committee have been informed that the reason for occurrence of bird flu could be one of following (i) bird to bird contact in border areas; (ii) smuggling of infected birds. (iii) carrying of virus from wild and migratory birds. It has also been informed by the Department that presence of backyard poultry in West Bengal is a major cause for outbreak of bird flu as no bio-safety procedures are followed in backyard poultry system.

The Committee feel that effective measures have not been taken to stop smuggling of birds and desire that the Department should coordinate with other

Governmental agencies in the matter. The Committee recommend that Government should develop a strategy for small scale poultry farming and have a policy to treat poultry as an agricultural activity rather than purely an industrial activity. The public policy for poultry ought to be framed. The Government must also formulate effective policy for the import of poultry and its products. The Committee are of the view that Bio-security should be looked at as a total concept. The Government should develop a strong agricultural bio-security system, covering micro-organisms, plants, animals, fish, etc. in an integrated way. Further more, a strong regional surveillance and early warning systems, with the help of FAO should be developed particularly in SAARC and other neighbouring Countries.

The Committee further recommend that the Government should expedite the setting up of 23 Bio-Security Level-II (BSL-II), 6 BSL-III and one BSL-IV laboratories for testing of samples for Avian Influenza, so that the problems like bird flu could be tackled more effectively in the future.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.4 The international border between India and Bangladesh is of porous nature. Even though a large part of it is fenced, there is, however, lot of illegal movement of men and material on account of social and cultural affinity between the population on two sides. This Department has already approached the Ministry of Home Affairs for fencing the remaining area and also to increase vigilance by the BSF to check any smuggling of contraband.

In order to improve bio-security of poultry-keeping in rural backyards, the Department has proposed up gradation to more bio-secure models in border areas with Bangladesh as part of long-term strategy to prevent occurrence of Avian Influenza.

Animal Husbandry is a State subject. Accordingly, a decision in regard to treating poultry as an agriculture activity is to be taken by the States. The Union Agriculture Minister has written to the Chief Ministers of various States to treat poultry as an agricultural activity.

It is accepted that bio-security should be treated in a holistic manner so as to manage the biological risks associated with food and agriculture, including their various sub-sectors. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries has robust institutional mechanism for bio-security and livestock disease management in the country.

The Government of India is already participating in a FAO sponsored project 'Strengthening cross-border activities among Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Myanmar to control possible cross-border spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)'.

The Government of India has already released funds to various States for upgradation of 23 Bio Security Laboratories –II (BSL-II). The States have been asked to complete the upgradation by November, 2008. The Department has engaged M/s. UNOPS to arrange establishment of two BSL-III laboratories. The arrangement also has provision for ordering two additional BSL-III laboratories. The sites for establishment of two constructed BSL-III laboratories have been selected and further planning in this regard is being carried out. It is also proposed to establish one BSL-IV laboratory for which the site has been selected. In this case also, it is proposed to entrust the responsibility to M/s. United Nation Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Action in this regard is underway.

### **(Recommendation No. 7)**

#### **Milk Productivity**

2.5 The Committee note that India's milk output during the year 2006-07 reached the level of 100.9 million tonnes (provisional) and was estimated to reach 102 million tonnes in 2007-08. This has not only placed the country on top



in the world, but also represents sustained growth in the availability of milk and milk products for the burgeoning population of the country. The Committee find that despite a very large population of cattle in the country, the productivity is very low. It is about 1200 litres per animal, which is about half of the world average, of 2300 litres. The productivity in the country is about 10 per cent of the productivity in Israel, which is almost 12000 litres per animal. The reasons for this low productivity are the poor quality of delivery of artificial insemination, low success rate and quality of semen not up to the mark. It has also been noticed that in some places artificial insemination has adverse impact on the indigenous good quality germplasm. The lack of feed and fodder and low productive breeds in India are also responsible for poor productivity.

The Committee note that there are many indigenous breeds of cows and buffaloes like Sahewal, Murrah, Bhadavari, Tharparkar, Nagauri, etc., which not only give higher productivity but are also adapted to different agro-climatic zones. In context of climate change, indigenous breeds have better survival rate. Therefore, the Committee recommend that special programmes should be launched to encourage the breeding/insemination of indigenous variety of cattle, so that the production of milk could be increased which will eventually solve the problem of synthetic milk also.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.6 In order to improve the productivity of bovine population through genetic up-gradation, Department is implementing a scheme of 'National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)'. It focuses on delivery of quality breeding inputs at the farmers' doorstep. To achieve this objective, during Phase-I of NPCBB, 12000 private Artificial Insemination (AI) workers have been inducted

and 23700 Government Artificial Insemination (AI) centres strengthened and converted into mobile. To improve the Artificial Insemination skill and proper handling of frozen semen, 37064 existing Artificial Insemination workers have been trained. About 1500 professionals have also been trained in reputed training centres in the country on various facets of frozen semen technology. During Phase-II of the scheme, it is proposed to establish 14000 more private Artificial Insemination workers for wider coverage of the remaining bovine population.

