

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(1972-73)**

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

SEVENTY-SECOND REPORT

[Action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in their 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Civil) for the year 1969-70 relating to the Department of Health (Indian Council of Medical Research)].



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

(1972-73)

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22. Shri Shyam Lal Yadav.

SECRETARIAT

Shri B. B. Tewari—*Deputy Secretary.*

Shri T. R. Krishnamachari—*Under Secretary.*

INTRODUCTION

1, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, as authorised by the Committee, do present on their behalf this Seventy-second Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fortieth Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Civil) for the year 1969-70 relating to the Department of Health (Indian Council of Medical Research).

2. On the 6th June, 1972 an 'Action Taken' Sub-Committee was appointed to scrutinise the replies received from Government in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Committee in their earlier Reports. The Sub-Committee was constituted with the following Members:

Shri B. S. Murthy—*Convener*.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------|
| 2. Shri Ramsahai Pandey | } | <i>Members</i> |
| 3. Shrimati Savitri Shyam | | |
| 4. Shri H. M. Patel | | |
| 5. Shri Shyam Lal Yadav | | |
| 6. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad | | |
| 7. Shri M. Anandam | | |

3. The Action Taken Sub-Committee of the Public Accounts Committee (1972-73) considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on the 25th January, 1973. The Report was finally adopted by the Public Accounts Committee on the 9th February, 1973.

4. For facility of reference the main conclusions|recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report. A statement showing the summary of the main recommendations|observations of the Committee is appended to the Report.

5. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them in this matter by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

NEW DELHI;
February 12, 1973

Magha 23, 1894 (S).

ERA SEZHIYAN,
Chairman,
Public Accounts Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Civil) for the year 1969-70 relating to the Department of Health (Indian Council of Medical Research).

1.2. Action taken notes have been received in respect of all the 28 recommendations.

1.3. The Action Taken Notes have been categorised as follows:—

(i) *Recommendations/observations that have been accepted by Government.*

S. Nos: 3—7, 10—20, 22—24 and 26—28.

(ii) *Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of Government.*
Nil.

(iii) *Recommendations/observations replies to which have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration.*

S. No. 1.

(iv) *Recommendations|observations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies.*

S. Nos. 2, 8, 9, 21 and 25.

1.4. The Committee hope that final replies in regard to the recommendations to which only interim replies have so far been furnished will be submitted to them expeditiously after getting them vetted by Audit.

1.5. The Committee will now deal with action taken notes on some of the recommendations.

Organisation of the Indian Council of Medical Research—Paragraph 1.15 (S. No. 1).

1.6. The Committee made the following observations regarding organisation of the Indian Council of Medical Research in paragraph 1.15:

"The Committee are concerned to note, from the Reviewing Committee report that the Indian Council of Medical Research which was formed in 1949 has continued to operate as a subsidiary department of the Ministry of Health unlike its counterparts, in spite of the fact that an autonomous function was envisaged throughout. According to the Reviewing Committee, 'autonomy which was meant to spell out freedom of action and speed has resulted in a more tedious financial and administrative dependence on the parent Ministry'. The Director General of the Council submitted during evidence that control of the Executive Committee over the Council is "a little too much", because it was a wholly official ridden body. The only person representing the Council is its Director General. The Reviewing Committee had recommended that maximum autonomy should be provided to the Council which may be comparable to that of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research or Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and if necessary, the ICMR be made 'a statutory body'. The autonomous character should be retained in a functional rather than a notional manner. For this purpose, the Reviewing Committee has suggested reconstitution of the Executive Committee with greater representation of Scientific Members and enlargement of the executive and financial powers of the Director General comparable to that enjoyed by the heads of similar scientific organisations. The Committee are in agreement with the views expressed by the Reviewing Committee that excessive governmental control is apt to impair the efficiency and growth capacity of the Council."

1.7. In their reply dated 4th January, 1973 the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Department of Health) have stated:

"The Indian Council of Medical Research is a Society registered under the provisions of the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. As defined in the Memorandum of Association of the Council, it has all those powers as any other Statutory Organisation enjoys. The Governing Body of the

Council has the general control over the affairs of the Council and has authority to do, exercise and perform all the powers in the matters of expenditure from the funds of the Council and to make its own Bye-laws etc.

“The Executive Committee of the Council executes the policy outlined by the Governing Body as it is not a policy making body. The Council also has a Scientific Advisory Board the members of which are all senior scientists drawn from various disciplines. This Board reviews the scientific programmes and makes the necessary recommendations to the Council.

“On a similar recommendation made by the Administrative Reforms Commission the Ministry had held the view that the composition of the various bodies of the Council should continue as they are, as these bodies are functioning quite satisfactorily.

“The Department of Science and Technology propose to bring up this recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission for consideration of the National Committee on Science and Technology before it is referred to the Standing Group of Ministers on Science and Technology for a decision.”

1.8. The Committee would like to reiterate that Government should carefully examine the question of giving functional autonomy to the Indian Council of Medical Research by making greater representation of Scientific Members in the Executive Council and enlargement of the executive and financial powers of the Director General comparable to those enjoyed by the Heads of similar scientific organisations.

Action Taken on the Outstanding Recommendations of the Reviewing Committee—Paragraphs 1.16, 3.18 and 5.7 (S. Nos. 2, 9 and 25).

1.9. The Committee made the following observations in paragraphs 1.16, 3.18 and 5.7 regarding the implementation of outstanding recommendations made in the Report of the Indian Council of Medical Research Reviewing Committee (1968):

1.16. “The Committee have been informed that the Governing Body has appointed a Sub-Committee to examine in detail these recommendations of the Reviewing Committee. The Committee desire that this matter should be examined

thoroughly and final decision taken by Government at an early date. The Committee would like to be informed about the outcome. The Reviewing Committee submitted its Report in March, 1968 and although four years have already elapsed the recommendations have not yet been processed."

"5.7. In the preceding Chapters the Committee have dealt carefully consider that the pay scales of the scientific and technical staff and other facilities in the Council are comparable with the staff in other Government Organisations so as to promote contentment and attract the best talent available to the Council and its research institutions."

"5.7. In the proceeding Chapters the Committee have dealt with some aspects of the working of the Indian Council of Medical Research with particular reference to the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee which made a comprehensive review of the activities of the Council in its Report submitted in March, 1968. The Reviewing Committee has highlighted some shortcomings in the working of the Council and made suggestions for improvement. The Committee note that the Council has in most cases accepted the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee. But decisions have yet to be taken on some far reaching recommendations of the Reviewing Committee like making the Council autonomous, reconstitution of the Governing Body and Executive Committee and increasing the quantum of grant to the Council, although four years have elapsed since the Report was submitted. The Committee hope that action on these and other remaining important recommendations will be expedited."

