

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
AND FOOD PROCESSING**

(2021-2022)

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE)**

'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2021-22)'

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok
Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21)}**

THIRTY FIRST REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

DECEMBER 2021/AGRAHAYANA, 1943 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on

14.12.2021

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on

14.12.2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

DECEMBER 2021/AGRAHAYANA, 1943 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING* (2021-22)**
Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar- Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Afzal Ansari
3. Shri Horen Sing Bey
4. Shri Devendra Singh 'Bhole'
5. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
6. Shri Kanakmal Katara
7. Shri Abu Taher Khan
8. Shri Mohan Mandavi
9. Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu
10. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
11. Smt. Shardaben Anilbhai Patel
12. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
13. Shri Shriniwaas Dadasaheb Patil
14. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
15. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
16. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
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18. Shri Virendra Singh
19. Shri V.K. Sreekandan
20. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav
21. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Partap Singh Bajwa
23. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
24. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa
25. Shri Surendra Singh Nagar
26. Shri Kailash Soni
27. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
28. Shri Vaiko
29. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav
30. VACANT
31. VACANT

* Standing Committee on Agriculture renamed as Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing vide Para No. 3293, Bulletin Part-II, dated 23.11.2021.

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Shiv Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Ms. Juby Amar - Director
3. Shri Prem Ranjan - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2021-22), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty First Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).

2. The Twenty Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 09 March, 2021. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 28.07.2021.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 07.12.2021.

4. An Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix**.

NEW DELHI;
07 December, 2021
16 Agrahayana, 1943(Saka)

P.C. GADDIGOUDAR
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

CHAPTER - I

R E P O R T

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-2021) on "Demands for Grants (2021-22)" pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 09.03.2021.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) has furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 13 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These Replies have been categorized as under:

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 **Total - 10**
Chapter- II

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:

Recommendation No. NIL **Total - 00**
Chapter- III

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Recommendation Nos. 3, 6 & 11 **Total- 03**
Chapter- IV

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Recommendation No. NIL **Total- 00**
Chapter- V

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations / Recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases where it is not possible for the Department to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Notes on the Observations / Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Final Action Taken Replies to the Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the Action Taken by the Government on some of the Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

A. STATUS OF UTILIZATION CERTIFICATES RECOMMENDATION (SERIAL NO.3)

1.5 The Committee had observed/ recommended:-

"The Committee note that the issue of pending Utilization Certificates (UCs) is one of the factors which led to less utilization of Funds allocated to the Department. This issue has been raised time and again by the Committee. The Committee further note that there is pendency of an amount of Rs. 536.57 Crore, Rs. 1438.31 Crore and Rs. 2931.88 Crore against the outstanding Utilization Certificates as on 01.04.2018, 01.04.2019 and 30.12.2020, respectively under various Schemes of the Department. The non-submission of UCs by the respective States/UTs is of serious concern to the Committee as further processes are often held up for want of submission of such Certificates; which may in turn result in stalling the progress in implementation of important Schemes having direct impact on the vulnerable farmers in the Country. The Committee have emphasized, time and again, on resolving this pernicious problem. However, the Department has not been able to resolve this issue till date. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to initiate corrective measures to resolve this issue and also to pursue the matter proactively with all the Implementing Agencies so as to be able to seek a lasting solution to this

perennial problem. The Committee would like to be apprised of the Action Plan worked out by the Department to resolve the problem."

1.6 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated:-

"The matter of Unspent balance is regularly followed up with the State Governments and other implementing agencies through correspondence, telephonic discussions, video conferences, etc. The need for finalizing the projects under the various Schemes and furnishing UCs in time has also been emphasized in various review meeting held with officers of the concerned State Governments. Normally, funds are released to the States after their submission of UCs along-with State share & progress report.

