

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1969-70)

(FOURTH LOK SABHA)

NINETY THIRD REPORT

**MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (DEPART-
MENT OF AGRICULTURE)**

Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture)—(i) Deep Sea Fishing Organization, Bombay; & (ii) Landing & Berthing Facilities.



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August 1969/Sravana, 1891 (Saka)

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CORRIGENDA

TO

Ninety-third Report of the
Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok
Sabha) on the Ministry of
Food, Agriculture, Community
Development and Cooperation
(Department of Agriculture).

Page (iii) Sl.No.26, for
'Shri G.C. Swell' read
'Shri G.G. Swell'.

Page 3, Line 33 for 'vessels'
read 'vessel'.

Page 9, Line 37, for 'The
Committee is glad' read
'The Committee are glad'.

Page 19, Line 40, for 'Estimates'
read 'estimates'.

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(1969-70)

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(1968-69)**

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Ninety-third Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture)—(i) Deep Sea Fishing Organisation, Bombay and (ii) Landing and Berthing Facilities.

2. The Fortieth Report of the Estimates Committee was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 8th April, 1968. Government furnished replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in the Report on the 22nd November, 1968. The Study Group 'E' of the Estimates Committee (1968-69) considered the replies received from the Ministry at their sitting held on the 29th April, 1969. The draft Report was adopted by the Committee on the 28th July, 1969.

3. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters :

I. Report.

II. Recommendations that have been accepted by Government.

III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of 38 recommendations made in the Fortieth Report, 32 recommendations, i.e., 84.2 per cent have been accepted by Government. The Committee do not desire to pursue six recommendations, i.e. 15.8 per cent, in view of Government's reply.

NEW DELHI ;
July 30, 1969

Sravana 8, 1891 (Saka)

M. THIRUMALA RAO,
*Chairman,
Estimates Committee.*

CHAPTER I

REPORT

The Estimates Committee are glad to observe that the recommendations contained in their Fortieth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture)—Deep Sea Fishing Organisation, Bombay; and Landing and Berthing Facilities, have been replied to by Government in time and generally to their satisfaction.

2. The Committee desire that further information on the progress made in the implementation of some of the recommendations may be furnished to the Committee.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 2, Para No. 1.8)

The Committee would suggest that close liaison and coordination should be maintained with the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, which provides the basis for work to the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation and Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, whose functions in certain spheres appear to be on lines similar to those of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation. The Committee would also stress the desirability of fostering close relations with other Institutes set up by Central and various State Governments. Close coordination has also to be maintained with the industry, which will ultimately use the results achieved by the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation for commercial exploitation.

Reply of Government

The Government agrees with the suggestion of the Committee that close liaison and coordination should be maintained with the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology and that close coordination should be maintained with the industry. Accordingly the I.C.A.R. has been requested to include the Superintending Engineer of the Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay, or his representative as a member of the Scientific Panel for Fisheries Research under I.C.A.R. which at present is constituted by representatives of the National Institute of Oceanography, Universities, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, a State Government, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology and the Joint Commissioner (Fisheries). Liaison with other Institutions will be maintained through inter-change of information on a regular basis and frequent meetings. The procedure for dissemination of results to the Industry will be reviewed to make it more effective and responsive to needs.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation
(Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-(Instt),
dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 4, Para No. 1.20)

In this context, the Committee note that while vessels from Foreign countries are exploiting large fishing areas in the Indian Ocean, such areas are practically un-explored and un-exploited by Indian nationals. The Committee hope that as and when larger vessels are made available to the Organisation, exploratory fishing would be conducted in the deep sea belt also.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted by the Government. The Government of India have decided to procure three vessels, one 160' and two 105' for exploratory fishing. Efforts are being made to get these vessels quickly.

These vessels will be utilised for exploratory fishing in the deep sea belt as soon as these vessels are procured.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 5, Para No. 1.21)

The Committee are unhappy to note the way in which the development of fisheries in the Bay of Bengal has been handled. It appears that initially no proper survey was made about the fisheries in the Bay of Bengal and the Deep Sea Fishing Operations undertaken by the Government of West Bengal on a commercial scale were unproductive. The Committee note that the Ministry have now drawn up a Pilot Project for the development of fisheries in West Bengal with Canadian assistance. The project report, *inter alia* includes deep sea fishing in the Bay of Bengal with the help of three large vessels of 100 ft. to 120 ft. They also note that the project report is under consideration of the Canadian Government. The Committee would like the Ministry to complete the Pre-Investment Survey expeditiously so that activation of the project may not be delayed. The Committee would also like the Ministry to examine whether they could take up the work independently in case there is difficulty or uncertainty about the Canadian assistance.