1.10. In their reply dated 4th January, 1973, the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Department of Health) have stated:—

"1.16. A meeting of the Sub-Committee which had been set up by the Governing Body of the I.C.M.R. to examine the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee was held in the office of the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Planning on the 3rd April, 1972. Another meeting was held on the 19th October, 1972."

"3.18. This question stands referred to the Sub-Committee constituted by the Governing Body of the ICMR consisting of Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Planning,

Financial Adviser, Ministry of Health and Family Planning, Director General of Health Services and Director General, I.C.M.R. The Sub-Committee has had two meetings, first on the 3rd April, 1972 and the second on the 19th October, 1972."

"5.7. The matter is under consideration of the Sub-Committee set up by the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Medical Research. Two meetings of the Sub-Committee were held on the 3rd April and 19th October, 1972."

1.11. The Committee are not happy over the delay in taking decision on some of the important recommendations of the ICMR Reviewing Committee which reported in March, 1968. The Sub-Committee appointed by the Governing Body to consider them has so far held two meetings on 3rd April, 1972 and 19th October, 1972. The Committee would like to stress that decision on these recommendations should be taken expeditiously and the Committee informed about it.

Confirmation of Staff—Paragraph 3.17 (S. No. 8).

1.12. The Committee made the following observations regarding confirmation of the staff of the Indian Council of Medical Research and its permanent institutions in paragraph 3.17:

"An unsatisfactory feature which came to the notice of the Committee is that the bulk of the staff of the Council is continued on a year to year basis. From the break-up furnished to the Committee, they find that out of a total number of staff in the Headquarters Office of the Council/Permanent Institutes as on 31st March, 1971, 62 were permanent, 4 on contract basis and 906 were continued on a year to year basis. The maximum length of service of those who have been continued from year to year basis has been stated as 34 years. The Committee consider that insecurity of service of this magnitude would not attract the best scientific and technical staff for service in the Council. The Committee have been informed that a proposal for making 80 per cent of the staff employed in the Councils headquarters and its permanent institutes as permanent has recently been approved by the Executive Committee of the Council and the matter is being processed with the Government of India and the Governing Body of the Council. The Council had also constituted a permanent research cadre and a permanent techni-

cal cadre. The Committee desire that keeping in view the long term and irreducible requirements of the Council the question of confirmation of a substantial number of staff of the Council, which is long over due, should be finalised expeditiously. The Committee would like to be informed of the decision taken in the matter."

1.13. In their reply dated 4th January, 1973, the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Department of Health) have stated:

"The Governing Body of the Indian Council of Medical Research has already approved of the proposal for conversion of 80 per cent of the existing temporary posts into permanent ones. The proposal along with the proposal of extension of pensionary scheme to the employees of the Council is at present under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance."

1.14. The Committee note that the proposal for conversion of 80 per cent of the existing temporary posts in the Council into permanent ones along with the proposal of extension of pension scheme to the employees of the Council has been approved by the Governing Body and is under consideration of the Ministry of Finance. The Committee hope that the final decision will be taken expeditiously.

ICMR Enquiries at Madanapalle—Paragraph 4.30 (S. No. 16)

1.15. Commenting upon the delay in the receipt of the final report on the Madanapalle Research Projects relating to Tuberculosis, the Committee made the following observation in paragraph 4.30:

4.30. "The Committee note with concern that although the Madanapalle Research Projects relating to Tuberculosis were taken up in 1956, the final report on the research work has not yet been received from the investigator. The total expenditure incurred on the project upto March, 1970 was Rs. 43.33 lakhs. It is regretable that the Council did not care to find out for ten long years what was happening to the project till the Reviewing Committee drew attention to the 'uncontrolled situation' due to investigation not "having been pinpointed in time and space" and "supplementary problems having been taken over without the completion of the existing ones". It is disquieting to note that due to the intransigence on the part

of the investigator the grant to this Unit had to be stopped and ultimately the Unit itself had to be closed down on the 31st March, 1970. This reveals a sad state of affairs in the working of this research Unit. Had the Council provided a system of periodic inspection or appraisal, such a situation would have been avoided. In this particular case the concerned Expert Group and the Advisory Committee failed in providing guidance to the Research Unit. It is strange that having spent as much as Rs. 43.33 lakhs, the Government finds itself helpless to do anything in the matter. Considering the national importance of the project and the large amount of money spent therein, the Committee hope that vigorous measures would be taken to obtain the final report from the investigator without further delay. The Committee would like Government to learn a lesson from this case and institute necessary remedial action to remove all defects and deficiencies in the system."

1.16. In their reply dated 4th January, 1973, the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Department of Health) have stated:

"The matter is being vigorously pursued with the Officer-in-charge of the Madanapalle Enquiry."

1.17. The Committee had expressed concern over the delay in the receipt of the final report on the Madanapalle Tuberculosis Research Project started in 1956 on which a total expenditure of Rs. 43.33 lakhs was incurred upto March, 1970. The Ministry have stated that the matter is being vigorously pursued with the Officer-in-charge of the Madanapalle Enquiry. The Committee are not satisfied over the delay in obtaining the final report from the Scientist and suggest that necessary steps should be taken in the matter.

The Committee would also like to reiterate that necessary remedial action should be taken to remove all defects and deficiencies in the system, if not already done, and the Committee informed about it.

Coordination of Research Work—Paragraph 4.59 (S. No. 22).

1.18. Commenting upon the need for coordination in the research work, the Committee made the following observation in paragraph 4.59:

"According to the Reviewing Committee, one of the important functions of the Indian Council of Medical Research is the coordination of research efforts in the country. There are several agencies, both medical and non-medical, Central, State and Private and a large number of medical colleges and research institutes at varying stages of development engaged in the task of medical research, but "there is hardly any coordination". The Committee have been informed about the measures taken by the Ministry and Council to establish coordination and to avoid overlapping or duplication in medical research. These measures include association of the officers of the Health Ministry with the I.C.M.R., scrutiny of request for financial support by research workers through Expert Committees of the Council, members of which are derived from the institutes all over the country, nomination of the representatives of the Council on the Advisory Committees of other institutions, re-organisation of the technical and administrative set up of the headquarters of the Council and setting up Coordination Committees. The Committee cannot over-emphasise the importance of close cooperation and coordination amongst the various agencies engaged on medical research with I.C.M.R. taking the lead by virtue of its pre-eminent position in this field and suggest that energetic steps may be taken to enlarge the scope of collaboration. Elsewhere in this Report the Committee have expressed concern over the comparatively less amount of expenditure on medical research incurred in the country.