For improving the quality of frozen semen and to attain better conception rate, Department has constituted a Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) for evaluation of functional semen stations once in two years. The Minimum Standard Protocol (MSP) has also been formulated for semen production and it is mandatory for all the semen stations in the country to adhere to it. Before CMU, only 3 semen stations were ISO certified. Now 24 more semen stations have acquired ISO certification.

To avoid the indiscriminate crossbreeding and dilution of indigenous good quality germplasm, States have been advised to have a notified breeding policy and to strictly adhere to it.

Keeping in view the importance of indigenous breeds of cattle and buffalo, funds have been allocated and released to the States under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) Phase-II for taking up systematic bull production programme, procurement of bulls of indigenous breeds for natural service and artificial insemination (AI), establishment of Open Nucleus Breeding System and Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) Laboratories so as to improve genetic make up and availability of indigenous breeding bulls during the project period.

## **(Recommendation No. 9)**

### **Budgetary Allocations to Dairy Sector**

2.7 The Committee have been informed that the efforts of the Department in the dairy sector are concentrated on promotion of dairy activities in non-operation flood areas with emphasis on building up co-operative infrastructure, revitalisation of sick dairy co-operative federations and creation of infrastructure in the States for production of quality milk and milk products. For pursuing these objectives, the Department is implementing four schemes in the dairy sector, including a new central sector scheme Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund. Besides this, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is responsible for the overall development of Dairy Sector in Operation Flood areas.

The Committee note that despite 'Dairy' being an important sector, the Budget Estimate for 2008-09 is only Rs. 98.00 crore, as compared to Rs. 109.25 crore in the Revised Estimate of 2007-08, though the Department has asked for Rs. 133.70 crore. The Committee have been further informed that assistance to sick dairy co-operatives has been reduced to Rs. 7.00 crore due to inadequate outlay for the entire Department. The Committee, therefore, desire that funds allocation to Dairy sector may be enhanced at RE stage so that this vital sector could continue to steadily perform and the dairy cooperatives are saved from falling sick.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.8 This Department had proposed an allocation of Rs.133.70 crore for Dairy Development during Annual Plan 2008-09. Against this, an amount of Rs.98.00

crore was allocated for Dairy Sector in BE 2008-09, which is lower as compared to allocation of Rs.109.25 crore i.e. RE 2007-08. Under the scheme "Assistance to Cooperative", this Department has proposed a sum of Rs.11.00 crore during Annual Plan 2008-09. An amount of Rs.7.00 crore could be allocated in BE 2008-09.

Based on the pace of progress of implementation and receipt of Utilization Certificates, efforts will be made to seek higher allocation for Dairy Development Schemes at the RE stage.

### **(Recommendation No. 10)**

#### **Preservation of Milk**

2.9 The Committee express serious concern over the issue of climate change which will very badly affect the Dairy Sector. Milk require special preservation technology. The Committee are afraid that with the passage of time, refrigerator, air-conditioner and cold storage technology, which are highly productive of green house gases, will no longer remain suitable for preservation of milk. Therefore, there is an urgent need to have a new technology/system for ensuring preservation of milk, otherwise, with chemical and conventional technologies it will be very difficult to preserve the milk and rather more difficult to preserve its by-products. The Committee, therefore, suggest the Government to start working in this direction immediately so as to avoid the sudden crisis that may come whereby the country may slip from No. 1 position in production of milk to a situation where the adequate quantity of milk will not be available even for the children.

## Reply of the Government

2.10 The impact of climatic change on the livestock sector is engaging the attention of the Department. The specific issue made above has also been examined in consultation with the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal and Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). In this regard, following comments are made:

- (1) While it is well recognized that the conventional refrigeration system based on Chloro Fluoro Carbon (CFC) used in cooling of milk are environmentally undesirable due to their green house effects, the new CFC-free refrigerants may be employed in cooling system for milk without adversely affecting the environment.
- (2) Since cold-chain between production and processing and even thereafter is the most practical preservation approach, bulk milk cooling system which are CFC-free, could be considered as a solution to the problem of preservation of milk and milk products.
- (3) However, under certain situations, cooling may not be practicable, because of power shortage, etc. In such cases, milk and milk products may be preserved by bacteriostats. Although some research attempts have been made in this direction by the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) & National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), much more remains to be done especially in the context of liquid milk preservation.
- (4) On farm or village society level, processing of milk using thermal energy appears to be another option but it needs to be investigated extensively for establishing practical feasibility.

