

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(1969-70)**

(FOURTH LOK SABHA)

NINETY-NINTH REPORT

**MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION**

(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)

**Action taken by Government on the recommendations
contained in the Forty-Third Report of the Estimates
Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of
Food, Agriculture, Community Development
and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture—
Fisheries Development**



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Corrigenda
to

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

Page (v), line 7, for 'Shri Anjanappa'
read 'Shri B. Anjanappa'

line 10, for 'Shri Huam Chand Kachwai'
read 'Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai'

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(1969-70)

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(1969-70)

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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-ninth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 43rd Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture)—Fisheries Development.

2. The 43rd Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 8th April, 1968. Replies indicating action taken on the various recommendations contained in the Report were furnished by Government on the 15th May, 1969. The Study Group 'D' of the Estimates Committee (1969-70) considered the replies received from the Ministry on the 28th August, 1969. The draft Report was adopted by the Committee on the 23rd October, 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 the Government's reply; and

IV. Recommendation in respect of which reply of Government has not been accepted by the Committee.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 43rd Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix to this Report. It would

be observed therefrom that out of 62 recommendations made in the said Report, 50 recommendations, i.e. 80.7 per cent have been accepted by Government. The Committee do not desire to pursue eleven recommendations, i.e. 17.7 per cent in view of Government replies, The reply to one recommendation i.e. 1.6 per cent has not been accepted by the Committee.

NEW DELHI;

November 21, 1969

Kartik 30, 1891 (Saka)

M. THIRUMALA RAO,

Chairman,

Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

The Estimates Committee are glad to observe that the recommendations contained in their 43rd Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture)—Fisheries Development have been replied to by Government generally to their satisfaction.

The Committee desire that further information required by them 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. 1) Para No. 1.11

The Committee feel that having regard to the scale of development envisaged, the importance of increasing indigenous consumption of fish, the stakes involved in the development programme from the angle of foreign exchange earnings, the potentialities of increasing the earning capacity of millions of fishermen throughout the country and thereby making a considerable impact on national income and rural prosperity, the increased employment potential and the need for the reorganisation of financial, technical, industrial and marketing resources, it is essential to provide a coordinated direction of the entire programme of fisheries development from the Centre. It is also essential that quick decisions are followed by implementation and utilisation of available resources and that the entire organisational and administrative set-up is geared to this pressing need. Viewed from this angle, the Committee welcome the reorganisation of the Fisheries Division of the Ministry. They hope it would now be possible for the Ministry to formulate and execute schemes with greater expedition than heretofore. They also hope that the Fisheries Division of the Ministry would serve as a model for the States to emulate. The Committee would, however, like to emphasise that fisheries science being highly technical, some degree of expertise is called for. It is necessary that the Senior Administrative Officers, who are required to direct and formulate policies, should remain in the Fisheries Wing for a certain number of years and are not frequently transferred.

Reply of Government

The recommendations of the Estimates Committee are noted.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 2) Para No. 1.12

The Committee feel that developmental work has to move in step with research, which aspect is now being looked after by the Indian

Council of Agricultural Research. They cannot over-emphasise the importance of maintaining a close liaison with the Council so that research and development work may progress in unison. The Committee hope that the Ministry will keep a continuous watch over the functioning of the Fisheries Division and assess its working periodically in terms of results achieved.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee is accepted. The Ministry is represented in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Scientific Panel which draws up and reviews the progress of Research Schemes. A Scheme has also been drawn up for organisation of extension units both in the Research Institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and in Survey and other Organisations under the Ministry. The extension work which will bring the results of research to the field will be centrally coordinated. A review of the results will be made periodically by the Ministry.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 3) Para No. 1.13

The Committee feel unhappy to note that during the Third Plan period insufficient organisation in the Directorate of Fisheries has been responsible to a great extent for the shortfall in the expenditure. This has been admitted by the Ministry themselves. The Committee hope that the Ministry will persuade the State Governments concerned to implement the recommendations for the re-organisation of the State Directorates at an early date.

Reply of Government

The recommendations made earlier have been elaborated and stressed in the working group paper on the Fourth Plan prepared by the Fisheries Working Group in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and communicated to the State Governments to serve as a basis for planning in connection with the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969—74).

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 4) Para No. 1.19

The Committee note that the Ministry are conscious of the need of making the Central Board of Fisheries an effective body for the

purpose of coordination of fisheries research and development activities in the country. The Committee feel that the Board, as constituted, is an unwieldy body for which it is difficult to make a thorough and technical examination of a problem. The Committee feel that the diverse and complex problems of fisheries cannot be tackled adequately by the Board which meets only for one or two days in a year. They also feel that the follow-up action taken by the Ministry on the resolutions adopted by the Board is not adequate. The Committee, would, therefore, suggest that steps may be taken to reconstitute the Central Board of Fisheries with separate technical committees under its aegis consisting of representatives of the Industry, exporters as well as Central and State Government Departments dealing with fisheries.

Reply of Government

It is proposed to set up technical committees under the Central Board of Fisheries to review and expedite action and report on recommendations of the Board.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 5) Para No. 1.19

The Committee suggest that suitable measures may be devised for the effective implementation of the recommendations made by the Central Board of Fisheries.

Reply of Government

The recommendations will be periodically reviewed with a view to expediting action. Where a recommendation involves review of policies and/or action by more than one Central Department or more than one State, implementation will be reviewed in consultation with the parties concerned with specific reference to the relevant recommendation of the Central Board of Fisheries.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 6) Para No. 1.21

The Committee note that certain functions which have a direct bearing on the development of fisheries are exercised by departments other than that of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and this tends to delay the finalisation of programmes as well as of execution. They feel that there is a necessity to evolve methods and

procedures as well as unanimity of approach as far as possible in these matters so as to avoid delay which appears to be inherent in the existing pattern. The Committee hope that necessary steps will be taken to ensure that there is no delay in finalising programmes and their execution owing to differences of approach and differences in the point of view within the Government Departments of the Centre. The Committee are of the view that the responsibility for coordination should be of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture).

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted. It is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture to work out an agreed approach in consultation with the Ministries concerned with various aspects of proposals relating to the development of Fisheries. Effect will be made to obtain a consensus of the departments concerned with the least possible delay.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 8) Para Nos. 2.12 and 2.13

2.12. From the statistics furnished by the Ministry in regard to the provisions for development of fisheries during the First, Second and Third Plan periods, both in the Central and the State Sectors, and the actual expenditure incurred against the Plan provisions, the Committee note that there have been heavy shortfalls in each of the three plan periods. The Committee are unhappy that the shortfall of Rs. 62 lakhs in the Central Sector in the First Plan period was due to delay of over three years in the Plan formulation itself. The Committee are also constrained to note that in the Second Plan, the shortfall of Rs. 193 lakhs in the Central Sector has been due to the fact that the T.C.M. vessels which had originally been given to the States were taken over by the Centre. The Committee also note that the performance in the Third Plan has been no better. The failure to spend even 50 per cent of the provisions in the Central Sector was due to the following reasons: (i) non-procurement of fishing vessels and the research vessels; (ii) non-availability of land for location of Research Stations; (iii) non-availability of technical personnel; (iv) delay in the appointment of the staff; (v) delay in the construction of rail vans; (vi) savings on loans to fisheries co-operatives; and (vii) delay in the setting up of the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives.