"The Committee are emphatically of the view that funds should not ordinarily be allocated by the Council on duplicate or repetitive research. The Committee, therefore, desire that continued attention should be paid to this aspect of coordination.

"According to the Reviewing Committee although there are a few State Medical research committees in the country, the association of the I.C.M.R. is mostly nominal. The Committee desire that necessary steps should be taken to make effective representation of the Council on the state committees to ensure better coordination in the research work."

1.19. In their reply dated 4th January, 1973, the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Department of Health) have stated:

“(i) The recommendation that funds should not be allocated by the Council on duplicate or repetitive research has been noted and also brought to the notice of the Expert Groups.

(ii) At its 14th meeting held in October, 1967, the Central Council of Health had re-iterated (Resolution No. 58A) its previous recommendation urging the State Governments to promote the development of Research Boards in their jurisdiction. In pursuance of this Resolution, the Council requested all the Directors of Health Services to furnish information regarding the Research Board set up by the State Governments. It appears from the information received from the Directors of Health Services that Medical Research Board had been constituted in Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Delhi, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. However, they do not appear to be meeting regularly. In some of the Boards I.C.M.R. is represented.

The Ministry of Health & Family Planning has been requested to take up the matter with the State Governments.”

1.20 The Committee had recommended that necessary steps should be taken to make effective representation of the ICMR on the State medical research committees to ensure better coordination in research work. The Committee note that ICMR has been represented in some State Medical Research Boards and the Ministry of Health and Family Planning has been requested to take up the matter with the State Governments. The Committee suggest that the matter should be taken up with the State Governments expeditiously and their compliance reported to the Committee.

Appointment of a new Reviewing Committee—Paragraph 5.8 (S. No. 26).

1.21. The Committee made the following observation regarding appointment of a new Reviewing Committee on the working of the I.C.M.R. in para 5.8:

“More than 4 years have elapsed since the Reviewing Committee reported on the working of the Indian Council of Medical Research. The Committee are glad that as a result of

the discussions by the Committee, the Ministry of Health & Family Planning felt that it was high time to set up another high powered Committee to review the working etc. of the Council. The Committee agree that such a review is due now. They desire that the matter should be placed before the Governing Body of the Council for their concurrence as early as possible."

1.22. In their reply dated ' 4th January, 1973 the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Department of Health) have stated:

"A Review Committee has already been set up and the matter has been referred to the Indian Council of Medical Research for placing it before the Governing Body of the Council for their concurrence."

1.23. The Committee had desired that the concurrence of the Governing Body of the Council to the constitution of a high powered committee to review the working etc. of the Council should be obtained as early as possible. It has been intimated that the matter has been referred to the Council for placing it before the Governing Body. The Committee would like to be informed of the outcome.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS|OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation

3. The Committee are surprised that although the Council has been handling grants amounting to several lakhs of rupees every year, no Financial Adviser has been posted in the Council. The Committee note that in pursuance of the recommendation of the Reviewing Committee post of the Financial Adviser has been created. The Committee desire that this post should be filled up without delay.

[Sl. No. 3 (Para No. 1.17) Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

3. The post has since been filled. The Financial Adviser joined the Organisation on the 3rd June, 1972.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011|7|72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

4. The Committee note with concern the conclusion of the Reviewing Committee that the allocation of funds for medical research in general and the Indian Council of Medical Research in particular is extremely meagre. According to estimate of the Reviewing Committee the expenditure on medical research constitutes about 4 per cent of the total research efforts of the country or 0.008 of the gross national income. The expenditure of the Indian Council of Medical Research during the first three plan periods is stated to be 4.8 to 6.7 per cent of the total expenditure on medical education, training and research. The Committee find that the expenditure of the Council has progressively increased from Rs. 9.3 lakhs in 1947 to Rs. 156 lakhs in 1969-70, and Rs. 182 lakhs in 1970-71. According to the figures furnished by the Ministry, the expenditure of the Council amounting to Rs. 156 lakhs in 1969-70 worked out to 1.4 per cent of the current health expenditure of the Government of India.

The percentage of expenditure on teaching and research to the total current health expenditure during the year 1961-62 is stated to be 4.6 and 2.1 in U.S.A. and U.K. respectively.

The Governing Body of the Council in April, 1970 after considering the report of the Reviewing Committee and the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board thereon decided to refer the question of increasing the quantum of grant to the Council to a Sub-Committee. The Committee desire that this should be considered with all seriousness that it deserves. The Committee feel that the Indian Council of Medical Research should be able to discharge its obligations effectively and lot of funds should not hamper this objective. On its part the Indian Council of Medical Research should identify the areas which need attention and chalk out a suitable programme of priorities which should be kept under constant review.

[Sl. No. 4 (Para No. 2.20) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

4. The expenditure of the Indian Council of Medical Research is increasing every year and the funds to meet the needs of the Council are provided regularly.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V.25011/7/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

5. Another important recommendation made by the Reviewing Committee is about apportionment of funds by the Council. It has suggested that the permanent laboratories (existing and proposed) of the Indian Council of Medical Research should be allocated about 40 per cent to 45 per cent of the funds and about 40 per cent to 45 per cent should be distributed equitably between the Research Fellowships and Research Cadre programmes and assistance for free research through the medium of *ad-hoc* enquiries. From the figures furnished to the Committee they find that during the year 1970-71 out of the total grant of Rs. 180 lakhs, the expenditure incurred on the permanent research institutes amounted to Rs. 69 lakhs which works out to about 38.3 per cent. The Committee note the larger percentage of expenditure on permanent institutes during the year 1970-71 as against 29.1 per cent during the preceding year. The Committee was informed during evidence that the Council have now

decided to take up directly different national problems and not to depend on the research projects coming up before them. The Committee hope that due attention will continue to be paid to the needs of the existing permanent institutes. The Committee hope that the expenditure incurred on the research activities by these institutes and on other schemes will be spent to the best advantage of the nation.