- (5) Improved microbiological quality of raw milk by adopting clean milk production practices is the most urgent need at the farmer (and society) level for success of any of the above options. This necessitates intensive extension activities for farmers' awareness and adequate incentive being given to the producer supplying clean milk.

In this regard, Animal Sciences Division of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has directed its premier institute, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, to initiate research on alternate methods of preservation of liquid milk and milk products. Methods like ultra-heat treatment, radiation processing, novel packaging technologies etc. would be tested and efficacy of these measures for milk preservation would be studied by them.

### **(Recommendation No. 12)**

#### **Allocations to Fisheries Sector**

2.11 The Committee have been informed that Fisheries sector provides livelihood to about 14.48 million people. Potential of fish production from marine and inland resources has been estimated at 3.9 million tonnes and 4.5 million tonnes respectively. At present, total fish production is about 6.57 million tonnes comprising of 3.75 million tonnes from inland and 2.82 millions tonnes from marine fisheries.

The Committee note that funds allocations at BE stages for the last five years were reduced drastically at RE stages. The Committee have been informed that the reduction in fund allocation from Rs. 100.00 crore BE to Rs. 50.00 crore at RE stage is due to under-utilisation of funds for the National

Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), which was in the process of getting fully established. Secondly, the States were not forthcoming to avail funds under the schemes of NFDB. Further, an amount of Rs. 13 crore were surrendered as Department could not purchase three vessels planned for two fisheries institutes due to poor response from bidders.

The Committee are unhappy with the continuous trend of reduction of fund allocation at RE stages for all these years. The Committee desire that now NFDB has since been fully established, it should familiarise the State Governments about its various programmes, so that they could timely avail funds for various schemes. The Department should take appropriate steps to attract the potential ship building yards to take interest in Department's projects and remove the bottlenecks in getting responses from bidders to enable the fisheries sector to utilize full allocations.

The Committee further desire that taking cognizance of inevitable sea-level rise due to global warming, National Fisheries Development Board should conduct research and prepare an action plan to minimise its adverse impact on lives and livelihood of fisher/coastal communities.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.12 National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has already initiated the process of interaction to familiarize the States with the Schemes implemented through them and impress upon them the need to access funding from the Board with the objective of realising the untapped potential of fisheries in the state. A few states which have low fish production and productivity but huge potential have been identified for focused attention to achieve substantial gains in

production and productivity. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) is taking all possible measures to ensure that sufficient number of proposals are received from states and other agencies so that the entire budget allocation of 2008-09 is utilized.

As regards the proposed action plan to minimize adverse effects of global warming on lives and livelihood of fishers/coastal communities, this Department has taken up the matter with the NFDB.

Steps have been initiated by the concerned Institutes to ensure that funds provided for the purchase of vessels do not get surrendered in the current financial year.

### **(Recommendation No. 13)**

#### **Development of Freshwater (inland) Fisheries**

2.13 The Committee have been informed that the scheme for Development of Freshwater Aquaculture has been launched with the objectives to popularize fish farming, creating employment opportunities, diversifying aquaculture practices and providing assistance to fish farmers with a view to creating trained and well organized fish farmers fully engaged in aquaculture. For 2008-09, Rs. 12.00 crore have been allocated under the scheme to be given in the form of subsidy to the fish farmers. Till 2007-08, about 7.21 lakh hectares water area have been brought under fish culture. The Department has informed that the average production is only about 2.2 tonnes per hectare per annum as there are various handicaps like the poor conditions of banks and ponds, problem of fishing seeds and feed etc.

It has come to the notice of the Committee that there is a great demand for air-breathing fish abroad. The Committee are of the view that air-breathing



fish like Marigold having medicinal properties, which grow under more difficult conditions, should be paid attention. The Committee desire the Department to give power and economy of scale to small fishermen by way of developing aquaculture estates or Farmers' Fisheries estates so that production could be enhanced. Since there is tremendous potential for inland fisheries in the reservoirs, tanks, ponds, canals etc., the Committee recommend that proper infrastructure should be created for the development of inland fisheries.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.14 In order to develop farming of air breathing fish, the State Governments will be urged to include this activity in fish farming during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. With regard to development of fisheries in reservoirs/tanks etc., various steps have been initiated and more emphasis will be placed on this activity. It is proposed to increase the unit cost and hence the total quantum of subsidy for construction/renovation/reclamation of ponds & tanks. The first year cost of inputs for fin fish culture, prawn culture, fish seed, prawn hatchery and feed units will also be increased from existing levels during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. The new components viz., Brood bank for ornamental fishes and its seed certification have also been proposed to be included in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan to enhance the production and productivity. As regards recommendation for giving power & economy of scale to small fishermen by developing aquaculture estates or farmers fisheries estates, this item is already covered under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture through its component which provides for Development of waterlogged areas into aquaculture estates. Some

States have already availed of this assistance. Others will be encouraged to access funding for this activity.