2.13. The Committee are not convinced with the reasons put forward by the Ministry for the shortfalls in the utilisation of the Plan provisions. They consider that if detailed schemes had been prepared in time and coordinated action taken to arrange finance, staff and equipment, it should have been possible for the Ministry to utilise the provisions fully. The Committee cannot over-emphasise that vigorous efforts should be made to complete the Plan schemes within the Plan period itself so that they are not carried forward from one Plan to another. They would suggest that detailed planning of schemes to be undertaken in the next Plan should be initiated now so that their execution is evenly spread throughout the period of the Plan and the history of the past is not repeated.

Reply of Government

The observations of the Estimates Committee are noted. Detailed planning has already been undertaken in respect of several schemes proposed to be included in the New Fourth Plan.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 9) Para Nos. 2.30 and 2.31

2.30. The Committee note that the phasing of the expenditure since 1966-67 has not been in accordance with the Plan outlay as this has been regulated by the resources position from year to year.

2.31. The Committee note that the Ministry have been able to spend only Rs. 10 crores in the first year and Rs. 17 crores in the second year. They, therefore, would like to emphasise that expenditure rate should be stepped up in the next years so that the level may be reached by 1970-71.

Reply of Government

The targets are being reviewed in connection with the formulation of the revised Fourth Plan 1969—74 and the need for an appropriate phasing of programmes and expenditure *vis-a-vis* the final targets will be borne in mind.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 10) Para No. 2.32

The Committee are glad to note that the Ministry have been able to effect a reduction in the foreign exchange requirements by the effective utilisation of indigenously manufactured item. The Com-

mittee would stress that as far as possible indigenous sources should be fully tapped before going in for imported equipment.

Reply of Government

The Ministry has noted for compliance the recommendations of the Committee relating to the need for effective utilisation of indigenously manufactured items and to reduce the foreign exchange requirements. As pointed out by the Committee efforts in this direction have already been made and these will be continued.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendations (Serial No. 11) Para No. 2.33

The Committee are happy to note that commitments have been made by the United Nations Special Fund, Norway and Japan for financial assistance for specific projects. They would suggest that the Ministry may explore the feasibility of obtaining assistance for the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation also from some International Organisation.

Reply of Government

As indicated in connection with Recommendation No. 3.35, it is expected that U.N.D.P. assistance will shortly become available for survey of plagic resources. This survey is proposed to be undertaken through the Indo-Norwegian Project and not through the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation. So far as the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation is concerned, a programme has been drawn up for obtaining the services of experts under the Colombo Plan etc. and the U.N.D.P. Technical Assistance Programme.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 12) Para No. 3.25

The Committee note that as against the potentialities of 100 lakh tonnes of annual production (85 lakh tons of marine fish and 15 lakh tons of inland fish) the actual production in recent years has varied from 9.44 lakh tons to 15.20 lakh tons only. They are unhappy that no concerted efforts were made to increase the production of fish in the past. They would like to be assured that future Plans in this behalf will be more realistic and concerted steps will be taken to achieve the financial and physical targets, by providing

the necessary vessels, crafts, gear, equipment, trained personnel, harbour facilities etc. and by greater and deeper exploitation of the sea around the country.

Reply of Government

Fish production in India which was only 7.52 lakh tonnes in 1951, has been steadily increasing during the successive Plans. The average annual fish production during the First Plan period was 7.96 lakh tonnes, the Second Plan period 10.85 lakh tonnes and the Third Plan period 11.26 lakh tonnes. During the last 5 years (1963—67) the average production was 12.97 lakh tonnes. Fish production in 1967 was 14.23 lakh tonnes. The formulations under consideration for the Fourth Five Year Plan envisage an additional production of 6.61 lakh tonnes, 6.23 lakh tonnes from marine production and 0.38 lakh tonnes from inland. As the production programme is related to the financial resources available for fisheries development, special efforts are proposed to supplement governmental finance with credit from institutional finance during the Fourth Plan. While formulating the Fourth Plan, Government are also taking into account the need for providing basic infra-structure like fishing harbour and shore facilities and the requirements of fishing vessels, gear, equipment, facilities for training, production of fish seed etc. which will be reviewed periodically with a view to removing bottlenecks. The programme of research and extension will be integrated to the needs of the development programme.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 13) Para No. 3.31

The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry have taken up package programme in selected areas for the intensive fisheries Development, in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Mysore, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. They hope that package programme will be extended to other States (including the Maritime States) and Union Territories also so that targets for increased fish production can be realised in time.

Reply of Government

The Government have taken note of the recommendation that package programmes be extended to other States including the Maritime States and Union Territories so that targets for increased fish production can be realised in time. Intensive Area Develop-

ment Programme (IADP) is now a recognised approach in Agriculture Planning. On the marine fisheries side a project approach is being envisaged in which developmental activities will be centered around fishing harbours which will have facilities for landing and berthing and service facilities for fishing craft and processing, storage and marketing of fish catch. Likewise fish assembly centres will form units for development of inland fisheries.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 14) Para No. 3.35

The Committee hope that arrangements for securing vessels and services of experts from the United Nations Special Fund will be finalised at an early date so that exploratory programme can be extended for augmenting fish production.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted. A Report has been received from the U.N.D.P. setting out their final proposals on the technical and financial aspects of the pelagic fishery investigation scheme proposed to be taken up with the assistance of U.N.S.F. According to these proposals the U.N.S.F. will provide a sum of U.S. \$18,00,000 towards experts, tow vessels, scientific and fishing equipment, etc. The counterpart contribution by the Government of India would be U.S. \$9,32,000 towards staff, land, buildings, maintenance of vessels, workshop equipment, vehicles, etc. and local operating cost of U.S. \$1,23,900. The Ministry of Finance have agreed to the scheme in principle and U.N.D.P. has been informed of the acceptance of the Government of India. The Scheme is proposed to be implemented during the financial year 1969-70.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 17) Para No. 4.23

The Committee note the present procedure of assessing the requirements of marine diesel engines from year to year. They are, however, concerned to observe that there has been controversy as between high revolution engines and low revolution engines. The Committee would like the Government to take concerted steps to resolve this controversy as early as possible. The Committee expect the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community

Development and Co-operation and the Ministry of Industrial Development to take effective measures to devetail the requirements of the indigenous marine diesel engine industry with those of the fishing industry. In any case, the Committee would like to be assured that the indigenous capacity of the marine diesel engine industry will not be allowed to lie idle and they will be given the due encouragement to produce more low revolution engines whose requirements are estimated to be 60 per cent of the total requirement of engines.

Reply of Government

A review made by this Department revealed that about 60 per cent of the total demand for marine diesel engines was for low speed engines which are best suited for certain types of fishing. The need for meeting the consumer's demand for low speed engines has been accepted by the Ministry of Industry. Meanwhile M/s. Alcock Ashdown Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bombay have been licensed for the manufacture of low speed marine diesel engines. It is reported that they will be in a position to expand their present capacity to meet the entire requirements of low speed engines for the fishing industry.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 18) Para No. 4.24

So far as the import of marine diesel engines is concerned, the Committee suggest that they should be imported only from those countries which could guarantee the supply of spare parts and after-sale-service as well. In any event, to conserve foreign exchange, the import of engines from foreign countries has to be kept to the barest minimum and all out efforts have to be made to give encouragement for indigenous production. It is very much desirable that in importing marine diesel engines, care is taken to obtain in a few varieties of different standard engines rather than a number of varieties of different standards and specifications.