Reply of Government

The position has been carefully reviewed in the light of the Committee's observations. The indications are that Canadian assistance will not be available for this Project. It is proposed however to undertake developmental measures within available resources. Steps have already been taken to expedite the development of brackish water fishing in the Sunderbans. The C.I.F.R.I. has carried out experiments on certain engineering problems connected with the construction of farms in the area, and it is programmed to commence construction of fish farms by 1969. Some of the survey vessels for which orders have been placed indigenously and which will be available by 1969-70 will be utilized for survey of the Bay of Bengal. The 160 ft. exploratory vessels which is expected to become available at a later stage will also be used for survey of the Bay of Bengal including the Andamans area.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 6, Para No. 1.25)

Now that the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has gone under the control of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Committee would like the Ministry to ensure that the co-ordination between the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute is not in any way disrupted. They hope that the research programmes of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation will continue to be drawn by the said Institute in consultation with the Fisheries Research Committee. The Committee would also like to emphasise the necessity of completion of the research programmes within the stipulated time and maintenance of close co-ordination and liaison with the various Sub-Stations.

Reply of Government

The Government have taken note of the recommendation that the co-ordination between the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute is not in any way disrupted on account of the transfer of C.M.F.R.I. to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Steps have already been taken to include the Superintending Engineer, Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay, or his representative in the scientific panel for fisheries research in the I.C.A.R. where the C.M.F.R.I. is also represented.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation
(Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt),
dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 8, Para No. 2.8)

The Committee would also like the Ministry to investigate whether it is correct that the exploratory fishing activity of the vessels of the Organisation is confined to areas which are too well-known, as has been alleged in the Memorandum furnished to the Committee reproduced at para 2.5 of the Report.

Reply of Government

The reason for operation of the vessels close to the shore is the inability of the existing boats to risk operation far away from the shore since most of the boats are old. The depth covered by exploratory vessels is upto about 25 to 40 fathoms. The Government of India have, however, taken steps for construction of twenty 57' boats in the indigenous ship building yards. Further, arrangements are being made to import two 106' boats from G.D.R. and France. Efforts are being made to obtain a 73' boat and a 160' boat. With the availability of new vessels and large vessels for conducting exploratory surveys, the range of operation will be extended considerably beyond the present range of operations.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation
(Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt),
dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 9, Para No. 2.15)

The Committee note the number of fishing vessels proposed to be acquired during the period ending 1970-71 for Fisheries Development in the country. They are, however, constrained to observe that not a single fishing vessels has been acquired so far since 1966-67. They are also unhappy to note that there has been an inordinate delay in deciding whether the vessels should be imported or manufactured indigenously. They deplore the complacency shown by the Ministry as well as D.G.S. & D. in the matter so much so that they have not yet taken necessary powers to negotiate with the consortia about the production of fishing vessels in India. The necessity of executing such important projects with a sense of urgency and seriousness needs no emphasis. In the circumstances, the Committee would like the Ministry to take effective and immediate steps to finalise the whole question without further delay. They would also like the Ministry to consider in advance the necessary steps that should be taken in case negotiations with the consortia fail, as in such an eventuality there is likelihood of further delay which will adversely affect the development programme.

Reply of Government

The Government have taken note of the Committee's suggestion that effective and immediate steps should be taken to finalise the question of providing suitable vessels for the Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay. The Government have placed an indent with D.G.S. & D. on 19-3-1968 for procurement of 40 fishing trawlers of 57' length to be manufactured indigenously by 2 consortia which are being headed by two public sector undertakings viz. M/s. Mazagaon Docks Ltd., Bombay and M/s. Garden Reach Workshops Ltd., Calcutta. These trawlers include 20 for the Deep Sea Fishing Station.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 10, Para No. 2.22)

The Committee feel that chartering of foreign fishing vessels should not be encouraged as a rule because the cost of charter, which works out to about 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the cost of the vessel (trawler), appears to be prohibitive. They suggest that instead of chartering the vessels, efforts should be made to purchase the vessels outright.