For ensuring infrastructure, the component in Inland Capture Fisheries (Reservoir/Rivers etc.) provides for fish seed rearing units, construction of landing centres, conservation and organizing awareness programme.

The ongoing six components of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture 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 Waters for Aquaculture (vi) Inland Capture Fisheries (Reservoirs/Rivers etc.). In addition a new component in the form of innovative projects is being introduced in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan to assist States in any aquaculture activities which are not covered by the present scheme guidelines but essential to tap fisheries potential in the States.

## CHAPTER III

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

-Nil-

## CHAPTER IV

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

### (Recommendation No. 2)

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

4.1 The Committee strongly feel the need for setting up of an Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education on the lines of the Indian council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). Livestock and fisheries sectors contribute 5.6% of the total GDP. These sectors play a significant role in supplementing family incomes and provides large scale self-employment in the rural sector, particularly to the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers and women. The Committee in their earlier reports on Demand for Grants also recommended the need for setting up of a separate Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education for the all round and accelerated development of livestock, poultry and fisheries through focused research, education and services. The Committee have been informed that the issue of creation of a separate Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education is required to be examined by Department of Agricultural research and Education, which is also under the Ministry of Agriculture and accordingly the matter has been referred to Department of Agricultural Research and Education for examination and appropriate action.

The Committee are of the opinion that such an important sector cannot depend only upon ICAR for veterinary education and research because mandate of ICAR is so wide that it is not able to give required priority and impetus to the research specifically for AHD&F sector. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Government to expedite the process of setting up of a separate Indian

Council of Veterinary Research and Education under the purview of Department of AHD&F. The need for such institution is essential in the present conditions. The Poultry sector is facing problem of Bird flu from a couple of years and this year, this sector has suffered a loss of Rs. 1500 crore over a period of two months only. Climate change and other such major issues which have direct effect on livestock and fisheries, require proper and focused research.

The Committee further recommend that a Livestock Development Council should also be set up under the control of the Department to take care of research in the field and also the welfare and development of livestock.

### **Reply of the Government**

4.2 The setting up of a Indian Council of Veterinary Research and Education has been raised from time to time and the issue has been examined carefully. The ICAR is the apex organization at the national level to plan and coordinate research and higher education in agriculture, which includes animal science, fisheries, horticulture, agricultural engineering, home science etc. It may be mentioned that a farmer is engaged in a number of farming activities such as crops, livestock, horticulture etc. Therefore, it is essential to have a holistic and integrated approach to agricultural research in order to extend technology to the farmer in an optimum manner. ICAR has a number of very strong institutions across all areas of agriculture, including horticulture, animal science and fisheries. This collaborative and integrated approach involving crops, animal sciences and fisheries has led to significant growth in agriculture, particularly fisheries and animal sciences. Therefore, the Government feels that bifurcating ICAR would not be desirable. Further, as informed earlier, for prioritising research areas of interest in animal husbandry, dairy & fisheries sectors a more

effective interface with the Department of Agricultural Research & Education has been proposed. This would enable strong reflection of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries issues in ICAR's work agenda".

### **Comments of the Committee**

**4.3 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No. 1.7 of chapter I of the Report.**

## CHAPTER V

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

#### **(Recommendation No. 1)**

##### **Budgetary Allocation**

5.1 The Committee note that the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (AHD&F) had formulated the Annual Plan proposals (2008-09) to the tune of Rs. 1891.25 crore. In the Annual Plan discussions, the Planning Commission had indicated an outlay of Rs. 1100.00 crore for this Department but has actually allocated Rs. 1000 crore only for 2008-09. Allocation of resources for the year 2008-09 is only 10.98% more as compared to BE 2007-08. Out of this Rs. 1000 crore of BE for 2008-09, Rs. 160 crore have been allocated for Special Package for suicide prone districts and Rs. 84.00 crore have been allocated as lump sum amount for North Eastern States and Sikkim. The Committee note that GDP in AHD&F Sector was 6.5 per cent during the Ninth Plan which came down to 5.6 per cent during the Tenth Plan. AHD&F Sector contributes more than 31 per cent to the output of agriculture and contributes more than five per cent to the GDP. But the allocation of this Department in the overall allocation of the Ministry of Agriculture is 7.7 per cent of the total outlay for all the three Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture. In 2008-09, even though this sector contribute more than five per cent, allocation for the Department in the Central Plan outlay is of the order of 0.27 per cent only.