Reply of Government

The policy being followed is to procure engines indigenously. If some have to be imported, care will be taken to restrict the makes to a few varieties only.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 19) Para No. 4.25

The Committee are unhappy to note that the State Governments have not been able to take up the mechanisation programme as was

envisaged at the time of setting the targets for the period during 1970-71. In the opinion of the Committee, the mechanisation of fishing boats is a national necessity and concerted efforts should be made to achieve the targets laid down.

Reply of Government

The Ministry have taken due note of the recommendation in the formulation of the revised Fourth Plan. It is proposed to maintain targets at as high a level as practicable. Among the steps proposed to be adopted the following may be mentioned in particular:

- (i) maximum appropriation of available resources for the programme by provision to the extent possible from various production scheme.
- (ii) utilization of institutional credit through Agricultural Refinance Corporation and Industrial Bank of India.
- (iii) periodic review of programme with a view to determining steps for removing bottlenecks etc. Efforts are being made to obtain relief on the payment of customs and excise duty on marine engines.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 20) Para No. 4.34

The Committee note that there is a proposal to get Yanmar diesel engines manufactured in the public sector in collaboration between the Central Fisheries Corporation and the Yanmar Diesel Engine Company Limited, Japan. They would like the Government to finalise the details of the project after verification of the cost of production without undue delay, so that the targets of mechanisation programme envisaged could be adhered to.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been brought to the specific notice of the Department of Industrial Development who are considering the feasibility of setting up the plant with due regard to economy by utilizing available surplus capacity. Under advice from this Ministry the Japanese firm have furnished necessary particulars to the Hindustan Machine Tools Co. (Pvt.) Ltd., to examine the feasibility of their undertaking a collaboration project for the manufacture of the engines.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 21) Para No. 4.43

The Committee note that the cost of an indigenous engine is 50 per cent to 100 per cent (i.e. Rs. 10,000 to 20,000) higher than the imported engines. The Committee feel that enough care should have been taken from the very beginning to keep down the cost of an indigenous engine. They hope it will be possible for the Government to persuade the indigenous industry to bring down the cost voluntarily and it will not be necessary to invoke statutory powers.

Reply of Government

The question of reducing the prices of indigenous marine diesel engines is already engaging attention of the Government. The Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs have been requested to take necessary steps to review the prices of marine diesel engines. Every effort will be made to persuade the indigenous industry to bring down the prices of engines to an economic level.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 23) Para No. 4.45

The Committee would suggest that a study team may be appointed to go into the pattern of subsidy being given by various State Governments on marine diesel engines so that uniform rules could be laid down for the purpose.

Reply of Government

A study of the economics of the operation of mechanised boats in the country with specific reference to the question of subsidies has already been undertaken by an F.A.O. expert on Fisheries Economics. His report on the subject has been received. The need for a review of the question of subsidies has also been referred to the State Governments many of whom have replied that they are reviewing the position on the lines indicated.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 24) Para No. 4.50

The Committee consider that the provision of life-saving equipment for boats of the fishermen and guiding lights at the various fishing harbours are essential to minimise the risks and hazards

which the fishermen have to run daily because of their occupation. They feel that the life-saving equipment should be made an essential component of a mechanised fishing boat and its cost should be included in the cost of the boat itself without placing an additional financial burden on the fishermen.

Reply of Government

The fishing boats are already provided with life-saving equipment. Guide lights are also provided at various fishing harbours.

The recommendation has been brought to the notice of the maritime State Governments, Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay and the Ministry of Transport, for review and action wherever necessary.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 25) Para No. 4.51

The Committee suggest that the Ministry may persuade such of the States as have not yet provided guiding lights at the various fishing harbours to do so as early as possible.

Reply of Government

The Government have invited the attention of the States and the Ministry of Transport to provide guide lights as early as possible, as suggested by the Estimates Committee. The matter will be pursued with them.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 26) Para No. 5.11

The Committee appreciate the efforts that are made by the Government for augmenting the export of fish and fishery products to foreign countries, but they have to point out that what has so far been done in this direction is much too little. Of the three great oceans of the world, the Indian Ocean is the least exploited one. Recent studies have also indicated high productivity of the Indian Ocean and the low yield is attributed to the lack of precise knowledge regarding the exploitable fisheries and the low fishing effort. Considering the importance of fish as a rich source of protein and in view of its potential availability in quantity, its importance as a subsidiary food particularly against the background of protein defi-

ciency in dietary norms in the country and considering the urgent need for increasing earnings of foreign exchange, the Committee need hardly point out that the performance so far of Government as well as of the industry in the matter of production and export has not been significant. The Committee are doubtful whether on the basis of the present performance the country will be in a position to reach the target of earning Rs. 37.70 crores in 1970-71 in foreign exchange. The Committee would, however, emphasise the need for an all out effort both on the part of Government as well as on the part of industry to increase the foreign exchange earnings substantially even if the target fixed is not achieved.

Reply of Government

The programme of mechanisation of boats which has resulted in a substantial increase in export of prawns is being accorded high priority in the Fisheries budgets of maritime States. The fourth Plan (1969-74) formulations envisage introduction of 5500 additional boats. Steps have also been taken to procure larger vessels.

There are indications that the Industry will also enter the field of deep sea fisheries on a significant scale.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 27) Para No. 5.12

The Committee would like to stress that while stopping up exports, the needs of the poorer sections of the population to get fish at cheaper rates should not be neglected.

Reply of Government

The Government will bear in mind the needs of the poorer sections of the population to get fish at cheaper rates while stopping up exports. Schemes for development of inland fisheries as well as marine pelagic fisheries have the primary objective of increasing supplies for internal consumption.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 28) Para No. 5.16

The Committee feel concerned to note that there is divergence of opinion between the Ministry and the Marine Products Export Pro-

motion Council as to the effect of devaluation and earnings from export of fish and fishery products. The Committee are inclined to feel that the points raised merit close investigations. In any case the Committee are of the view that the quantity of fish to be exported has to be increased so as to keep up at least the level of foreign exchange earned during the year 1966-67. The Committee hope that the Ministry will devote serious attention to this aspect.

Reply of Government

In our planning for the development of fisheries the accent is increasingly on direct production schemes. Marine fishing by mechanised boats is the most important single programme both in annual plans as well as in our formulations for the Fourth Plan. A substantial number of trawlers is also programmed. Simultaneously harbour facilities and refrigeration are also being provided on a corresponding scale. It is accordingly expected, that irrespective of the specific impact of devaluation on export of fish, the quantities both of fish landings and of fish exported will record a steadily rising trend.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 29) Para No. 5.22

The Committee are unhappy to note that India has lost about 75 per cent of the dried prawn market in the Eastern countries. The Committee feel that concerted efforts are needed to go into this matter thoroughly and improve the situation so that exports in the Eastern countries could also be stepped up.

Reply of Government

The main reasons for the fall in export of dried prawn to East Asian countries are acute shortage of foreign exchange experienced by these countries, establishment of special importing agencies and efforts are being made in these countries to develop their own fisheries and reach a level of self-sufficiency. The Ministry of Commerce have been making every effort through the Indian Missions in these countries to increase the export of dried prawn. Possibilities of improving exports will be carefully watched.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 30) Para No. 5.25

The Committee suggest that points raised in the memorandum referred to in paras 5.23 and 5.24 of the Report may be examined by the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce in order to see if any remedial measure is required for exercising a check on the indiscriminate growth of exporters of fish and fishery products.