Reply of Government

The Government have taken note of the suggestion of the Committee that chartering of foreign fishing vessels should not be encouraged as a rule, since the cost of chartering which works out to 30-40% of the cost of vessels appears to be prohibitive, and that instead of chartering the vessel, efforts should be made to purchase the vessels outright. Chartering has been permitted in certain cases, but in these cases the chartering was for survey for short periods by entrepreneurs intending to set up projects in collaboration with foreign firms. Except in such circumstances it is not proposed to resort to chartering of vessels.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 11, Para No. 2.23)

The Committee also feel that the proposal to charter the vessels from the U.S.S.R. merits close and careful consideration. In the opinion of the Committee, harbour and shore facilities in the Indian Ports should not be given normally to any of the foreign fishing vessels. Giving of harbour and shore facilities to foreign fishing vessels will further accentuate the difficulties being experienced by the Indian vessels due to inadequacy of such facilities and will be detrimental to interests of Indian Fishing Industry and the country. Adequate safeguards have also to be taken to ensure that this does not affect the development of Indian fisheries particularly fish catches in deep sea in any manner. The Committee would expect the Government to examine such proposals in all details keeping a special watch over the interest of the country before coming to any conclusions in the matter.

Reply of Government

The proposal to enter into an agreement with the Government of U.S.S.R. is being very carefully examined in all its aspects in view of the implications. The Committee's observations have been noted and the points made will be taken fully into consideration before a decision is arrived at.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 12, Para No. 2.29)

The Committee note the working of some of the vessels available with the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation. They are, however, distressed to find that the repairs costs of these vessels are very high. As a matter of fact, in some cases the cost of repairs already incurred is almost double the cost of the vessels. The Committee, therefore, suggest that it should be examined whether it will be worthwhile to continue to use some of the vessels even by incurring very high expenditure on repairs or it would be advantageous and economical to have them replaced by new vessels.

Reply of Government

Normally when any of the existing vessels need major repairs the feasibility of the vessel operating satisfactorily after repairs for at least 2 or 3 years is examined and in cases where this is not considered feasible, the vessel is recommended to be considered for scrapping. The assessment is carried out by a Committee. The Estimates Committee's recommendation in this matter has been carefully noted. While the emphasis at present is on retaining vessels as long as practicable, having due regard to economy, orders have already been placed for twenty new vessels which will be used partly for replacement and partly as additional vessels.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 13, Para No. 2.30)

The Committee appreciate that the main job of the vessels of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation is exploration. As such, fish catches of these vessels cannot be expected to be as high as those of the commercial firms. They, however, feel that efforts can be made to have increased catches of fish while conducting exploratory work, ensuring at the same time that the exploration work of the Organisation does not suffer in any manner.

Reply of Government

The vessels of the Deep Sea Fishing Station are mainly engaged in exploratory work. The possibility of increasing the catches of fish, while undertaking these exploratory surveys, is being examined by increasing the

period of operation by fixing norms of fishing time and the grant of suitable incentives for increased efforts.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 14, Para No. 2.37)

The Committee note that the programme of training which was being conducted by the D.S.F. Organisation since 1952 has been transferred to the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives in 1964. The Committee also note the requirement of technical personnel of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation on procurement of additional vessels proposed to be acquired by the Government. The Committee hope that the required trained personnel will be available by the time the new vessels become available. They would also suggest that close liaison and coordination should be maintained with the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives for the purpose.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted.

The programme of training of technical personnel referred to above which was initially started in the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation was transferred to the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives in the year 1964. The Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives has been directed to continue this training and steps are being taken to ensure that the required trained personnel are available with the arrival of new vessels.

For effecting necessary liaison and coordination between the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives and the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation, the Superintending Engineer, Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay is being associated with the selection of stipendiary candidates for admission to training courses.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 15, Para No. 2.41)

The Committee would like to stress that such important projects (acquiring of prototypes of exploratory vessels) should be executed with a sense of urgency as these are vital for the development of India's fisheries.

Reply of Government

The suggestion made by the Committee has been noted by the Government. The Ministry is taking steps to procure the vessels as quickly as possible for the Deep Sea Fishing Station.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 16, Para No. 2.45)

The Committee note that workshop facilities for running repairs of minor nature to fishery vessels are available at Cochin, Visakhapatnam and Tuticorin. They, however, feel that in view of the fact that the future development of India's fisheries depends upon the larger vessels, there is imperative need to provide major repair facilities at various ports. They also feel that adequate slip-way and dry-docking facilities have also to be provided at some of the selected ports. The Committee suggest, therefore, that a comprehensive plan for the provision of workshop, slip-way and dry-docking facilities at selected ports may be prepared and executed in a phased manner to avoid difficulties later on. The Committee also suggest that close liaison and coordination should be maintained with the concerned port authorities for the purpose to avoid any over-lapping and duplication. They feel that such liaison and co-ordination with the Indo-Norwegian Project is also imperative as they have built quite a big workshop at Ernakulam and a slip-way is under construction there.