The Committee are not happy with this reduced allocation, even the Secretary, AHD&F also admitted during the evidence that low allocations are definitely going to adversely effect the implementation of the schemes and

growth of this sector. They are of the view that in the country, unlike many other industrial countries, livestock and livelihoods are very closely inter-related and also the ownership of livestock is more egalitarian than of land. It is crop-livestock inter-related production system which is both a way of life and means of livelihood in the country.

Therefore, the Committee desire that there should be a reasonable and liberal approach in making allocations in favour of AHD&F sector because insufficient allocation of funds to such an important sector will slow down the growth rate and lower the pace of implementation of various schemes. The Committee strongly recommend that if the Government are really willing to boost the Animal wealth and improve the lives of rural population, the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance should provide Rs. 1891.25 crore at RE stage, as proposed by the Department of AHD&F, since many of their new schemes/programmes are suffering due to lack of requisite funding”.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.2 The Eleventh Plan allocation of the Department has been fixed at Rs. 8174.00 crore. After accounting for an amount of Rs.910.00 crore allocated in 2007-08, the Department had projected an outlay of Rs. 1891.25 crore for 2008-09. However, BE allocation made to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries for 2008-09 is Rs.1000 crore. In this regard, Planning Commission was consulted and they have suggested that the plan allocation for 2008-09 could be revisited based on the physical performance of the schemes and the utilization of funds released to implementing agencies during 2007-08. Further, Planning Commission has advised the Department to expedite the implementation of schemes and ensure faster pace of utilization before the RE



exercise. It has also been suggested that states should be mobilized to take advantage of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) funds and the Department has been requested to submit Standing Finance Committee (SFC) proposals in respect of all new schemes at the earliest so that additional funds can be considered.

In this connection, it may be stated that the Department has already requested State Governments to draw more funds from the RKVY kitty for Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries project. Action on circulation of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) memo on new schemes is also underway.

#### **(Recommendation No. 5)**

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

5.3 The Committee note that due to increasing pressure on land for growing food grains, oil seeds, and pulses, the land to grow fodder and feed crops is decreasing. The Government have allocated Rs. 10.00 crore only in the Budget Estimate 2008-09 for 'Project for Feed and Fodder'. As per Ministry's own admission, there is a huge shortage of fodder. The Committee feel that allocated sum is not sufficient enough for such an essential programme, therefore, the Government should increase fund allocation for this scheme at RE stage.

The Committee are of the view that the nutritive value of feed and fodder has a significant bearing on the productivity of livestock. If proper feeding is provided to existing breeds, milk production can be enhanced. The country has very rich varieties of fodder grasses (both annual and perennial), barseem, lusern, alphalpa, etc. which are disappearing for want of pasture land.

The Committee desire that fodder and feed banks should be established in vulnerable areas. The Committee further recommend that the Government

should encourage programmes of Self Help Groups (SHG) and the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (NREG) for fodder development. They also desire that some land in the State farms should be given to women SHGs on long term lease for feed and fodder production.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.4 The Department is in the process of formulating a new scheme on “Feed & Fodder Development”. For the purpose, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Consultancy Service has been engaged as a consultant to prepare an approach paper on the basis of felt requirement, experience of past initiatives in the sector, inputs from various stakeholders and latest developments in the sector. On receipt of the approach paper, a scheme will be formulated for implementation from the current year itself. The recommendation made by the Parliamentary Committee would be addressed while formulating the scheme.

### **(Recommendation No.6)**

#### **Conservation of Threatened Breeds**

5.5 The Committee note that the programme for ‘Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breed,’ is not being implemented efficiently as the allocation made in 2008-09 is only Rs. 1.90 crore. Most of the native breeds are disappearing due to less attention and care taken by the State Governments. For example, cattle like Nellore, Ongole and Kangayam in Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu and Rathi in Rajasthan, most of them are dwindling now largely owing to holistic approach of the Government. Pashmina goats in Ladakh are dying in winter due to lack of feed and fodder. Yak and Mithone are also disappearing for want of food. Like wise ‘Bhadavari’ Buffalo whose milk contains a very high percentage of fat, is

also disappearing slowly. Even a special Farm House for Bhadavari was built in the Uttar Pradesh but that is not functioning properly.

The Committee recommend that urgent steps should be taken to conserve these threatened native breeds. The Central Government should take initiatives suo moto for the cause rather than waiting for the demand from the State Governments. The Committee further feel that the amount of Rs. 1.90 crore allocated for the scheme during 2008-09 is not sufficient enough, therefore, more funds should be allotted at RE stage so that these endangered breeds could be saved.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.6 Concerns of the Committee regarding conservation of indigenous breeds is shared by the Government. Notwithstanding the efforts of Government and the International agencies like Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) towards conservation of domesticated livestock breeds, extinction of breeds continues to be a global phenomenon, which can be ascribed to breeds becoming uneconomical or loss of habitat because of pressure on grazing land. It is of great significance to note that burden of conservation cannot be and should not be passed on to the farmer and hence, the farmer will continue exercise his choice of rearing a breed which provides him the highest remuneration.