Reply of Government

The Government agrees with the Estimates Committee that there is need for exercising a check on the indiscriminate growth of exporters of fish and fishery products. The views of the Committee have been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Commerce and action will be taken in consultation with that Ministry to see that indiscriminate growth of exporters of fish and fishery products is prevented without affecting the growth of export trade.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 31) Para No. 5.31

The Committee are glad to note that the Shipping Corporation of India has already made a start in introducing refrigerated cargo container service. They trust it will be possible for the Corporation and other Indian Shipping Companies to introduce similar container service in various trade routes through which Indian fish and fishery products are exported to foreign countries.

Reply of Government

The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Transport and will be pursued with them.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 32) Para No. 5.32

The Committee feel unhappy to note that "The Conference Lines have been showing preferential treatment to other countries and are unfair to India". The Committee consider the situation to be rather serious and they feel that immediate steps are necessary to counteract such preferential and unfair treatment to India. The Committee hope that the Government will also formulate a suitable long-term policy in the matter.

Reply of Government

The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Transport and will be pursued with that Ministry.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15-5-69.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 33) Para No. 5.37

The Committee feel that efforts are needed to see that as many of the items as are at present allowed to be imported subject to certain conditions, are produced indigenously in India as many of them are simple items for which it is not desirable to spend foreign exchange.

Reply of Government

The Ministry of Industry and this Ministry are taking steps to see that as many of the items as are at present allowed to be imported, are produced indigenously in India, so as to reduce expenditure on foreign exchange.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 35) Para No. 5.39

The Committee note that some of the recommendations made by the Indian Sea Food Delegation, 1964 are likely to improve the position of export by making the products conform to the requirements of the importing countries and by making the packages and labels attractive. They trust that the Ministry would take steps to ensure that these recommendations are implemented and observed by the exporters.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been brought to the notice of the Marine Products Export Promotion Council through the Ministry of Commerce and the matter will be further pursued.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 36) Para No. 6.7

The Committee note that steps are being taken by Government for the development of marine fisheries by giving increased grants to Central Institutes concerned with research and development and

by making suitable arrangements for marketing and processing of fish and fish products. The Committee would, however, impress upon the Ministry the need for coordinating efforts with those of the State Fisheries Departments, the private industry and the Marine Products Export Promotion Council which have a useful role to play in promoting the export of marine products.

Reply of Government

The Government agrees with the Estimates Committee on the need for coordinating developmental efforts in development of marine fisheries by—

1. giving increased grants to Central Institutes concerned with research and development;
2. making suitable arrangements for marketing and processing of fish and fish products;
3. coordinating efforts of the State fisheries Departments, private industry and the Marine Products Export Promotion Council.

The question of increased grants to Central Institutes will be taken up with the I.C.A.R. and provision is being made in the Fourth Plan for giving suitable assistance to State Institutions. Regarding marketing and processing of fish and fish products this aspect will be taken up with the Marine Products Export Promotion Council so far as exports are concerned. In the Fourth Plan provision is being made for giving suitable assistance to States for setting up processing units and providing service for marketing like transport etc. The Central Government has also a scheme for increasing the number of rail transport vans with insulation or refrigeration facilities. So far as coordination is concerned, the various organisations already have close links through Committees and panels. Over-all coordination can however be exercised most effectively by the Central Board of Fisheries, and steps are being taken to render this coordination more effective.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 37) Para No. 6.12

The Committee would like to stress that the success of fishery industry depends to a large extent on the quality of the equipments like engines, winches, floats, wire ropes, fishing nets and twines etc. A reference to the supply of mechanised boats has already been

made in the earlier chapter. They suggest that the Central and the State Government may explore the possibilities of assisting the fishery industry by adopting a more liberal pattern of assistance by way of grants, loans and subsidies.

Reply of Government

The question of improving the quality of ancillary equipment for the fishing industry *e.g.*, engines is receiving constant attention both by the Central and State Governments in view of the importance of the quality of such equipment to the economics of fishing. Reported defects are brought to the notice of the Ministry of Industry for taking up with the manufacturers. Some of the State Governments have also carried out detailed reviews with the cooperation of the manufacturers. These efforts will be stepped up. So far as assistance to the industry is concerned the approach has been to regulate such assistance in accordance with varying needs so as to make best possible use of available funds. A detailed study of the economics of mechanised fishing is being made in order to ensure a rational system of assistance. In certain area where there are special difficulties as in the Andaman Islands and the Laccadives and in some of the Union Territories liberalised scale of assistance are being drawn up. In certain areas the economics are favourable. Any funds that may be appropriately salvaged from redundant or inflated subsidies can be ploughed into the schemes for increased production. They may also be used to strengthen assistance to weaker sectors.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 40) Para No. 6.15

The Committee suggest that the requirement of fishing industry in regard to electronic equipments like echo-sounders, etc. may be met by imports, preferably under some Trade Agreement, till such time the demand is sufficient to justify indigenous production.

Reply of Government

The Government have taken note of the Committee's recommendations.

Electronic equipment in the fishing industry is used for deep sea fishing. Till the industry develop to any appreciable extent the demand for such equipment would be limited. Earlier, during 1965—67 electronic equipment for a total cost of about Rs. 12-13 lakhs was

imported from Japan under Yen Credit. Presently 40 units of 17.5m stern Shrimp Trawlers are to be constructed in the country and the electronic equipment required for these trawlers are also being obtained under Yen Credit and Norwegian Credit.

M/s. Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, have been licensed for indigenous production of electronic equipment for fishing vessels and they are being tested.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 41) Para No. 6.29

The Committee attach considerable importance to frozen storages in the development of fisheries in the country. These storages not only provide economic return to the producer but supply good quality fish at reasonable rates to the consumers. The Committee note that the Fisheries Departments in maritime States as well as the industry are taking energetic steps to augment the existing storage facilities. They hope that the assistance provided by the Central Government (30 per cent loans and 20 per cent grants) would be fully utilised by the State Departments of Fisheries, and that the State Governments would continue to provide the necessary subsidy to cooperatives and individuals for setting up frozen storages.

Reply of Government

During the Fourth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to set up frozen storages at main landing and consuming centres, so as to ensure economic returns to the producer and steady supply of quality fish at reasonable price to the consumer. These frozen storages will be installed and operated by the Departments of Fisheries, Cooperatives, or private agencies. The specific attention of the State Governments has also been drawn to this recommendation of the Committee.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy(B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 42) Para No. 6.30

From the project report for the development of fisheries prepared by the Marine Products Export Promotion Council, the Committee gather that the installed capacity of the freezing factories in Kerala, Mysore and Maharashtra is not being fully utilised. The Committee would therefore like to stress that the installed capacity of the freezing factories should be fully utilised before any new schemes are

drawn up for setting up additional units in those areas. The Committee hope that the Central Government which is concerned with the setting up of freezing plants and frozen storages in major and minor ports, would take expeditious action to activate the scheme in this regard so that the freezing facilities may be available to the industry as well as to the Fishermen's Cooperative Societies at reasonable rates without delay.

Reply of Government

The existing freezing plants are engaged, almost exclusively, in freezing certain selected items like prawns, lobster-tails, frog-legs etc., whose availability varies from season to season. The situation, however, is expected to improve with the introduction of a large number of mechanised boats and utilisation of the surplus capacity for the production of frozen fishery products for domestic consumption.

