

**12.04 hrs.**

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

**(i) Status of implementation of**

**Recommendations in Second Report of**

**Standing Committee on Agriculture\***

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Second Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture in pursuance of Direction 73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated September 01, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) for the year 2004-05 and presented their second report in this regard to the Lok Sabha on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2004. The report contains eleven recommendations. These recommendations of the said Committee mainly relate to need for increasing DARE's allocation to at least one per cent of AGDP; insufficient Tenth Plan public funding for DARE/ICAR; inadequate allocation to DARE in 2004-05; requirement of one time Catch Up Grant; budgetary process requires some reformative changes; urgent need to fill all vacancies in ICAR; plan schemes suffer owing to time taken in SFC/EFC/CCEA approval; urgent need for minimizing huge post harvest losses of agrarian and allied sectors produces; need to check malfunctioning in Krishi Vigyan Kendras; vague, non-specific and inconclusive replies by the Department and need to popularize R&D support from ICAR to identify synthetic milk.

\*Also placed in Library, See No. LT 1648/2005

All the eleven recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Ministry of Agriculture. The action as proposed by the Committee has already been taken and initiated on all recommendations except one for which the implementation is dependent on Department of Personnel and Training as the restriction has been imposed to fill-up the vacancies. The enhancement in allocations to DARE/ICAR is also dependent on Planning Commission. The action on other recommendations is under process and the action taken replies have been sent to the Committee.

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