Approved parameters of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Conservation of Threatened Breeds of Livestock" do not cover Cattle, Buffalo and Poultry breeds. However, conservation of indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds is covered under the "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" (NPCBB), which has an allocation of Rs.61.00 crore for 2008-09. An amount of Rs.6.00 crore has been released under the scheme for procurement of bulls

which also include Nellore (Ongole) and Rathi breeds. An amount of Rs.15.00 crore have been released for developing systematic field performance recording system which is meant to cover among other indigenous breeds, Rathi and Ongole cattle. Besides this, the Central Herd Registration Scheme has a field unit at Ongole which is engaged in performance recording of Ongole (Nellore) cattle.

Three projects for conservation of yak in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh and one project for conservation of Mithun in Mizoram have been sanctioned under the scheme 'Conservation of Threatened Breeds of Livestock'.

Evaluation of the scheme for Conservation of Threatened Breeds has been entrusted to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Services (NABCONS) who are likely to submit final report shortly. Based on the recommendations of the report, the parameters of the scheme will be revised so as to obtain greater participation of States and more proactive role for the Department. Enhancing allocation under the scheme will also be considered subject to overall availability of funds at the disposal of the Department.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**5.7 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No. 1.10 of chapter I of the Report.**

## **(Recommendation No. 8)**

### **Modern Slaughter Houses**

5.8 The Committee note that a new Project of slaughter houses and CU Plants has been introduced with a token provision of Rs.1 lakh during 2008-09. It has been informed that EFC memo for the project is under preparation. The Committee desire that wherever rural slaughter houses are being developed Gram Sabhas or Panchayati Raj Institutions should be involved. The Committee have noticed that in some places the residuals lying near the slaughter houses are badly affecting the area and ground water. Therefore, they desire that proper arrangement should be made to dispose off the waste and residuals hygienically.

The Committee further recommend that in view of increasing demand of quality leather, special care for animal skin should be taken in the slaughter houses. Moreover, livestock extension programmes should emphasize to educate farmers and workers to save the skin so as to have better quality of leather. The Committee recommend that a small group consisting representatives from Central Leather Research Institute, State Level Research institutes; ICAR, Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Department of AHD&F should be formed to take care of livestock and its by-products, as modern slaughter houses are important for safe and hygienic slaughtering of animals and proper use of animal by-products.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.9 The Panchyati Raj Institution will be involved in establishment of slaughter houses and carcas utilization plants. The concerned scheme will also provide for

proper disposal of effluents and solid wastes emerging from those facilities so as to prevent environmental pollution. The rural slaughter houses scheme provides for resting pens, lairages, ante-mortem examination of animals, hanging slaughtering facilities to produce quality leather. The Department, alongwith the participation of other stakeholders will monitor proper execution of these schemes so as to ensure production of hygienic meat and gainful utilization of animal by-products”.

**(Recommendation No. 11)**

**Delhi Milk Scheme**

5.10 The Committee has noticed that Delhi has a huge population and presently more than 45 lakh litres of milk per day is being sold in Delhi. But Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS), which is under the Department of AHD&F, was in a position to procure milk to the tune of 2.80 lakh kgs. per day approximately during 2007-08. The Committee have been informed that expenses of DMS for the year 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 were Rs. 185.99 crore, Rs. 192.50 crore and Rs. 186.42 crore, respectively and revenue generated by DMS for the same years were Rs. 180.60 crore, Rs. 190.56 crore and Rs. 161.48 crore respectively. This shows that DMS is continuously making losses. Further, DMS is unable to increase its share into the market. Many other dairies like ‘Amul’ and ‘Mother Dairy’ are having a big share of market. Even Amul milk products are demanded in other countries also. The Committee note that one of the problem areas is that ‘DMS’ depot or booths are around 40 years old and not renovated, so it works against the principle of good marketing.