[Sl. No. 5 (Para No. 2.22) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

5. The views of the Public Accounts Committee have been noted and action has already been taken on these lines as per the recommendation of the Committee.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V.25011|7|72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

6. From the figures made available by the Ministry, the Committee find that substantial funds have been received under the PL-480 schemes for research projects of national importance. In respect of four PL-480 schemes undertaken directly by the institutions of the Indian Council of Medical Research, grants amounting to Rs. 11.86 lakhs were received during the year 1967-68, Rs. 43.76 lakhs in 1968-69, Rs. 17.10 lakhs in 1969-70 and Rs. 12.61 lakhs in 1970-71. In respect of eight projects located in the institutions, not under the control of Indian Council of Medical Research, but where funds were routed through the Council and where the Council is the co-ordinating agency, the grants received were Rs. 4.95 lakhs in 1967-68, Rs. 8.59 lakhs in 1968-69, Rs. 12.61 lakhs in 1969-70 and Rs. 14.05 lakhs in 1970-71. Besides grants amounting to Rs. 482 lakhs were received for 71 PL-480 schemes located outside the Indian Council of Medical Research Institutions direct by the grantees. During evidence the Committee were informed about the lacuna in the present procedure of giving grants for PL-480 schemes. A new procedure is stated to have been formulated whereby the research projects would be referred to the Council direct, who after scrutiny would approach the Finance Ministry for funds. It would be for the Finance Ministry to allocate funds from PL-480 grants or otherwise. The Committee hope that the new procedure will be found conducive to national interests.

[Sl. No. 6 (Para No. 2.23) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

6. The new procedure is now being implemented. Schemes which were being financed from PL-480 funds are being progressively taken over by the ICMR and the required funds are being provided from the normal budget grant of the Indian Council of Medical Research.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V-25001/7/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

7. From the data furnished to the Committee, they find that the staff of the Headquarters office of the Indian Council of Medical Research, its permanent institutes|Centres and semipermanent units has increased from 964 in 1967-68 to 1009 in 1968-69, 1089 in 1969-70 and 1228 in 1970-71. Out of the total staff of 1228 in the year 1970-71 the scientific staff was 278, Technical 249, Ancillary (Technical) 167, Ancillary (Non-Technical) 246 and administrative, 288. The break-up of the Administrative staff shows that Class IV staff was 23 per cent in the headquarters, 40 per cent in the permanent Institutes|Centres and 36 per cent in the semi-permanent units. The Reviewing Committee observed in its Report that the so called 'support-ratio' between the scientists class and the 'experimental' or research assistant class and the so called "assistant" or "technical" class of workers under the Council shows a gross inadequacy with regard to the better qualified trained technicians. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that it is not possible to lay and norm for employment of research staff *vis-a-vis* administrative, technical and ancillary staff under the Council. The number of people to be employed depends on the nature of the project and their varying requirements of different categories of staff. According to the Reviewing Committee, the optimum support ratio recommended for research organisations in developed countries between the scientists class and the 'experimental' or 'research assistant' class and the so called 'assistant' or 'technician' class in 1:2:1. The Committee have been informed that the staff of the Headquarters office has been increased in pursuance of the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee. The Committee desire that the staff positions of the Headquarters Office, permanent institutes|centres and semi-permanent units should be kept under constant review to make sure that they are not in excess of the requirements. The Council should also lay down guidelines or norms regarding the ratio of scientific and supporting staff for the headquarters and the permanent institute, centres and semi-permanent units and imbalances

should be suitably corrected. In this connection the Committee would like to point out that the presence of too many administrative staff in a research institute or centre is undesirable as it spoils the atmosphere of research.

[Sl. No. 7 (Para 3.16) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

7. The views of the Public Accounts Committee have been noted for compliance. An O & M-cum-Works Study Unit has been set up in the Headquarters Office of the I.C.M.R. which will keep the staff positions of the headquarters office and permanent institutes/centres under constant review. Action has also been taken to ensure that the supporting staff is not in excess of the requirements. It is proposed to create a post of economist in the next financial year viz. 1973-74.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V-25011/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

The Committee note the observations of the Reviewing Committee that while "there has been an impressive growth in the number of research enquiries", it is "not a matter for satisfaction or complacency". The Committee are particularly concerned over the conclusion that "not many researches are of a probing nature" and that the absence of concurrent inspection and review by the Council "had led to a large number of repetitive and fact finding research much of which is not likely to serve the national interest". This needs remedial measures.

[Sl. No. 10 (Para No. 4.19) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth L.S.)]

Action taken

Noted. This has been brought to the notice of the Expert Groups. The Committee these years are especially directed to keep this suggestion in view in examining research proposals.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V-25011/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

Another unsatisfactory aspect to which the Reviewing Committee drew attention is that there was undue concentration of research schemes in certain institutions which it attributed to extraneous considerations and not on the merit of schemes alone. It was admitted by the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research during evidence "that there is about 40 per cent concentration in about 8 to 10 institutions which have the highest academic record in the country and have the latest research equipment". The Committee were assured that no project is ever rejected if it is academically sound.

[Sl. No. 11 (Para No. 4.20) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth L.S.)]

Action taken

The projects are sanctioned on the scientific merit primarily and requirements of the smaller and newer Institutes are specially kept in view.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V-25011/7/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

The Committee note the steps taken by the Council to avoid distribution of schemes to institutions on extraneous considerations. One of the steps is to reconstitute the Expert Committee by nominating over 50 per cent of the new members from smaller colleges|institutes. The other step taken is to hold the meetings of the Expert Committee in camera to avoid lobbying. Thirdly the membership of the Committee atleast in the first year of the three years term is kept secret so that even those who give the schemes do not know the names of members. The Committee, however, find from the written reply of the Ministry that the Expert Committee will be reconstituted in accordance with the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee on expiry of their term on 31st March, 1972. The Committee hope that while reconstituting the new Committee a reasonable number of members will be appointed from the smaller institutions|colleges

[Sl. No. 12 (Para No. 4.21) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth L.S.)]

Action taken

The Expert Groups have now been reconstituted. A reasonable number of members have been appointed from the smaller institutions|colleges.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V-25011|7|72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

The Committee note that 223 schemes undertaken from 1961 onwards continued beyond the period initially planned which was 2 to 3 years, out of these 13 schemes were extended for periods ranging from 2 to 5 years. According to the Review Committee normally schemes should be sanctioned for a minimum period of two and a maximum three years at the end of which they should be almost invariably terminated. The Committee desire that this should be followed in all cases unless it is national interest to extend a scheme. A proper watch should be kept over the progress of the schemes to avoid delay in their completion.