Reply of Government

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture attaches great importance to the construction of slip-way and dry-docking facilities at selected ports as recommended by the Estimates Committee. At present, dry-docking and repair facilities are limited. In view of the need for such facilities the Indo-Norwegian Project has put up a slip-way at Ernakulam for large fishing vessels and provision for such facilities for smaller vessels is also included at the fishing centres at Cannanore, Mandapam and Karwar.

This Ministry has also requested the Major Port authorities to include slip-way and dry-docking facilities in their plans for Haldia, Tuticorin, Madras, Cochin and Paradeep and also in various other minor harbours.

As regards the Committee's Recommendation for maintaining close liaison and co-ordination, the Government have already taken necessary steps in this direction.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 17, Para No. 2.48)

The Committee feel that the evaluation report submitted by the Joint Commissioner (Fisheries) on the working of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation merits close and careful scrutiny. The Committee agree that the present programme of work of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation should be (i) to cover the off-shore grounds upto 40 fathoms in areas not covered as yet; and (ii) to take up exploration of the deep sea particularly with reference to Tuna fish with larger vessels from the bases located in major ports. The Committee expect the Ministry to ensure that the above programme of work of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation is fully implemented.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted. In order to implement the programme the Government have already placed an indent for 20 Trawlers of 57' with the D.G.S. & D. to cover off-shore grounds upto 40 fathoms in areas not

covered as yet. In order to explore deeper waters, two vessels of 105' length are being imported from West Germany and France. All possible efforts will be made to implement the programme.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation
(Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt).
dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 18, Para No. 2.49)

The Committee also feel that there is an imperative need for regularly evaluating the work of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation to ensure that the results are commensurate with the expenditure incurred. The Committee have already recommended the periodical evaluation of the Central Fisheries Research Institutes in their earlier Reports. Similar periodical evaluation should be conducted about the working of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation also.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted and periodical review will be conducted as suggested.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation
(Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt).
dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 19, Para No. 3.2)

The Committee note that the organisational set-up is adequate for the present working of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation. In view of the fact that the larger fishing vessels are now proposed to be introduced, the Committee feel that the organisational set-up of the Organisation should be reviewed so that it could be geared up to meet adequately the expanding needs of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation.

Reply of Government

The Government of India accept the above recommendation. The pattern of work as well as the organisational set-up of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation are being reviewed with a view to ensuring that the vessels being obtained for the Project are operated with maximum efficiency.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation
(Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt).
dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 20, Para No. 3.7)

The Committee is glad to note the steps taken for giving incentives to the floating staff engaged in experimental fishing vessels. They are also happy to note that necessary steps have been taken for revising the pay-scales of the floating staff. They hope that a scheme will soon be evolved for giving incentives to the floating staff who are engaged in exploratory vessels.

Reply of Government

The Government of India have already revised the pay scales and sanctioned the payment of allowances such as D.A., C.C.A. and H.R.A. to the

Floating staff. A scheme for granting incentive to the floating staff on commercial fishing vessels as well as exploratory fishing vessels has been proposed and has been accepted, in principle, by the Ministry of Finance. The orders are likely to issue shortly.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 21, Para No. 3.11)

The Committee suggest that the financial powers of the Superintending Engineer and the Deputy Directors may be reviewed to ensure that they are adequate to carry on the work of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation and its various off-shore fishing stations promptly and efficiently. In this connection, the Committee would also like to draw the attention of the Government to the recommendation contained in para 2.21 of their Thirty-Sixth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp.

Reply of Government

As suggested by the Estimates Committee, the Government of India have undertaken a review of the Financial powers delegated to the Superintending Engineer, Deep Sea Fishing Station and its various off-shore fishing stations. Necessary action is being taken to delegate further financial powers to ensure that they are adequate to carry on the work of the Deep Sea Fishing Station and its various offices.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 22, Para No. 3.2)

The Committee do not view the extension activities being undertaken at present by the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation as satisfactory. Mere collection of useful information without disseminating it to the users, especially the industry, serves no useful purpose. The Committee, therefore, stress that the results achieved through the exploratory cruises, and researches being conducted by the Organisation should be immediately passed on to the Fishery industry so that they could put them into practical use. The Committee suggest that an integrated scheme for giving publicity to the results achieved by the various Wings of the Organisation may be drawn up and put into operation with the assistance of the State Governments.

Reply of Government

The organisation for extension work is being reviewed and strengthened and the re-organisation will cover arrangements for co-ordination and dissemination of information from all sources relating to fish occurrence.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 23, Para No. 3.26)

(i) The Committee are unhappy that owing to the non-availability of vessels, two stations started at Mangalore and Veraval had to be closed down in early 1966. For the same reasons proposals to open stations at Paradeep and Port Blair during the Third Five Year Plan did not fructify. The Committee are not sure whether the proposal to start four new stations during the period ending 1970-71 will materialise as that proposal is also linked up with the availability of vessels. The Committee would, therefore, stress that all our efforts should be made to acquire at least the minimum number of vessels required as early as possible.