The Committee strongly recommend that DMS booths should be renovated and made commercially viable for which special funds should be allocated under Capital section. The Committee desire the Government to ensure

that DMS should adopt professional approach in marketing, transportation and plant operations. The Committee have been further informed that in pursuance of the decision of the Union Cabinet on Corporatisation of Delhi Milk Scheme to make it commercially viable, the Department have called for the 'Expression of Interest' from reputed agencies. The Committee impress upon the Government to expeditiously chalk out a time bound plan for Corporatisation of DMS, so that it could come out of losses and meet the requirements of Delhi.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.11 (i) Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) is procuring milk from State Dairy Federations (SDFs), Cooperative Societies/Milk Producer Companies and other companies. During the year 2006-07, milk procurement had declined drastically due to the unprecedented floods and drought conditions in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. The procurement also declined since cooperative societies did not supply milk because of non-finalization of tenders owing to disparity in milk procurement prices and various terms & conditions between the state Dairy Federations and societies. As per the revised policy for procurement approved by the Government in March 2007, the disparity has been removed and contracts for procurement of milk with various agencies i.e. State Dairy Federations, Co-operative Societies/Milk Producer Companies and Pvt. Ltd. Companies have been finalized for the milk supply up to 31.3.2009. With the finalization of these contracts, Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) is now in a position to procure milk as per its requirement.

(ii) Modernization, renovation & repair of existing Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) milk booths:

Presently there are 605 milk booth structures of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) located all over NCT of Delhi. These booths are being used as outlets for selling Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) milk and milk products. The competent authority has approved modernization, renovation and repair of the milk booths against utilization of available space on milk booths for advertisement/publicity purposes after following the laid down procedures. Though Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) has made efforts by issuing tender notices from time to time the work could not be awarded as the response received was either insufficient or conditional. The Management Committee of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) decided in a meeting held on 23.4.2008 that the tender may be refloated for 200 booths giving wide publicity. Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) is floating open tenders for the same. No expenditure will be incurred for modernization, renovation and repair of existing milk booths by following above procedure i.e. when the walls of booth are allowed to be used for advertisements purposes by the party carrying out renovation work.

However, the recommendation of the Committee has been noted. An assessment of the requirement of funds for renovation of DMS booths has been made, which works to Rs.30 crores. The proposal will be submitted to Managing Committee of DMS before it is referred to the Department for any action.

(iii) Modernization & Upgradation of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) Plant & Machinery:

Following Plant & Machinery has been purchased and Civil & Electrical works executed during the year 2007-08 against the outlay of Rs.100 lakh provided under Plan expenditure.



S.No.	Particulars	Amount ( Rs. in lakh)
1.	Three Poly Pack Machines	24.75
2.	Four Electrical Cubical Panels	11.96
3.	Diffuser Ammonia Cooling Coils for Milk Cold Storage	13.21
4.	Civil & Electrical Works through CPWD	50.00
	Total	99.92

With the installation of above plant and machinery the productivity & efficiency of working has improved.

(iv) Corporatisation of Delhi Milk Scheme:

In pursuance of the decision of the Union Cabinet on corporatisation of Delhi Milk Scheme to make it a commercially viable unit, the Department had called for the Expression of Interest from reputed agencies. After examination of proposal, "Request for Proposals" have been issued on 02.07.2008 calling for technical/financial bids by 10.08.2008.

#### **(Recommendation No. 14)**

#### **Deep Sea Fishing**

5.12 The Committee note that a sizeable quantity of oceanic tuna and allied species in the Exclusive Economic Zone remain practically unexploited due to inability of earlier introduced stern trawlers/shrimp trawlers. Therefore, conversion of these trawlers to mono-filament long lining is considered technological intervention, to meet the challenges of under-utilization of the existing trawler fleet and of the tuna resources. The Committee have been informed that there are about 90 vessels deployed for deep sea fishing. Further, 50 deep sea fishing trawlers are proposed to be converted into tuna long liners with a total subsidy outgo of Rs. 750.00 lakh during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

The Committee further note that the financial requirement for conversion of a single trawler to tuna long liner is about Rs. 40.00 lakh. The Committee fail to understand as to when the subsidy of 50 per cent of the cost is to be given, why it is limited to Rs. 15.00 lakh instead of Rs. 20.00 lakh per trawler. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the total subsidy for conversion of 50 deep sea fishing trawlers should be enhanced to Rs. 10.00 crore instead of Rs. 750.00 lakh. Moreover, on Public Private Partnership model, the National Fisheries Development Board should develop a strategy for more efficient use of EEZ, both for fisheries and other purposes. This will not only help in proper exploitation of natural resources in deep sea but also improve the livelihood conditions of fishermen as well as promote exports.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.13 The Programme has been restructured for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan to attract entrepreneurship for tapping the under-exploited resources and also to reduce fishing pressure in the coastal water mainly by using trawl net, gill nets etc. It is proposed to provide assistance under Resource Specific Fishing Vessels of three categories under the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Scheme. These consists of (i) 10-15 meters Over All Length (OAL) with subsidy upto 50% cost of conversion subject to ceiling of Rs.5.0 lakh, (ii) 16-20 meter OAL subject to ceiling of Rs.10.0 lakh, and (iii) above 20 meters OAL subject to ceiling of Rs.15.0 lakh. The total cost of this component for implementation during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period (2007-12) works out to Rs.10.0 crore. The 11<sup>th</sup> Plan schemes are presently under finalization.