[Sl. No. 13 (Para No. 4.22) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth L.S.)]

Action taken

The recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee has been noted for compliance. It has been brought to the notice of the Expert Groups also for further guidance.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V-25011|7|72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

The Committee note with concern that out of 396 schemes undertaken in 1967-68, 74 had to be abandoned. It is, however, gratifying to note that out of 465 schemes undertaken in 1968-69 only 22 were abandoned. During years 1967-68 to 1970-71 the total number of schemes abandoned is 111 involving a total expenditure of Rs. 18.5 lakhs.

[Sl. No. 14 (Para No. 4.23) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth L.S.)]

Action taken

The recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee has been noted for compliance. It has been brought to the notice of the Expert Groups also for further guidance.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011/7/72/RISM dated 4-11-1973]

Recommendation

Among the reasons mentioned for abandonment of the schemes are refusal of investigators to continue research, non-receipt of the report of the work done, want of necessary equipment and materials, unsatisfactory progress in work and deviation from objectives. In paragraph 1.65 of their 62nd Report, (Third Lok Sabha), The Committee recommended that schemes should be initiated after thorough scrutiny so that the number to be dropped could be minimised. While the Committee appreciate that the number of schemes terminated has come down they desire that the initial scrutiny of the scheme should be made more thorough with particular reference to the keenness of the investigator and facilities available for completion of the scheme.

[Sl. No. 15 (Para No. 4.24) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth L.S.)]

Action taken

The recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee has been noted for compliance. It has been brought to the notice of the Expert Groups also for further guidance.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011/7/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

The Committee note with concern that although the Madanpalle Research Projects relating to Tuberculosis were taken up in 1956, the final report on the research work has not yet been received from the investigator. The total expenditure incurred on the project upto March, 1970 was Rs. 43.88 lakhs. It is regrettable that the Council did not care to find out for ten long years what was happening to the project till the Reviewing Committee drew attention to the "uncontrolled situation" due to investigation not "having been pinpointed in time and space" and "supplementary problems having been taken over without the completion of the existing ones".

It is disquieting to note that due to the intransigence on the part of the investigator the grant to this Unit had to be stopped and ultimately the Unit itself had to be closed down on the 31st March, 1970. This reveals a sad state of affairs in the working of this research Unit. Had the Council provided a system of periodic inspection or appraisal, such a situation would have been avoided. In this particular case the concerned Expert Group and the Advisory Committee failed in providing guidance to the Research Unit. It is strange that having spent as much as Rs. 43.33 lakhs, the Government finds itself helpless to do anything in the matter. Considering the national importance of the project and the large amount of money spent thereon, the Committee hope that vigorous measures would be taken to obtain the final report from the investigator without further delay. The Committee would like Government to learn a lesson from this case and institute necessary remedial action to remove all defects and deficiencies in the system

[Sl. No. 16 (Para No. 4.30) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth L.S.)]

Action taken

The matter is being vigorously pursued with the Officer-in-charge of the Madanapalle Enquiry.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011/7/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

The Committee are distressed to note the unsuccessful working of the Trachoma Research Centre, Aligarh and its ultimate closure after it had been functioning for 10 years involving an expenditure of Rs. 4.91 lakhs. The slow and tardy progress of the project is attributed to non-availability of suitable staff, delays in procurement of equipment and absence of various other facilities at the Centre. This indicates that the research project was taken up without a thorough initial scrutiny. There is need to improve the working of the Research Centres and also for laying down specific targets or work schedules for them. The Committee suggest that the Council should review the procedure relating to the setting up and functioning of the Research Units in the interest of preventing waste and avoiding infructuous expenditure.

[Sl. No. 17 (Para No. 4.40) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth L.S.)]

Action taken

The observations made by the Public Accounts Committee have been noted and has been brought to the notice of the Scientific Advisory Board & Expert Groups.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011|7|72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

From the evaluation of the work of the various research units done by the Reviewing Committee, the Committee find that while many of them "have contributed useful knowledge", "the size of the units has tended to grow sometimes out of proportion to the actual needs" and that their programmes "which were originally clearcut" had "tended to be diffuse" and "go round in cencentric circles". The Committee were informed during evidence that this happens in medical research or any other research that though the schemes have a "definite objective" at the initial stage, diffusion was sometimes "inevitable" as the research work proceeds. While the Committee appreciate that this may be the case in some projects appropriate measures may be taken to ensure that this does not happen as a rule, and the units do not tend to grow out of proportion to the actual needs and continue beyond the specified period.

[Sl. No. 18 (Para No. 4.44) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth L.S.)]

Action taken

The following material had been furnished to the Public Accounts Committee:—

"The Reviewing Committee had recommended that the Research Units under the Council should be progressively closed down and/or transferred to the host institutions. It was recommended that the host institutions should take over the Units at the end of the specified period as a part of the institutional activity. The recommendation of the Reviewing Committee that the Units should be for a limited period and, after the expiry of this period, should be taken over by the Institute concerned has been implemented e.g. the Neurophysiology Research Unit of the Council located at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, was taken over by the Institute on

1st April, 1971. The Haematological Research Unit at Calcutta is being taken over by the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta from 1st April, 1972."

"The Composite Drugs Research Schemes has been taken over from 1st April, 1970, by the Central Council of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy."

The observation of the Public Accounts Committee which has been made after taking into consideration the material furnished by us has been brought to the notice of the Export Groups for information and guidance.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
M. No. V 25011|71|72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

The Committee note that in pursuance of recommendations of the Reviewing Committee, the Council has transferred certain units to the host institutions after the expiry of the specified period. The Committee hope that the Council would review the other units which are continued after the expiry of the limited period for suitable action.