(ii) The Committee also urge that special efforts be made to start the station at Port Blair at the earliest possible opportunity, because of the importance and potentialities of the area for fisheries development.

Reply of Government

(i) The Government agree with the Committee that all-out efforts should be made to acquire at least the minimum number of vessels required for the Deep Sea Fishing Station as early as possible. The Government have already placed an indent on the D.G.S. & D. for procurement of 20 trawlers of 57' length to be manufactured indigenously, and the delivery is expected to be supplied in batches by 1970. In addition, an indent has been placed for import of one 106' proto-type trawler from G.D.R. Another indent is proposed to be placed for one more 106' trawler for import from France as soon as the required credit is released by the Department of Economic affairs. Designs for a 160' vessel are also being finalized. A proposal for reorganisation of the Deep Sea Fishing Station and establishment of additional stations at various centres including Port Blair is being worked out and will be implemented in a phased manner, when the additional vessels become available.

(ii) The Government also accept the suggestion that every effort should be made to start an exploratory station at Port Blair at the earliest possible opportunity.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation
(Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt),
dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 24, Para No. 3.32)

The Committee note that there have been heavy shortfalls in expenditure during the Second and Third Five Year Plans. They need hardly emphasise that the projects for which financial provision has been made in a particular plan period should be completed within the Plan period itself, so that the necessity of spill-over of projects from one Plan to another Plan may be obviated.

Reply of Government

The Government agrees with the principle that short-falls in plans expenditure should be avoided so as to obviate the need for spill-over into subse-

quent plan programmes. Every effort will be made to ensure maximum utilization of plan provisions.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 25, Para No. 4.10)

The Committee need hardly point out that the yardstick for the development of fishery industry in any country is the number of fishing harbours and the facilities for commercial fishing it has, since large scale operations are only possible from fishing harbours. Viewed in this context, the Committee do not feel that the progress achieved so far in providing landing and berthing facilities at minor ports is satisfactory. They recommend that the whole machinery deployed on this important project should be geared up and all-out efforts made to complete the construction of the fishing harbours already taken in hand.

Reply of Government

Based on the earlier surveys made by the State Governments work was started in eight sites. The State Governments had some difficulty in allocating funds for these ports but with the changing of the pattern of financial assistance to 100% grant, the State Governments have been able to make more progress.

Work on 30 sites has now been taken up by the States. The importance of taking up the work on provision of landing and berthing facilities for fishing vessels in minor ports has been brought to the notice of the State Governments. The progress of work is being regularly and carefully reviewed. On present indication the provision of Rs. 150 lakhs made in the budget for 1968-69 is likely to be spent in full.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 26, Para No. 4.11)

As regards the execution of the project work by the States on behalf of the Central Government, the Committee suggest that the feasibility of further decentralising the work may be considered. The State Governments also be urged to furnish the necessary certificates with regard to scrutiny of the work as speedily as possible. In any case, the Committee feel that earnest efforts should be made to reduce the time-lag at the various stages from the date of making the proposal to the actual execution of the project, and to do away with avoidable procedural delays.

Reply of Government

Such of the State Governments as have not yet complied with the regulation have been urged to send the prescribed certificates urgently. Procedural delays arising from other causes are being reduced to the minimum and every effort will be made to reduce time-lags.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 27, Para No. 4.12)

The Committee further suggest that the question of sheltering the mechanised fishing boats and vessels at the various commercial harbours, especially during cyclones, bad weather, etc. till such time the fishing harbours are ready, should be taken up with port authorities concerned.

Reply of Government

With regard to provision of shelter for fishing vessels during cyclones and bad weather, the major port authorities even now provide these facilities during such contingencies. Major port authorities and the State Governments have been addressed to provide shelter for fishing vessels during cyclones and bad weather etc. and confirmatory replies have already been received from several of them.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 29, Para No. 4.25)

The Committee note the plan of operation for Pre-Investment Survey of Fishing Harbours under the auspices of United Nations Development Programme (Special Fund).

Reply of Government

No comments are called for.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 30, Para No. 4.26)

The Committee agree that Pre-Investment Survey is an essential prerequisite for the development of a harbour. They note that the progress in the construction of fishing harbours in India has been slow due to the non-availability of consultant engineers in the country who could prepare the Pre-Investment Survey reports. The Committee suggest that sufficient number of Indian engineers and technicians should be attached with their foreign counter-parts, who are expected to prepare the Pre-Investment Reports under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, so that they could be properly trained to work independently in the future development of not only fishing harbours but commercial harbours also.