The recommendation of the Estimates Committee for a cautious approach will be borne in mind when expansion of existing units or creation of additional freezing units are considered.

During the new Fourth Five Year Plan, development of marine fisheries will be most centred round fishing harbours, which will have facilities for refrigeration. The actual installation and operation of these reffigeration plants will be left to the Departments of Fisheries, Cooperatives and private agencies, who will be provided with land on lease and electricity, water etc. at reasonable rates. The need for correlation between production on the one hand and preservation and marketing on the other has been fully recognized and stress is being laid on this aspect of planning.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-8/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 43) Para No. 6.31

Alongside the provision of frozen storages, the Ministry may in consultation with the State Governments, make arrangements for providing adequate supply of ice required for preserving the catch.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted. The provision of adequate supplies of ice for preservation of fish catches has been an important factor in planning. Several ice plants have already been established and a study of the working of such plants has also been made with

a view to making the most effective use of the production capacity. The attention of the State Governments has been drawn to the need for coordinating production programmes with preservation arrangements and the need for such correlation is being borne in mind in drawing up the revised Fourth Five Year Plan.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 44) Para No. 6.31

Provision of water for processing units is very important. The Committee understand that in some States, the cost of water per thousand gallons comes to about Rs. 8.00 which is on the high side. The Committee hope that this matter would be looked into by the Government.

Reply of Government

In some of the States the cost of water supplied to the processing units is very high. The recommendation of the Committee has been brought to the notice of the maritime State Governments for their consideration and the matter will be further examined in consultation with them.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 45) Para No. 6.32

An important factor which merits careful consideration is the peeling sheds. The Committee understand that there are several peeling sheds in the rural areas which are mostly thatched sheds and are not hygienically maintained. The Committee would stress the need for setting up of good peeling sheds suitably equipped for hygienic handling and storage of marine fishes prior to their despatch to the main markets.

Reply of Government

The need to improve the hygienic condition of the peeling sheds has already been brought to the notice of the processors by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Ernakulam, through the Marine Products Export Promotion Council. A suitable layout for peeling sheds has been prepared and given due publicity by the C.I.F.T. The recommendation has been brought to the notice of the maritime State Governments.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 46) Para No. 6.33

The Committee also suggest that, as far as possible, canning units should be set up along with the freezing units. This should ensure more economical working of the canning units.

Reply of Government

The canning activities may be combined with the freezing, since this arrangement would economise the working expenditure in certain cases for the processing industry. However, availability of tin-plate for cans will be a major determining factor for the setting up of the canning factories.

It will be possible to combine canning along with freezing of fish and shrimps in selected areas where the seasonal availability will lead to more economical working of the units. This is already being undertaken by the processors in some centres. In this connection the availability of the tin-plate at a reasonable cost is also a determining factor in the establishment of canning factories. However, the suggestion of the committee will be borne in mind and brought to the notice of the State Departments of Fisheries and the processing industry.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 47) Para No. 6.34

A matter which requires urgent consideration is the need for research and devising scientific methods for improving the techniques of drying fish by artificial methods.

Reply of Government

The importance of improving the techniques for drying of fish was taken note of by the Ministry and research on development of a pilot plant was initiated in the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology. This problem is now under study in the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology and the Ministry will pursue the developments with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 48) Para No. 6.42

The Committee note the efforts being made by the Ministry to develop subsidiary industries of the fishery industry in the country. They would like to stress that by-products and the processes being developed by the Research Institutes, specially the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology should be commercially exploited. The industry should be encouraged to utilise the techniques evolved by the Central Fisheries Institutes in the proper exploitation of the fishery resources. The Committee would suggest that in the research programmes of the technological research institutes under the Centre and the States, priority may be given to the development of such by-products as fish protein concentrates, bacteriological peptone, fish flake, etc. which have great potentialities for providing protein food to the under-nourished sections of the population. The Committee have already emphasised the need for intensifying research on fish protein concentrate in para 2.46 of the Thirty-Eighth Report on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Ernakulam. The Committee hope that the Central Government would provide the necessary technical assistance to the States in setting up subsidiary industries.

Reply of Government

Various by-products have been evolved by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology. The methods of their preparation have been publicized by the Institute through "Technology Newsletters" and the Extension Wing of the Institute. The Extension Organization in the Fisheries Sector is being reviewed with a view to its being strengthened and made more effective. This will help to canalize the results of research to the State Governments and to the industry and facilitate the establishment of subsidiary industries as recommended by the Committee.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 49) Para No. 6.53

The Committee note that the pattern of Central Government assistance during the Third Plan was 50 per cent grant generally on all schemes except on the scheme "Loans to Fishermen's Cooperative Societies" which was a centrally-sponsored scheme and on the scheme for mechanisation of fishing boats for which a grant calculated at

50 per cent of the subsidy allowed to engines was given. The Committee also note that the quantum of assistance has been scaled down further after the termination of the Third Plan period, the present quantum of assistance being only 20 per cent grant and 30 per cent loan. There is also no provision for direct Govt. grant for fishing vessels or fish processing plants to private enterprise. The Committee feel that the present scale of Government assistance is inadequate and it has to be considerably augmented so as to enable the States to undertake the development activities envisaged during the next plan period. They also consider the present arrangements in regard to provision of credit to the industry and to the Fisheries Cooperatives are not satisfactory. They suggest that new methods of financing fishing industry should be explored including, if necessary, the establishment of fisheries credit banks or corporation as are in operation in some of the advanced countries.

Reply of Government

The pattern of assistance for the revised Fourth Plan (1969—74) has yet to be drawn up by Government. The specific attention of the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance has been drawn to the observations of the Committee in this respect, and these observations will be kept in view in finalising the patterns.

With regard to the provision of credit the Reserve Bank of India has no objection to the cooperative central banks providing the necessary loans to the fisheries cooperatives out of their own funds and the Reserve Bank of India will consider such loans as legitimate involvement of the funds. The Agricultural Refinance Corporation has already provided institutional finance for fisheries schemes undertaken by the cooperatives and this facility is also available to the agencies outside the cooperatives. The Industrial Development Bank of India has approved the provision of credit to private parties for purchase of trawlers and processing equipment manufactured indigenously on deferred payment basis.

It is expected that the private industry and the fisheries cooperatives would be able to take advantage of the institutional finance from the Agricultural Refinance Corporation, the Industrial Development Bank of India and other sources during the next plan. The possibility of extending new methods of financing to the fishing industry will also be studied by this Ministry.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A), dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 49) Para No. 6.54

The Committee note that the Reserve Bank has very recently agreed to give credit to private entrepreneurs through commercial banks. They hope that the details of the terms of credit to be extended by the Reserve Bank to the commercial banks in this regard would be finalised at an early date so that the fishery industry can obtain the much needed finance for purchase of large fishing vessels.

Reply of Government

The Government accepts the recommendation. The Agricultural Refinance Corporation and the Industry Development Bank of India have finalised the terms of credit to be extended to the commercial Banks and to the fishing industry. These have been circulated to the State Directors of Fisheries.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 49) Para No. 6.55

As regards finances for the cooperative societies, the Committee would urge that till other suitable and firm arrangements for meeting the financial requirements of the cooperative sector are made the Central Cooperative Banks should be encouraged to meet the working capital requirements of Fisheries Cooperative Societies and for this purpose the Reserve Bank should raise, at an early date, the credit limits of such banks so as to enable them to meet the requirements of Fisheries Cooperatives.