[Sl. No. 19 (Para No. 4.45) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

The views of the Public Accounts Committee have been noted for compliance. Some of the Units handed over to the host institutes have been detailed against item 18 above.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011|7|72-RISM dated 4-1-1973]

Recommendation

From the date furnished to the Committee they find that the total number of fellowships given by the Indian Council of Medical Research was 30 involving expenditure of Rs. 3.10 lakhs in 1967-68, 110 involving expenditure of Rs. 3.30 lakhs in 1968-69, 135 involving expenditure of Rs. 3.50 lakhs in 1969-70 and 129 involving expenditure of Rs. 3.60 lakhs in 1970-71. The number of institutions which participated in the fellowships schemes was 52 in 1967-68, 46 in 1968-69, 53 in 1969-70 and 54 in 1970-71. The Committee, however, find that a few institutions like G.V.M. Medical College, Kanpur, K.G. Medical College, Lucknow, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

and Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi have been receiving large number of fellowships and the amount of funds under the scheme. The Reviewing Committee have observed that in the matter of distribution of research fellowships, the Council should try to minimise undue concentration in any institution and it would be eminently desirable that accounting for research talent should be done on a more extensive country-wide basis. Further on the analogy of the research fellowships of the University Grants Commission and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, there is a scope and need for the Indian Council of Medical Research be constantly project the image of Medical Research in Medical Colleges, small and big. The Committee desire that the Council should take necessary steps to avoid concentration, and of research fellowships in any institution, allocate fellowships on a wider basis.

[Sl. No. 20 (Para No. 4.50) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

Wide publicity is already being given in respect of the fellowships awarded by the Council. Applications are invited for all categories of fellowships, e.g. Post Doctoral Fellowships, Junior Research Fellowships, Short-time Visiting Fellowships and Technicians Training Fellowships from medical colleges, research institutes, all universities in India, all administrative|medical officers and Directors of Community Health as well as D.G.H.S.

The recommendation that concentration of research fellowships in any Institute should be avoided,, has been noted and will also be brought to the notice of the Fellowship-Committee.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V 25011|7|72-RISM dated 4-1-1973].

Recommendation

According to the Reviewing Committee, one of the important functions of the Indian Council of Medical Research is the coordination of research efforts in the country. There are several agencies, both medical and non-medical, Central, State and Private and a large number of medical colleges and research institutes at varying stages of development engaged in the task of medical research, but "there is hardly any coordination." The Committee have been informed about the measures taken by the Ministry and Council to establish coordination and to avoid overlapping of duplication in

medical research. These measures include association of the officers of the Health Ministry with the ICMB, scrutiny of request for financial support by research workers through Expert Committees of the Council, members of which are derived from the institutes all over the country, nomination of the representatives of the Council on the Advisory Committees of other institutions, reorganisation of the technical and administrative set up of the headquarters of the Council and setting up Coordination Committees. The Committee cannot over-emphasize the importance of close cooperation and coordination amongst the various agencies engaged on medical research with ICMR taking the lead by virtue of its pre-eminent position in this field and suggest that energetic steps may be taken to enlarge the scope of collaboration. Elsewhere in this Report the Committee have expressed concern over the comparatively less amount of expenditure on medical research incurred in the country.

The Committee are emphatically of the view that funds should not ordinarily be allocated by the Council on duplicate or repetitive research. The Committee, therefore, desire that continued attention should be paid to this aspect of coordination.

According to the Reviewing Committee although there are a few State medical research committees in the country, the association of I.C.M.R. is mostly nominal. The Committee desire that necessary steps should be taken to make effective representation of the Council on the State committees to ensure better coordination in the research work.

[Sl. No. 22 (Para No. 4.59) of Appendix to the 40th Report
(Fifth Lok Sabha).]

Action taken

(i) The recommendation that funds should not be allocated by the Council on duplicate or repetitive research has been noted and also brought to the notice of the Expert Groups.

(ii) At its 14th meeting held in October, 1967, the Central Council of Health had reiterated (Resolution No. 58A) its previous recommendation urging the State Governments to promote the development of Research Boards in their jurisdictions. In pursuance of this Resolution, the Council requested all the Directors of Health Services to furnish information regarding the Research Board set up by the State Governments. It appears from the information received from the Directors of Health Services that Medical Research Board had been constituted in Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Delhi, Bihar,

Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. However, they do not appear to be meeting regularly. In some of the Boards I.C.M.R. is represented.

The Ministry of Health & Family Planning has been requested to take up the matter with the State Governments.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V 25011/7/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973].

Recommendation

One of the aims and objects of the Council set forth in the Memorandum of Association relates to the dissemination of knowledge by printing, publishing and spreading scientific information. The Committee are unhappy to learn from the Reviewing Committee Report that "much of the good work that has been done by the Indian Council of Medical Research is not known to the outside world because of its not taking sufficient care to provide a machinery for continuous dissemination of information about its work and achievements and its programme and policies". The Committee find that the Council is making available its research work through journals, research papers, annual reports and other publications. The Committee suggest that the Council should consider measures to increase and popularise the circulation of these journals and publications amongst all interested and potential research workers in the country. The Council should also consider the feasibility of bringing out some publications for the use of lay public to project a better image of itself. The Council may also arrange lectures and seminars in medical colleges and hospitals in the country to give wider publicity to their research work.

[Sl. No. 23 (Para No. 4.62) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha).]

Action taken

It had been brought to the notice of the Public Accounts Committee that the results of the research work carried out under the auspices of the Council are made available to the public through:—

1. Indian Journal of Medical Research (Published monthly) an internationally recognised research Journal.
2. ICMR Technical Report Series (Published frequently as and when necessary) in which are published the results of comprehensive studies on special problems.

3. ICMR Research Information Bulletin (Published monthly) in which the highlights of the work under the Council are described, providing ready reference to research workers regarding the work of the Council.
4. Research Papers in numerous Indian and International Journals.
5. Annual Reports of the Institutes|Centres of the Council which are widely circulated.
6. Constant interaction of Scientists at the Council's numerous symposia, seminars, research workers' conferences, etc.

Some of the permanent institutes of the Council also publish monographs and special bulletins to bring the results of the research work to the notice of administrators and general public. For example, the National Institute of Nutrition has brought out the following publications:—

1. Diet Atlas of India.
2. Nutrition Atlas of India.
3. Nutritive value of Indian foods.
4. Nutrition for mother and child.
5. National Institute of Nutrition—a decade of progress, 1961-71.

The Institute also publishes a quarterly journal called "NUTRITION" in which articles on food are written in a simple language understandable by lay-public.

The Blood Group Reference Centre at Bombay also brings out a News Letter giving the details of the research activities. The other institutes are also encouraged to bring out similar bulletins for dissemination of knowledge.

For a similar purpose, the Council last year organised a Journalists' seminar at National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, where about 20 journals from India interacted with the Scientists work in the field of Nutrition and as a result of the seminar the work of the Institute was widely made known to the public through the columns of the Daily and Weekly Papers.

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The recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee which has been made after taking the above facts into consideration has been noted for compliance.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V 25011/7/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973].