Reply of Government

The purpose of the project is to assist the Government in conducting the Pre-Investment Survey to identify priority sites for the development of fishing harbours and to prepare preliminary construction plans for these harbours and their supporting facilities.

The Government has taken steps to appoint Engineers and Mechanics who will work with the Foreign experts so that they can undertake the work independently after the departure of the experts.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 31, Para No. 4.27)

The Committee trust that the whole project would be executed in close coordination and collaboration with the concerned State Governments and the State Port Authorities. The Committee would also stress that in the case of sites where pre-investment surveys have been completed, there should be no delay in starting the construction work.

Reply of Government

The observations of the Committee have been noted. It is confirmed that the project of Pre-Investment Survey of Fishing Harbours is being executed in close coordination and collaboration with the concerned State Governments and State Port Authorities. The construction of harbours will be taken up under a continuous phased programme, on the basis of selections made as a result of economic and engineering surveys. (The Plan of operation provides for plans and estimates for a certain number of harbours being finalised periodically).

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 32, Para No. 4.32)

The Committee are surprised to learn that no specific targets and time-limits have been laid down for completing the construction of fishing harbours with the result that out of the two fishing harbours taken up for construction during the Second Five Year Plan, none could be completed during that Plan and only one could be completed during the Third Five Year Plan. Although construction of 16 additional fishing harbours was taken up during the Third Five Year Plan, all had to be carried over. In this connection, the Committee are distressed to note that the estimates of expenditure are likely to go up owing to the delay in completion of the construction work. The Committee would, therefore, urge that specific targets and time limits should be laid down for all such construction work in future. They also suggest that the whole procedure of constructing fishing harbours should be streamlined so as to bring about improvements and quick results.

Reply of Government

A programme of construction of landing and berthing facilities for fishing vessels at major and minor ports is being drawn up in connection with formulations for the revised Fourth Five Year Plan. A time schedule will be drawn up with reference to which the progress of work can be reviewed and regulated. So far as minor harbour works are concerned, a list will be drawn up in correlation with the small boat mechanisation programmes. Time schedule for these works will also be drawn up in consultation with State Port authorities so that the progress of these works also can be suitably reviewed and regulated.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 34, Para No. 4.41)

While noting that the technical and constructional know-how and the technical personnel required for constructing fishing harbours are available in the country, the Committee would stress the need for developing technical know-how as regards pre-investment survey also in the country. They hope in due course dependence on foreign experts in this particular direction will be totally eliminated.

Reply of Government

Ministry of Food and Agriculture agree with the Estimates Committee in the expectation that in due course dependence on foreign experts in this particular direction will be totally eliminated.

With regard to survey of fishing harbours, a Pre-investment Survey has been organised under U.N. Special Fund Programme. The Government have already taken steps to appoint Indian engineers to work with foreign experts under this programme.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 35, Para No. 4.45)

The Committee would like to stress that the work in connection with the construction of fishing harbours should not be allowed to suffer due to lack of requisite equipment. They suggest that inescapable and immediate demands for efficient execution of the projects should be noted down and efforts made to get them on loan from port authorities. Failing this, these may be obtained under some foreign aid programmes. At the same time, concerted efforts should be made to develop the equipment indigenously.

Reply of Government

The Government have made a note of the Committee's recommendation.

So far as minor ports are concerned, necessary equipment for works is supplied by the State Port Departments who are the executing agencies. The recommendation has been brought to the specific notice of State Governments with the suggestion that requirement of machinery etc., may be reviewed in connection with the revised IV Plan Programme of construction of landing and berthing facilities at minor ports and steps taken to ensure that the equipment required is planned for in advance and arrangements made as recommended by the Committee.

So far as major ports are concerned the Ministry of Transport are the executing agents. Indigenous production of equipment would depend to a considerable extent on the demand. The recommendations of the Committee have been brought to the specific notice of the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Industry in this connection.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 37, Para No. 5.10)

The Committee are distressed to note that there are heavy shortfalls in expenditure both on the second Five Year Plan and Third Five Year Plan Schemes. They need hardly emphasise that coordinated efforts should be made to complete the schemes within the Plan period itself and avoid spill-over of projects from one Plan to another. They suggest that necessary corrective measures should be taken immediately so as to ensure that the schemes included in the next Plan are completed within the stipulated time and funds provided for the purpose are utilised properly and fully.