Due to concerted effort, number of UCs and amount pending in respect of the Department has been reduced considerably and status as on 30.06.2021 vis-à-vis 30.06.2020 may be seen as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.		UCs Pending against the release made upto 01.04.2016		UCs Pending against the release made upto 01.04.2017		UCs Pending against the release made upto 01.04.2018		UCs Pending against the release made upto 01.04.2019	
		Nos	Amount	Nos	Amount	Nos	Amount	Nos	Amount
1.	30.06.2020	151	696.63	215	1277.67	348	2890.73	599	5178.6
2.	30.06.2021	119	206.98	161	685.77	232	862.62	351	1993.5

Department is holding video conference with concerned officials of State Governments frequently to monitor the Scheme implementation. They were asked to submit UCs at the earliest to avail further installment of funds under the Scheme in such meetings, besides sending communication to defaulting States. Efforts are also being made by the Department to convince the States to utilize funds at the earliest and submit the UCs to avail further installments of funds under the Scheme through various means of communications. Further, under some Schemes, Department is encouraging & motivating States to submit UCs at the earliest by incentivizing the better performing States by providing them additional funds from the savings available at the end of financial year as a result of less utilization of funds by some States. "

1.7 Considering the issue of pending Utilization Certificates (UCs) as one of the factors leading to less utilization of funds allocated to the Department, which results in stalling the progress in implementation of important Schemes having direct impact on the vulnerable farmers of the Country, the Committee had desired the Department to initiate corrective measures to resolve this issue and also to pursue the matter proactively with all the Implementing Agencies so as to be able to seek a lasting solution to this perennial problem. The Department in its Action Taken Replies has submitted that the matter of unspent balance and furnishing of Utilization Certificates is regularly followed up with the State Governments and other Implementing Agencies through correspondence, telephonic discussions, video conferences, etc. Further, under some Schemes, Department is encouraging & motivating States to submit UCs at the earliest by incentivizing the better performing States by providing them additional funds from the savings available at the end of financial year as a result of less utilization of funds by some States. Further, the Department has submitted that due to concerted effort, number of UCs and amount pending in respect of the Department has been reduced considerably and has also furnished the status of UCs and amount pending as on 30.06.2021 vis-a-vis 30.06.2020 against the release made upto 01.04.2019. While appreciating the effort being made by the Department, the Committee note that number of UCs and amount pending are still substantial and the Department has chosen to remain silent regarding UCs and amount pending against the release made after 01.04.2019.

The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire the Department to initiate corrective measures to resolve the issue of pending Utilization Certificates and to pursue the matter more proactively with all the Implementing Agencies so as to make sure that a lasting solution is found to this perennial problem.

**B. PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN MAAN DHAN YOJANA (PMKMY)
RECOMMENDATION (SERIAL NO. 6)**

1.8 The Committee had observed/ recommended:-

"Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PMKMY) is a Pension Scheme for the Small and Marginal Farmers having cultivable land up to 2 Hectares. Farmers

within the age group of 18-40 years are eligible to get themselves enrolled under the Scheme. The Scheme aims at providing an assured pension of Rs. 3000 per month once the farmer attains the age of 60 years. The Scheme was introduced in the month of September 2019 (Financial Year 2019-20) and aimed to cover about 5 Crore beneficiaries upto the year 2021-22 (First Three Financial Years) which has been revised downwards to three Crores in the Financial Year 2019-20 to 2021-22. The Committee have been informed that only 21,20,310 farmers have subscribed to this Yojana till date. The Committee view PMKMY as a Flagship Social Security Scheme catering to provide financial security to most deprived section of our society. This Scheme, if properly implemented, will help Small and Marginal Farmers which constitute majority farming community of our Country, to lead a dignified life in their twilight years. However, the Committee are not happy with very low level of enrolment under the Scheme till date. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to identify the reasons for low subscription of farmers to the Yojana and if needed, comprehensively modify the Yojana to make it attractive for the subscription by the farmers."

1.9 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated:-

"Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana was launched in the month of September 2019 (FY 2019-20) and it was initially anticipated that about 5 crore beneficiaries will join the Scheme upto the year 2021-22. However, since it is a voluntary and contributory Pension Scheme for Small and Marginal Farmers, the anticipated number of farmers have not joined this Scheme mainly due to the reason that State/UTs could not found sufficient number of Small and Marginal Farmers in the age group of 18-40 years due to lesser number of landholding farmer in that age group. Further, at the time of start of the Scheme, it was envisaged that some of the States/UTs would bear the contribution due to farmers which will incentivize them to join the Scheme, however, Haryana became the only State government who agreed to share the cost of farmer's contribution.

Regular campaigns are being run to enroll new beneficiaries with the help of network of common service centres around the country."