Recommendation

The Committee note that the work done by the Indian Council of Medical Research in the field of communicable diseases, malnutrition and reproductive biology and fertility control have been utilised by Government. The Council's research projects under Environmental Physiology and Medicine on high altitude hypoxia have been utilised recently by the Indian Defence Forces located at the High altitudes in the country. The Committee have been informed that some achievements of the council have also been commercially exploited in the country. The Committee hope that in formulating its research programmes the Council will concentrate on the projects of applied nature the results of which could be utilised for the benefit of the community.

[Sl. No. 24 (Para No. 4.70) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)]

Action taken

This is being implemented.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V 25011/7/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973].

Recommendation

More than 4 years have elapsed since the Reviewing Committee reported on the working of the Indian Council of Medical Research. The Committee are glad that as a result of the discussions by the Committee, the Ministry of Health and Family Planning felt that it was high time to set up another high powered Committee to review the working etc., of the Council. The Committee agree that such a review is due now. They desire that the matter should be placed before the Governing Body of the Council for their concurrence as early as possible.

[Sl. No. 26 (Para 5.8) of Appendix to the 40th Report, Fifth Lok Sabha].

Action Taken

A Review Committee has already been set up and the matter has been referred to the Indian Council of Medical Research for placing it before the Governing Body of the Council for their concurrence.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011/7/72-RISM, dated 4-1-1973].

Recommendation

The Committee also suggest that apart from the Annual Report of the Director-General, ICMR the Council should also prepare an annual Performance Budget of its activities, covering individual schemes and research projects.

[Sl. No. 27 (Para 5.9) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

This will be complied with.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011/7/72-RISM, dated 4-1-1973].

Recommendation

The Committee have been furnished with a note on the institutional arrangements for undertaking, coordinating and financing medical research in UK., U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. The Committee desire that a detailed study of the arrangements obtaining in these countries may be helpful to the next Reviewing Committee for suggesting improvements in the working of the Council.

[Sl. No. 28 (Para 5.10) of Appendix to the 40th Report, (Fifth Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

A detailed note would be prepared for placing before the proposed Reviewing Committee.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011/7/72-RISM, dated 4-1-1973].

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS|OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT.

NIL.

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS|OBSERVATIONS REPLIES TO WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION.

Recommendation

The Committee are concerned to note, from the Reviewing Committee report that the Indian Council of Medical Research which was formed in 1949 has continued to operate as a subsidiary department of the Ministry of Health unlike its counterparts, in spite of the fact that an autonomous function was envisaged throughout. According to the Reviewing Committee, 'autonomy which was meant to spell out freedom of action and speed has resulted in a more tedious financial and administrative dependence on the parent Ministry'. The Director-General of the Council submitted during evidence that control of the Executive Committee over the Council is "a little too much", because it was a wholly official ridden body. The only person representing the Council is its Director-General. The Reviewing Committee has recommended that maximum autonomy should be provided to the Council which may be comparable to that of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research or Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and if necessary, the ICMR be made 'a statutory body'. The autonomous character should be retained in a functional rather than a notional manner. For this purpose, the Reviewing Committee has suggested reconstitution of the Executive Committee with greater representation of Scientific Members and enlargement of the executive and financial powers of the Director-General comparable to that enjoyed by the heads of similar scientific organisations. The Committee are in agreement with the views expressed by the Reviewing Committee that excessive governmental control is apt to impair the efficiency and growth capacity of the Council.

[Sl. No. 1 (Para No. 1.15) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

The Indian Council of Medical Research is a Society registered under the provisions of the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. As

defined in the Memorandum of Association of the Council, it has all those persons as any other Statutory Organisation enjoys. The Governing Body of the Council has the general control over the affairs of the Council and has authority to do, exercise and perform all the powers in the matters of expenditure from the funds of the Council and to make its own Bye-laws etc.

The Executive Committee of the Council executes the policy outlines by the Governing Body as it is not a policy making body. The Council also has a Scientific Advisory Board, the members of which are all senior scientists drawn from various disciplines. This Board reviews the scientific programmes and makes the necessary recommendations to the Council.

On a similar recommendation made by the Administrative Reforms Commission the Ministry had held the view that the composition of the various bodies of the Council should continue as they are, as these bodies are functioning quite satisfactorily.

The Department of Science and Technology propose to bring up this recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission for consideration of the National Committee on Science and Technology before it is referred to the Standing Group of Ministers on Science and Technology for a decision.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011/7/72-RISM, dated 4-1-1973].

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS|OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES.

Recommendation

2. The Committee have been informed that the Governing Body has appointed a Sub-Committee to examine in detail these recommendations of the Reviewing Committee. The Committee desire that this matter should be examined thoroughly and final decision taken by Government at an early date. The Committee would like to be informed about the outcome. The Reviewing Committee submitted its Report in March, 1968 and although four years have already elapsed the recommendations have not yet been processed.

[Sl. No. 2 (Para No. 1.16) of Appendix to the 40th Report, (Fifth Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

2. A meeting of the Sub-Committee which had been set up by the Governing Body of the ICMR to examine the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee was held in the office of the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Planning on the 3rd April, 1972. Another meeting was held on the 19th October, 1972.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health)
O.M. No. V. 25011|7|72-RISM, dated 4-1-1973].

Recommendation

An unsatisfactory feature which came to the notice of the Committee is that the bulk of the staff of the Council is continued on a year to year basis. From the break-up furnished to the Committee, they find that out of a total number of staff in the Headquarters Office of the Council|Permanent Institutes as on 31st March, 1971, 62 were permanent, 4 on contract basis and 906 were continued on a year to year basis. The maximum length of service of those who have been continued from year to year basis has been stated as 34 years. The Committee consider that insecurity of service of this magnitude would not attract the best scientific and technical staff for service in the Council. The Committee have been informed that

a proposal for making 80 per cent. of the staff employed in the Council's headquarters and its permanent institutes as permanent has recently been approved by the Executive Committee of the Council and the matter is being processed with the Government of India and the Governing Body of the Council. The Council had also constituted a permanent research cadre and a permanent technical cadre. The Committee desire that keeping in view the long term and irreducible requirements of the Council the question of confirmation of a substantial number of staff of the Council, which is long over due, should be finalised expeditiously. The Committee would like to be informed of the decision taken in the matter.

[Sl. No. 8 (Para No. 3.17) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)].

Action taken

The Governing Body of the Indian Council of Medical Research has already approved of the proposal for conversion of 80 per cent. of the existing temporary posts into permanent ones. The proposal alongwith the proposal of extension of pensionary scheme to the employees of the Council is at present under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health) O.M. No. V 25011/7/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973].