Reply of Government

The Government accept the view that till other suitable arrangements are made to meet the financial requirements of the cooperatives, the Central Cooperative Banks should be encouraged to meet the working capital. The stand taken by the Reserve Bank is that the cooperative banks can accommodate the credit requirements of fishermen's cooperatives from their own resources. The question of higher credit limit to be provided by these banks would arise, on this assumption only when the cooperative banks are unable to meet the credit requirements of fishermen's cooperatives. The entry of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation into the fisheries field has opened up the possibility of larger involvement of institutional funds in the development of fishermen's cooperatives. An analysis of the

present situation is being made and the matter will be reviewed in consultation with the Reserve Bank.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 50) Para Nos. 6.61 to 6.64

(i) The Committee attach considerable importance to the development of cooperatives for undertaking distribution of fishery requisites, manufacture of nets, processing of fish and marketing. The cooperatives can also play a useful role in the field of boat building. The Committee consider it imperative that efforts should be made to revitalise the primary societies and link them up with marketing federations. Maximum possible credit should be given to the primary societies through the marketing federations so that the cooperatives are not compelled to seek loan from merchants and middlemen to the detriment of the cooperative movement itself.

(ii) The Committee commend the efforts made by the Ministry to achieve 50 per cent. targets of production through cooperatives. They hope that the Ministry would keep a continuous watch over the progress of the cooperative societies in the States and assist the State Governments in the technical aspects of the programmes undertaken by the cooperatives.

(iii) The Committee would like to stress in this connection the need for careful approach in the matter in order to ensure that the people genuinely engaged in fishing and fisheries are benefitted through the cooperatives and middlemen, profiteers and other foreign elements are kept out of such societies.

(iv) Now that the Reserve Bank has agreed to provide increased capital to the Central Cooperative Banks for financing fisheries cooperatives, the Committee hope that it would be possible for the State Governments to strengthen the nonviable units financially and organisationally so that there may be a general levelling up of the fisheries cooperatives in the States.

Reply of Government

The need to strengthen the role of the fishery cooperatives in the development of the fishing industry is accepted. The observations of the Committee have been brought to the specific notice of the State Governments. The schemes which have been drawn up for support by the Agricultural Refinance Corporation have been in the cooperative sector, and these projects are designed on an integrated

pattern covering boat building, fishing operations and marketing. This pattern has been recommended to the State Governments and support is being extended to such schemes. Efforts are also being made to expand and liberalise credit for fisheries cooperatives.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15-5-69.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 52) Para No. 6.70

As regards supply and marketing of fish to Calcutta, the Committee feel that the impact of the Central Government Organisation in increasing supply to the Calcutta market and thereby breaking the monopolistic ring and the ruling high prices of fish in the market has not at all been significant. To achieve this object, network of reservoirs and other sources throughout the country has to be established for exploitation. Efforts are also to be made to open departmental stalls to curb the prevailing high prices. They hope the energy of the authorities concerned would be directed to this end.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted. The Corporation has already taken the D.V.C. reservoirs, Mayurakshi reservoir and some reservoirs in Gujarat on long-term lease for development and exploitation. In addition the Corporation is also taking annual lease of water areas in various States for direct exploitation.

The Corporation, in its efforts to sell fish at reasonable rates, has already set up 21 departmental retail stalls in Calcutta and Howrah markets. In addition there are at present 13 retail stalls belonging to Cooperatives and five other agencies in different markets in Calcutta and Howrah for selling the fish supplied by the Corporation. The fish is sold in these stalls at scheduled rates which are lower than the prevailing market rates. Further efforts will be made by the Corporation to increase the number of stalls as recommended by the Committee.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 54) Para No. 7.15

The Committee note the present arrangements for the transport of fish on the Southern Railway. They feel that there is an imperative need for the provision of a refrigerated van service from Calicut to Howrah. It is also desirable to provide a refrigerated van service

in place of the existing parcel van service in the Mangalore-Shoranur Section for despatch of consignments to Cochin. The Committee hope that the Ministry would keep a note of the trends in fish traffic while introducing refrigerated rail vans in the various sections of the Southern Railway.

Reply of Government

A careful study of the trends in fish traffic is being made, as recommended by the Committee, to determine the routes on which refrigerated rail vans should be utilised. Some trial trips were organised between Calicut and Calcutta. These did not prove successful. The matter is, however, being studied further and renewed trials will be made. The question of introducing refrigerated van service on the Mangalore-Shoranur Section is also being studied.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 55) Para No. 7.15

The Committee suggest that the Ministry may take up with the Railways the question of attaching the refrigerated rail vans with some of the faster trains so that the fish consignments may reach the destination stations in the shortest possible time.

Reply of Government

The question of attaching refrigerated vans to faster trains was taken up with the Ministry of Railways. A tri-monthly refrigerated van service from Calicut to Howrah was tried on an experimental basis, but was discontinued due to inadequate response. The Railways propose to try out a van service between Mangalore and Shoranur as soon as a van becomes available. The Railways are now attaching these vans to fast trains once the fish loading has been completed at supply centres. However, where prolonged halts and halts on way side stations are involved in the loading of these vans, this part of the hauling is often done by slower trains to avoid excessive delay to fast trains. The matter will be kept under review to ensure that service by fast trains is undertaken wherever practicable.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15-5-69.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 56) Para No. 7.16

The Committee understand that at present statistics in respect of earning on fish traffic as well as from perishable traffic are not main-

tained separately. They suggest that the Ministry may impress on the Railways the desirability of maintaining statistic in respect of earnings accruing from fish traffic in all Zonal Railways.

Reply of Government

Action has been taken as recommended. The Ministry of Railways have since taken up the matter with the Zonal Railways and will be pursued further.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15-5-69.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 57) Para No. 7.19

The Committee trust that the Ministry would process the data furnished by the State Governments concerned on the quantum of fish seed required to be transported by air or by trains to various destinations on a priority basis and take up the matter with the concerned authorities at an early date.

Reply of Government

The Ministry is taking steps to provide necessary facilities for transport of fish seed by air and rail on a priority basis.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15-5-69.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 59) Para No. 9.18

The Committee attach considerable importance to the socio-economic rehabilitation of the fishermen population. No improvement in fish production can be possible unless the economic status of fishermen is improved and they are provided the basic amenities of life like education, housing, medical facilities, etc. The Committee are aware that the socio-economic uplift of the fishermen is being brought about for fostering cooperative movement among the fishermen but they feel that there is scope of greater involvement by the Government in the welfare activities for the betterment of the fishermen community. In this connection, the Committee suggest that the Central Government should persuade the State Government to assign lands to fishermen on which their dwellings stand which are now subjected to short term lease. Grants and loans may also be provided for construction which may insure health and comfort of fishermen who have a hard life at sea. The Committee further

suggest that greater opportunities should be given to the children of fishermen in the matter of recruitment to the Indian Navy and to the Merchant Marine where there is natural scope of their employment. In this connection, fishery schools be enabled to provide preparatory courses.