Reply of Government

During the Second and Third Five Year Plans, there was spill-over resulting from various causes, and it was realized that adequate priority was not being assigned to harbour construction. This was sought to be rectified during the Fourth Plan by treating the schemes of landing and berthing facilities at minor ports as Centrally sponsored and in the major ports as Central Schemes.

Work on harbour projects incorporated in the revised Fourth Plan will be phased so that work may be undertaken in accordance with pre-determined schedules.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 38, Para No. 5.16)

The Committee are glad to note that the Government proposed to go ahead on their own with regard to the work on the five major ports rather than wait for the World Bank assistance. The Committee hope, however, that Government would be able to secure the necessary assistance from the World Bank as soon as the work of the Study Team, which is going round the ports, is completed.

Reply of Government

After a study of the Ports the World Bank had suggested a further examination of the arrangements proposed to be made in respect of major fishing enterprises. In the meantime steps have been taken to finalise the scrutiny of plans and estimates for important fishing harbour projects. This has been finalized in respect of Madras and Tuticorin. The project for the fishing harbour at Bombay is also expected to be finalized shortly. The question of assistance from the World Bank will be taken up further with the Bank in this context.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

Recommendation (Serial No. 1, Para No. 1.7)

The Committee note that of the three great oceans of the world, the Indian Ocean is the least exploited one, the exploitation amounting to only about 2 million tonnes per annum. They realise the great potentiality of the Indian Ocean and they will attribute its low exploitation to lack of precise knowledge regarding the exploitable fisheries and the low fishing effort. In the opinion of the Committee, although there is scope for intensifying exploitation in the inshore belt, the main prospect will be in the exploitation of the off-shore and deep-sea resources, which are not being exploited at all at present. The Committee would like the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation to prepare a comprehensive scheme for effective exploitation of the deep sea fisheries for the period ending 1970-71 and plan the strategy for its execution in such a manner that quick results are achieved in the minimum possible time.

Reply of Government

A scheme has been prepared for extending Deep Sea Fishing Operations. As an immediate measure it is proposed to arrange for import of thirty vessels. These vessels will be purchased by the private industry and operated commercially by them. The scheme also provides for indigenous vessels to be purchased and operated alongwith imported vessels. In addition, the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation will give the necessary support by extending its survey operations. Indents have already been placed for purchase of twenty trawlers for the Deep Sea Fishing Station.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Comments of the Committee

The progress in execution of the scheme may be communicated after a year.

Recommendation (Serial No. 3, Para No. 1.19)

The Committee are unhappy to note that it has been possible for the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation to survey an area of 19,543 sq. miles only out of the total area of 73,820 sq. miles within the Off-shore belt (10 to 40 fathoms) allotted for the purpose since the inception of the Organisation in 1946. As the programmes for survey are drawn up and revised every six months on the basis of availability of resources, the Committee feel that either the targets of survey set down for each station were unrealistic, or the Organisation have failed to achieve its basic objective, namely, charting of new fishing grounds. The Committee have no doubt that had the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation achieved this important objective, the production of fish would have been much more than what it is at

present. The Committee would stress, that the working of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation should be geared up in such a manner that each station is made responsible for conducting survey work in a specified area during a specified period. It should be the responsibility of the stations to fulfil the targets within the stipulated period. The reasons for shortfall, if any, in the achievement of the targets should be thoroughly examined and proper remedial steps taken by the Ministry.

Reply of Government

The Government have noted the observation of the Committee that it has been possible for the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation to survey only an area of 19,543 sq. miles out of the total area of 73,820 sq. miles within the off-shore belt since the inception of the Organisation in 1946. The main reason for the inability of the stations to fulfil their targets was lack of suitable exploratory vessels. In order to obviate the difficulty, orders have already been placed for 20 trawlers of 57' length with D.G.S. & D. for construction in the indigenous ship building yards and to procure two 106' vessels from abroad. Efforts are also being made to draft specifications and designs for two more 73' vessels for import under Aid Programmes. In addition to the existing fishing stations at Bombay, Cochin, Tuticorin and Visakhapatnam, additional stations are proposed to be set up. Re-organisation of the Deep Sea Fishing Station is also under consideration to make the Organisation more effective in carrying out the functions allotted to it. Each Sub-Station will be made responsible for taking up survey work in specified areas during a specified period. The Superintending Engineer Deep Sea Fishing Station or his representative is proposed to be included in the Scientific Panel for Fisheries Research in Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation
(Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt),
dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Comments of the Committee

The Progress of remedial measures taken may be communicated after a year.