Recommendation

The Committee also desire that Government should carefully consider that the pay scales of the scientific and technical staff and other facilities in the Council are comparable with the staff in other Government Organisations so as to promote contentment and attract the best talent available to the Council and its research institutions.

[Sl. No. 8 (Para No. 3.18) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)].

Action taken

This question stands referred to the Sub-Committee constituted by the Governing Body of the ICMR consisting of Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Planning, Financial Adviser, Ministry of Health and Family Planning, Director General of Health Services & Director General, I.C.M.R. The Sub-Committee has had two meetings, first on the 3rd April, 1972 and the second on the 19th October, 1972.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health) O.M. No. V 25011/7/72-RISM dated 4-1-1973].

Recommendation

The permanent research institutes of the Indian Council of Medical Research constitute a major portion of the activities of the Indian Council of Medical Research and these have been stabilised to carry out in depth on problems of national importance. The Reviewing Committee had recommended that there was a need and scope for a more critical appraisal of the working of the permanent institutes. In pursuance of this recommendation Advisory Committees have been constituted by the Council for each institution which have been made responsible for the formulation of scientific programmes of the institution and scrutiny of their work. The Committee suggest that in view of the important and major role of the permanent institutes in the respective field of research, a periodical achievement audit should be undertaken every five years to assess their actual achievement. For this purpose, achievement audit committees consisting of experts may be appointed.

[Sl. No. 21 (Para No. 4.52) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)].

Action taken

The following information was given to the Public Accounts Committee in the note regarding implementation of the recommendations of the ICMR Reviewing Committee.

"The Reviewing Committee had recommended that there was a need and scope for a more critical appraisal of the working of the permanent Institutes. For proper appraisal of the research programmes of the Institutes/Centres and for giving advice to the Directors of the Institutes in planning the activities of their Institutes, Scientific Advisory Committees have been constituted by the Council for each of its permanent Institutes/Centres. The Scientific Advisory Committees are responsible for formulation of the scientific programmes of the Institutions and scrutiny of their work. The report of the Scientific Advisory Committee is placed for consideration of the concerned Expert Committee and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Council. Eminent specialists, representatives of local and/or participating Institutions and the Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research, or his representatives, are members of the Scientific Advisory Committees".

The observation of the Public Accounts Committee has been made after taking into consideration the information furnished by us may be specifically brought to the notice of the Scientific Advisory Board

to seek its advice as to what further action should be taken to implement the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee for appointing achievement audit committees.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health) O.M. No. V 25011|7|72-RISM dated 4-1-1973].

Recommendation

In the preceding Chapters the Committee have dealt with some aspects of the working of the Indian Council of Medical Research with particular reference to the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee which made a comprehensive review of the activities of the Council in its Report submitted in March, 1968. The Reviewing Committee has highlighted some short-comings in the working of the Council made suggestions for improvement. The Committee note that the Council has in most cases accepted the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee. But decisions have yet to be taken on some far reaching recommendations of the Reviewing Committee like making the Council autonomous, reconstitution of the Governing Body and Executive Committee and increasing the quantum of grant to the Council, although four years have elapsed since the Report was submitted. The Committee hope that action on these and other remaining important recommendations will be expedited.

[Sl. No. 25 (Para No. 5.7) of Appendix to the 40th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha)].

Action taken

The matter is under consideration of the Sub-Committee set up by the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Medical Research. Two meetings of the Sub-Committee were held on the 3rd April and 19th October, 1972.

[Ministry of Health & Family Planning (Department of Health) O.M. No. V 25011|7|72-RISM dated 4-1-1973].

ERA SEZHIYAN,
Chairman,

Public Accounts Committee.

NEW DELHI;

February 12, 1973.
Magha 23, 1894 (S).

APPENDIX

Summary of main Conclusions/Recommendations

Sl. No.	Para No. of Report	Ministry/Deptt. concerned	Conclusions/Recommendations
1	2	3	4
1	1.4	Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Department of Health)	The Committee hope that final replies in regard to the recommendations to which only interim replies have so far been furnished will be submitted to them expeditiously after getting them vetted by Audit.
2	1.8	—do—	The Committee would like to reiterate that Government should carefully examine the question of giving functional autonomy to the Indian Council of Medical Research by making greater representation of Scientific Members in the Executive Council and enlargement of the executive and financial powers of the Director General comparable to those enjoyed by the Heads of similar scientific organisations.
3	1.11	—do—	The Committee are not happy over the delay in taking decision on some of the important recommendations of the ICMR Reviewing Committee which reported in March, 1968. The Sub-Committee appointed by the Governing Body to consider them has so far held two meetings on 3rd April, 1972 and 19th October, 1972. The Com-

mittee would like to stress that decision on these recommendations should be taken expeditiously and the Committee informed about it.

Ministry of Health
and Family Planning
(Department of Health)

I. 14

The Committee note that the proposal for conversion of 80 per cent of the existing temporary posts in the Council into permanent ones along with the proposal of extension of pension scheme to the employees of the Council has been approved by the Governing Body and is under consideration of the Ministry of Finance. The Committee hope that the final decision will be taken expeditiously.

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I. 17

The Committee had expressed concern over the delay in the receipt of the final report on the Madanapalle Tuberculosis Research Project started in 1956 on which a total expenditure of Rs. 43.33 lakhs was incurred upto March, 1970. The Ministry have stated that the matter is being vigorously pursued with the Officer-in-charge of the Madanapalle Enquiry. The Committee are not satisfied over the delay in obtaining the final report from the Scientist and suggest that necessary steps should be taken in the matter.

The Committee would also like to reiterate that necessary remedial action should be taken to remove all defects and deficiencies in the system, if not already done, and the Committee informed about it.

The Committee had recommended that necessary steps should be taken to make effective representation of the ICMR on the State medical research committees to ensure better coordination in research

I. 20

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—do—

work. The Committee note that ICMR has been represented in some State Medical Research Boards and the Ministry of Health and Family Planning has been requested to take up the matter with the State Governments. The Committee suggest that the matter should be taken up with the State Governments expeditiously and their compliance reported to the Committee.

The Committee had desired that the concurrence of the Governing Body of the Council to the constitution of a high powered committee to review the working etc. of the Council should be obtained as early as possible. It has been intimated that the matter has been referred to the Council for placing it before the Governing Body. The Committee would like to be informed of the outcome.