Reply of Government

The recommendations of the Estimates Committee are accepted. The State Governments have been addressed indicating the need for—(1) economic betterment of the fishermen; (2) fostering co-operative movement; and (3) assigning land to fishermen on which their houses stand. The Ministries of Defence, Transport & Shipping have been addressed to elicit their views on providing opportunities to the children of fishermen to joint Indian Navy and Merchant Marine.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15-5-69.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 61) Para No. 9.20

In their report on the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives, Ernakulam the Committee have noted that there is a shortfall in the number of trainees deputed by the State Governments. The Committee consider the non-utilisation of the training facilities as a national waste as this would inevitably retard the development of fisheries in the country. They would urge the need for the fuller utilisation of the intake capacity of the training institutes under the Central and State Governments, by giving greater opportunity to persons from fishermen community.

Reply of Government

The recommendation, that the intake capacity of the training institutes under the Central and State Government needs to be fully utilised, by giving greater opportunity to persons from Fishermen's community, is accepted. In regard to the recruitment of candidates for admission to the Central Institutes, the State Governments have been requested to send an adequate number of suitable candidates for training, so as to meet the requirements of personnel for operating larger fishing vessels proposed to be introduced during the Fourth Five Year Plan. It is also proposed to hold consultations with the State Governments on this subject during the coming discussions on the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969—74).

In regard to utilisation of the intake capacity at the Training Institutes under the State Governments, the matter has been taken up with the State Governments.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) 'dated 15th May, 1969.]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 7) Para No. 1.34

The Committee note that several States have enacted legislation suited to their specific needs and conditions for the development and conservation of fisheries. The Committee, however, feel that there is a pressing need for ensuring uniformity in legislation throughout the country. It is for the Central Government to coordinate the activities of the various State Governments, give them suitable guide-lines to ensure that adequate measures are taken for checking of pollution of rivers, estuarine and other inland waters, conservation and renovation of derelict tanks and other inland water areas and also for settlement of fishing rights. The Committee trust that the assurance given to the Committee that the whole matter shall be looked into would be fulfilled and measures would be taken to initiate legislation incorporating necessary amendments to the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897.

Reply of Government

The Government agrees with the Committee that there is a pressing need for ensuring uniformity in fisheries legislation throughout the country. The Ministry of Law have advised that since Fisheries is a State subject (entry 21 of List II of the 7th Schedule to the Constitution) the State Legislature has exclusive power to make laws under Article 246(3) of the Constitution. The Parliament, therefore, would not be able to amend the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897. The Parliament's competence in regard to fishing and fisheries is only with regard to fishing beyond territorial waters (Entry 57 of List I—Fishing and Fisheries beyond Territorial Waters)

Entry 56 of List I reads as follows:—"Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest". In view of this provision, except in the case of inter-State rivers, legislation in respect of pollution of rivers estuaries

and other inland waters, conservation and renovation of derelict tanks and other inland water areas etc. are within the competence of the State Legislature. Parliament is not competent to enact any law on these matters except under circumstances provided under Article 249 and 252 of the Constitution.

The Ministry will however, take steps to coordinate the activities of the various State Governments and give them suitable guidelines to ensure that adequate measures are taken for checking of pollution of rivers, estuarine and other inland waters, conservation and renovation of derelict tanks and settlement of fishing rights.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee have noted that the Ministry will take steps to coordinate the activities of the various State Governments and give them suitable guidelines to ensure that adequate measures are taken for checking of pollution of rivers, esturine and other inland waters, the conservation and renovation of derelict tanks and settlement of fishing rights. They suggest that the Ministry may also prepare model Bills on the subject for the use of State Governments.

Recommendation (Serial No. 15) Para No. 4.9

The Committee are constrained to note that there have been heavy shortfalls in achieving the targets laid down for the introduction of mechanised boats during the Third Plan period. The Committee are also unhappy to note that there is no likelihood of achieving the target of 8,000 mechanised boats laid down for the period ending 1970-71. They suggest that the feasibility of drawing up a crash programme for the production of mechanised boats may be considered. The Committee also feels that there is an imperative need to link up the construction of boats with the manufacture of engines and other requisites required for a mechanised boat, so that there is no delay in manufacturing complete mechanised boats.

Reply of Government

The Government of India are fully alive to the need for achieving the target of the mechanisation programme and will keep in view the suggestion made by the Committee.

The special steps that are being taken to ensure the success of the mechanisation programme are as under:—

- (i) Earmarking as high a proportion of the total available funds as practicable for this programme.

- (ii) Tapping other sources of funds through suitable schemes. A beginning has already been made through the Agricultural Refinance Corporation. Loans have also been made available for mechanised boats by the State Bank.
- (iii) Correlation of minor harbour work with the mechanisation programme. Provision of the infra-structure at selected locations is designed to give the necessary impetus to this programme.

2. Co-ordination of various production factors is again being reviewed in connection with the formulation of the revised Fourth Plan. Targets have to be laid down afresh in connection with the revised Fourth Plan. It will be ensured that the target is placed as high as feasible in view of the importance of the programme, and that the necessary financial provision is made.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee may be informed about the result of action taken in due course.

Recommendation (Serial No. 16) Para No. 4.22

The Committee regret to note that many of the recommendations made by the Central Board of Fisheries as early as 1965 regarding 'Marine Diesel Engines' have not yet been implemented. They hope that the Government will implement these recommendations as early as possible.

Reply of Government

The recommendations of the Central Board of Fisheries were taken up with the State Governments and other parties concerned and were being actively pursued. As the import of engines has been discontinued, however, a review of the programming and of the arrangements in respect of supply of engines has become necessary. In the present situation the State Governments will indent for their requirements on the indigenous suppliers. It is envisaged that the Centre will still have a co-ordinating role but this will have to be adjusted to the new context.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 22) Para No. 4.44

The Committee would like the Government to consider whether complete exemption from payment of excise duty could be

given on marine diesel engines as is the case with tractors for agriculture.

Reply of Government

The question of complete exemption from payment of excise duty on marine diesel engines required for fishing crafts has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance), New Delhi.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Comments of the Committee

The result of action taken may be communicated to the Committee in due course.

Recommendation (Serial No. 34) Para No. 5.38

As regards tin plates, the Committee would like the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce to devote attention to this matter, so that the high price of tin plates required for canning shrimps etc. does not adversely affect the export trade. The Committee understand that a cheaper substitute for tin has been recently produced in the country. They hope it will be possible to pursue this further in order to see that the substitute can be commercially exploited and have an impact in reducing the price of cans used for packing shrimps for export.

Reply of Government

The recommendation was examined in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce who have indicated that on the basis of a report received from the Consulate General in California about the successful trials of rigid plastic container suitable for packing crab meat, details of the process were obtained and passed on to the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology. The C.I.F.T. examined the proposal and came to the conclusion that the plastic container would require special type of a plastic which is not available in India and the cost of such containers, if made of imported material, would be more than that of tin containers. The matter is being further examined.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Comments of the Committee

The final result of examination may be intimated to the Committee in due course.

Recommendation (Serial No. 38) Para No. 6.13

The Committee note that the present quantity of Caprolactum

imported would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the industry for nylon yarn and twine for about a year and a half. In view of the fact that the import of nylon twine has been banned and there are only a few units manufacturing nylon yarn and twine required exclusively for the fishing industry, the Committee suggest that Government may examine whether new units manufacturing synthetic fibres should not be persuaded to accept a certain amount of fishing twine production as a fixed responsibility.

Reply of Government

The Government would examine whether new units manufacturing synthetic fibres should be persuaded to accept certain amount of fishing twine production as a fixed responsibility with the concerned Ministries and take every effort to augment the production of nylon yarn and twine for the use of the fishing industry.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Comments of the Committee

The result of the examination may be communicated to the Committee in due course.