Recommendation (Serial No. 7, Para No. 2.7)

The Committee are constrained to note that the strength of the fishing fleet at the disposal of the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation has been dwindling from year to year. They are all the more unhappy to observe that the Government seem to have taken no steps to keep up this strength even when they were aware that this strength in itself was considered to be inadequate. The Deep Sea Fishing Organisation cannot be expected to carry out the exploratory work, which is its main objective, smoothly and efficiently without adequate fishing fleet. This may be one of the reasons why the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation is far behind the targets laid down for exploration. The Committee would like the Government to take energetic steps to acquire the necessary fishing vessels as early as possible, the expenditure for which has now been sanctioned. In this connection, the Committee would also like to draw the attention of the Government to the recommendation contained in para 3.29 of their Thirty-Sixth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community

Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp.

Reply of Government

The Government have taken due note of the recommendation of the Estimates Committee that energetic steps should be taken to acquire the necessary fishing vessels as early as possible. Orders have already been placed in March, 1968 for acquiring 20 vessels (attempts are being made to add two more vessels) with the D.G.S. & D. for construction in the indigenous ship building yards. In addition, arrangements for import of one 105 ft. vessels from G.D.R. have been made. The designs for 73 ft. vessel and 160 ft. vessel are being finalised and orders are likely to be placed soon.

Recommendations contained in para 3.39 of the 36th Report (4th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp have been forwarded to the I.C.A.R. for taking necessary action. Action taken on the recommendation will be communicated to the Estimates Committee.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Comments of the Committee

Further report on action taken may be furnished after a year.

Recommendation (Serial No. 28, Para No. 4.16)

The Committee are not satisfied with the progress of work relating to the provision of landing and berthing facilities at Bombay, Haldia, Mangalore, Tuticorin, Madras and Vishakhapatnam. They regret to note that it has not been possible to start construction work at any of these sites so far. They are also unhappy that the Budget provision of Rs. 200 lakhs for 1967-68 was cut down to Rs. 100 lakhs, which should have an adverse impact on the pace of construction. The Committee do not expect that with the present tempo of work, it will be possible to utilise fully the amount tentatively provided for the purpose during the period ending 1970-71. The Committee, therefore stress that such project should be given the attention they deserve and executed expeditiously.

Reply of Government

The Government of India agree that provision of fishing harbours at suitable ports should receive urgent attention. Plans and estimates for Madras and Tuticorin have already been finalized and approved and the Port Trust, Bombay, who are being urged to finalize their Plans and Estimates, are also taking urgent action in the matter.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Comments of the Committee

The progress of work at all the ports concerned may be communicated after a year.

Recommendation (Serial No. 33, Para No. 4.33)

The Committee note that the States were not very enthusiastic in the past about the provision of landing and berthing facilities as half the money would have to be found by them. Now that the Central Government has undertaken to meet the entire expenditure on the provision of landing and berthing facilities at Minor Ports, the Committee hope that the pace of construction of fishing harbours will be accelerated.

Reply of Government

During the year 1966-67, a sum of Rs. 19.77 lakhs was spent and during 1967-68, a sum of Rs. 42.69 lakhs was spent on facilities for fishing vessels at minor ports. A provision of Rs. 125.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1968-69 and it is expected that this provision will be fully utilised.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 36, Para No. 5.9)

The Committee are surprised to note that the Ministry do not have separate figures of loans and grants given by the Central Government to the States during the Second and Third Plan periods with regard to landing and berthing facilities. In the absence of such statistics, the Committee can only conclude that the control of the Ministry in regard to the proper utilisation of the funds placed at the disposal of the State Government was ineffective.

Reply of Government

When the Scheme was included in the State Plans, the State Governments were claiming Central assistance under broad major heads of development like Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Agriculture. The State Governments were authorised to make adjustments not only within the schemes under the same major head of development but also within different major heads of development subject to the overall assistance on the Agriculture schemes not exceeding the provision approved. The control exercisable at the time was in respect of the achievement of physical targets.

Now that the scheme is Centrally sponsored, control over the funds placed at the disposal of the State Governments for the scheme can be exercised in respect of the scheme-wise expenditure also.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) Office Memo No. F. 25-1/68-Fy(Instt), dated the 22nd November, 1968.]

NEW DELHI,
July 30, 1969
Sravana 8, 1891 (Saka)

M. THIRUMALA RAO,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

(wide Introduction to Report)

Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha)

Total Number of recommendations	38
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Recommendations which have been accepted by Government *i.e.* recommendations Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 and 38.

Number	32
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Percentage to total	84.2
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Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply, *i.e.* recommendations Nos. 1, 3, 7, 28, 33 and 36.

Number	6
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Percentage to total	15.8
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