## Comments of the Committee

**5.14 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No. 1.13 of chapter I of the Report.**

### **(Recommendation No. 15)**

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

5.15 The Committee note that the hazardous nature of sea fishing often results in loss of lives and fishing boats and implements, besides injury and permanent impairment. Again during on-the-spot visit of the Committee to Andaman and Nicobar Islands it was brought to the notice that unknowingly fishermen enter into Exclusive Economic Zone of other countries and often arrested or assaulted by the other countries. The Department informed that under, 'Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations scheme', small mechanized boats, which are below 20metre length are provided with one Global Positioning System (GPS) and a wireless set for position finding and communication respectively. For this purpose a back-ended subsidy of 20 per cent, not exceeding Rs. 30,000 is provided.

The Committee recommend that back-ended subsidy should be increased so that fishermen could have supportive efficient items. Further fishermen should be provided with a cell phone, which can give them data on wave heights, fish shoals, location of fish etc. GPS data can be fed with Internet cell phone synergy. This could be worked out with the help of the Department of Information Technology, which is putting up 100,000 common service centres. This process will help fishermen to find out their position, reduce their work and also help them during natural calamity.

The Committee further recommend that special steps should be taken for safety and welfare of fishermen in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as they are living in difficult conditions and have not come out of Tsunami aftermath”.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.16 Capsizing of boats due to inclement weather, collision and other accidents are common in Sea Fishing, often resulting in casualties. Improving safety is of paramount importance to reduce loss of human life and property at Sea. Keeping this in view, the component on safety of fishermen at sea under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled ‘Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations’ has been restructured for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. Under the scheme a kit consisting of direction finder (GPS), Communication equipment, depth finder (Echo Sounder) and search & Beacon is proposed to be supplied to the small mechanized fishing boats below 20 meters length to reduce the loss of life while fishing at sea and to improve shore to boat communication system especially during times of distress. The unit cost of proposed kit has been estimated at Rs.1.50 lakh and it is proposed to increase the back-ended subsidy under this component. The proposed kit contains all necessary equipment required during the operation of fishing boats. The scheme is presently under finalization for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan . Soon after approval, the matter would be taken up with the Ministry of Information Technology for developing synergies.

## **Comments of the Committee**

**5.17 For comments of the Committee please refer to Paragraph No. 1.16 of chapter I of the Report.**

**NEW DELHI;  
16 December, 2008  
25 Agrahayana, 1930 (Saka)**

**MOHAN SINGH  
*Chairman,*  
*Standing Committee on Agriculture***

## APPENDIX-I

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2008 AT 1000 HRS. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. '139', FIRST FLOOR, PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1000 HRS TO 1100 HRS

PRESENT

**Shri Mohan Singh - Chairman**

MEMBERS

### **LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava
3. Shri Khagen Das
4. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
5. Smt. Kalpana Ramesh Narhire
6. Shri Prabodh Panda
7. Smt. Rupatai D.Patil Nilangekar
8. Shri K.J.S.P. Reddy

### **RAJYA SABHA**

9. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
10. Dr. Janardhan Waghmare
11. Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi
12. Prof. M.S. Swaminathan

### **SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                   |   |                  |
|----|-------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri A. K. Singh  | - | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. | Smt. Veena Sharma | - | Director         |
| 3. | Shri Raj Kumar    | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri N. S. Hooda  | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Ms. Amita Walia   | - | Under Secretary  |

At the outset, the members welcomed Shri Mohan Singh, the new Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture appointed in place of Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav who has been elected to the Rajya Sabha. The Hon'ble Chairman then welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and requested them to take up the following draft Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food Processing Industries for consideration and adoption:

44th Action Taken Report on recommendations contained in the 39<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) in respect of Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries)

**XX            XX            XX            XX            XX            XX**

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 finalise and present the above-mentioned Reports to the Parliament.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

APPENDIX II

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON  
THE THIRTY NINTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE (14<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA)**

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	15
(ii)	Observations/recommendations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Serial Nos. 3,4,7,9,10,12 and 13	
	Total	7
	Percentage	46.66%
(iii)	Observations/recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Serial No. Nil	
	Total	Nil
	Percentage	Nil
(iv)	Observations/recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Serial Nos.2	
	Total	1
	Percentage	6.68%
(v)	Observations/recommendations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Serial No. 1,5,6,8,11,14 and 15	
	Total	7
	Percentage	46.66%