Recommendation (Serial No. 39) Para No. 6.14

The Committee are surprised to note that while four firms have been licensed for the manufacture of nylon yarn required by the fishing industry only one of them, namely, Messrs. Garware Nylons, is manufacturing nylon required by the fishing industry. The Committee would like this matter to be looked into as they understand that manufacturing units find it more profitable to manufacture high grade nylon apparel for wear rather than manufacturing fishing twine and nets.

Reply of Government

The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Industry and the Directorate of Technical Development. The position is that at present there is no control on the types of twine manufactured, although the supply of certain varieties of twine required for the fishing industry is likely to be manufactured shortly in larger quantity. The matter will be pursued with a view to ensuring that an adequate quantity of twine is available for the fishing industry.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation O.M. No. 1-6/68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 51) Para No. 6.69

The Committee note the efforts being made by the Central and State Governments to improve the marketing and other facilities for the fishermen through cooperative societies. In the opinion of the Committee, however, many of the cooperative societies are not well-organised; nor many of the people who are members of the cooperative societies well-educated; and most of them have not the economic stamina to run the societies effectively. These appear to be some of the built-in difficulties of fishermen's cooperatives. The Committee, therefore, feel that what the Government will have to do in the matter is to build up the organisation from above and the organisation should trickle down from above to the lowest level so that the system can be more broad based and more securely and economically organised to bring in maximum benefit to the poorer sections of fishermen.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been referred to the State Governments and the Department of Community Development and Co-operation. Their comments will be obtained and the matter reviewed on the lines recommended by the Committee so as to evolve suitable mechanism for the effective organisation of Co-operatives.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation O.M. No. 1-8|68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Comments of the Committee

The result of review may be communicated to the Committee in due course.

Recommendation (Serial No. 58) Para No. 8.9

The Committee are of the view that in industry with undeveloped technology it is essential that the efficiency of extension service should be maintained at a high level. They are unhappy that much attention has not been paid to the recommendation of the Working Group on Fisheries for setting up a separate wing of Extension Machinery. In this connection, the Committee would like to invite the attention of the Ministry to the recommendations made in paras 4.6 and 4.7 of their 36th Report on the Ministry of Food Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp.

Reply of Government

A scheme for re-introduction of Central Extension work has been drawn up. The scheme envisages that the earlier system of scattered units on State-wise basis should be replaced by effective extension units attached to each of the major Institutes. Extension units are proposed to be set up not only in the Research Institutes but also in the Deep Sea Fishing Station and Indo-Norwegian Project. These units will liaison with the State Extension Units. Steps have been initiated to set up a coordinating unit at the centre and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have been requested to organize extension units in the Research Units.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation O.M. No. 1-6|68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Recommendation (Serial No. 60) Para No. 9.19

The Committee note that the incentives given by the State Governments in the matter of training of fishermen vary from State to State. It is desirable that there is a uniform pattern of assistance to the trainees in the various training institutions.

Reply of Government

Variations in the level of assistance have been determined by local conditions, the arrangements for training and the type and duration of courses. A review is being made of the adequacy of the assistance provided, and it is proposed after completing the review to recommend greater uniformity to the extent feasible.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation O.M. No. 1-6|68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Comments of the Committee

The result of review may be communicated to the Committee in due course.

Recommendation (Serial No. 62) Para No. 9.21

The Committee note that only one or two States have drawn up schemes for the construction of suitable types of quarters for fishermen. They would urge that such of the fishermen colonies as have sizeable concentration of the fishermen should be properly developed and provided with medical, housing and educational facilities be-

sides approach roads, drinking water, fish curing yards etc., so that they serve as model fishing villages. The Committee would impress on the Ministry the need for providing adequate technical and financial assistance to the State Governments for implementing the model fishing village scheme.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been forwarded to the State Governments with the suggestions that it should be taken note of in drawing up their revised Fourth Five Year Plan. The pattern of assistance which was applicable during the year 1967-68 provided for assistance from the Central Government to the State Governments to the extent of 20 per cent grant and 30 per cent loan on all fisheries schemes. The State Governments Plan schemes in connection with improvements to fishing village were covered by this pattern. The pattern of assistance applicable to the schemes in the fisheries sector has not yet been determined, but the Committee's observations will be borne in mind in case the pattern is revised. The feasibility of taking up the provision of approach roads and water supply as centrally sponsored schemes is being examined in connection with the revised Fourth Five Year Plan Proposals. The question of provision of medical and other facilities in fishing villages has also been taken up with the other Ministries.

[Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation O.M. No. 1-6|68-F₁ (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.]

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLY OF GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Serial No. 53) Para No. 7.11 and 7.12

(i) The Committee regret to note that the question of providing facilities for quick transport of fresh fish in refrigerated rail vans has not been viewed with a sense of urgency. They are unhappy to note that although 20 refrigerated rail vans were required during the Third Five Year Plan, orders for only three vans could be placed and out of this only one van has so far been supplied. The position regarding the supply of vans required during the period ending 1970-71 is no better. Against the requirements of 22 refrigerated rail vans, the Ministry could place orders, after protracted correspondence and discussion with various authorities, for only three refrigerated rail vans during 1967-68, although initially they required to be ordered during 1966-67.

(ii) While the Committee appreciate that indigenous capacity should be fully developed and utilised for the manufacture of refrigerated rail vans, they are of the opinion that no embargo should be placed on the import of refrigeration equipments if it is realised that it is beyond the capacity of the indigenous manufacturers to deliver such equipments. The Committee are doubtful if at the present rate of progress the Ministry could be in a position to obtain 22 refrigerated rail vans during the period ending 1970-71. The Committee would therefore, suggest that a phased programme may be drawn up for the supply of refrigerated rail vans both from indigenous sources as well as from abroad, after taking into consideration the production capacity of the indigenous manufacturers to supply refrigeration equipments of the desired specifications.

Reply of Government

In order to draw up a realistic programme and to execute it expeditiously, it has been decided in consultation with the Ministry of Railways to set up a Committee of the concerned officers of both the Ministries—Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture—to assess the requirements with detailed reference to

routes and other factors involved and to draw up a realistic plan for expeditious manufacture of the number of vans required.

[*Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation O.M. No. 1-6|68-Fy (B&A) dated 15th May, 1969.*]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee are not satisfied with the action taken by the Government in this matter. They feel that there is no need to set up a committee of the officers of the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation for the purpose, as the requirements of the refrigerated rail-vans have already been assessed with detailed reference to routes and other factors involved. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation.

NEW DELHI;

21st November, 1969

Dated the Kartik 30, 1891 (S)

M. THIRUMALA RAO,

Chairman,

• Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

(*vide* introduction)

Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 43rd Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha).

1	Total number of recommendations	62
2.	Recommendations that have been accepted by Government (<i>vide</i> recommendations at sl. Nos. 1 to 6, 8 to 14, 17 to 21, 23 to 33, 35 to 37, 40 to 50, 52, 54 to 57, 59 and 61),	50
	Percentage to Total	80.7
3.	Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply (<i>vide</i> recommendations at Sl. Nos. 7, 15, 16, 22, 34, 38, 39, 51, 58, 60 and 62.	11
	Percentage to Total	17.7
4.	Recommendation in respect of which reply of Government has not been accepted by the Committee (<i>vide</i> recommendation at Sl. No. 53).	
	Number	1
	Percentage to Total	1.6%

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