1.10 Taking note of very low level of enrolment under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PMKMY), a voluntary and contributory Pension Scheme introduced in September 2019 for the Small and Marginal Farmers having cultivable land upto 2 Hectares to lead a dignified life in their twilight years, the Committee had recommended the Department to identify the reasons for low subscription of farmers to the Yojana and if needed, comprehensively modify the Yojana to make it attractive for the subscription by the farmers. The Department in its Action Taken Replies has submitted that the anticipated number of farmers have not joined this Scheme mainly due to lesser number of landholding farmers in the age group of 18-40 years (eligibility criteria for the Scheme) and no State/UT Government except Haryana agreed to share the cost of farmer's contribution as envisaged at the time of start of the Scheme. The Department however, remained conspicuously silent on the issue of comprehensively modifying the Yojana to make it attractive for the subscription by the farmers as recommended by the Committee. The Committee also note that the Department in its Action Taken Reply to the Recommendation No.8 of the Ninth Report [Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21)] while furnishing the same reasons for low enrolment under the Scheme as stated above had also stated to consider appropriate improvement in the Scheme without altering the basic features of the Scheme. However, even after elapse of more than a year and clear cut recommendation of the Committee to comprehensively modify the Yojana, if needed, to make it attractive for the subscription by the farmers, the Department has shown no movement on the issue. The Committee find it disturbing and this reflects poorly on the functioning of the Department.

The Committee take this lackadaisical attitude of the Department very seriously and reiterate their earlier recommendation to comprehensively modify the Yojana to make it attractive for subscription by the farmers.

**C. PROCUREMENT OF CATTLE DUNG FROM FARMERS
RECOMMENDATION (SERIAL NO. 11)**

1.11 The Committee had observed/ recommended:-

"The Committee note that Government of Chhattisgarh is procuring Cow Dung under 'Godhan Naya Yojana' since 2020 @ Rs.2.0/kg from farmers for vermi-composting. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water and Sanitation) have been implementing a Scheme named 'Gobardhan'. The Committee are of considered view that procuring of Cattle Dung directly from the farmers will not only augment their income and provide employment opportunity but also address the problem of stray cattle and promote Organic Farming in the Country as the Country has vast cattle population. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to initiate a Scheme for procurement of Cattle Dung from farmers in coordination with Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying."

1.12 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated:-

"For Procurement of Cow Dung-Under PKVY and MOVCDNER Schemes, Government is providing financial assistance to farmers for procurement of organic input. Farmers practicing organic farming are having milch animals/cattles. However, under PKVY Cow Dung is not being procured for composting by the states. Moreover, it has come to the notice that Govt. of Chhattisgarh is procuring Cow dung under 'Godhan Naya Yojana' since 2020@ Rs 2.0 / kg from farmers for vermi-composting. Since under PKVY certified organic farming is being done, therefore, dung from stray cattle is not allowed."

1.13 Considering the fact that procurement of Cattle Dung directly from the farmers would not only augment their income and provide employment opportunity but would also address the problem of stray cattle and promote Organic Farming in the Country as the Country has vast cattle population, the Committee had recommended the Department to initiate a Scheme for procurement of Cattle Dung from farmers in coordination with Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying might be on similar lines as is being run by the State Government of Chhattisgarh. The Department in its Action Taken Replies has not stated anything relating to the recommendation of the Committee. Instead, it has stated about the provision of financial assistance to farmers for procurement of Organic Inputs under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) Schemes. Besides, Farmers practicing organic farming are having milch animals/cattles. However, under PKVY Cow Dung is not being procured for composting by the states. Further, the Department has informed that that Govt. of Chhattisgarh is procuring Cow dung under 'Godhan Naya Yojona' since 2020@ Rs 2.0 / kg from farmers for vermi-composting, which the Committee are already aware of.

The Committee express their dissatisfaction over the casual reply furnished by the Department and reiterate their earlier recommendation to initiate a Scheme for procurement of Cattle Dung from farmers in coordination with Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The Committee also desire the Department to furnish clear and categorical replies to the recommendations of the Committee.

CHAPTER - II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Analysis of Demands Recommendation No.1

The Committee note that allocations of Rs.123017.57 Crore (BE) have been made for Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) during the year 2021-22 which is 3.53 Percent of total allocations of Central Government for the year 2021-22. The Committee also observe that the Department had proposed an amount of Rs.145605.41 Crore under BE 2021-22. However, the allocation of Rs.123017.57 Crore (BE) for the year 2021-22 is Rs.11382.20 Crore less than the allocation of Rs.134399.77 Crore for 2020-21 (BE). There has been a decrease in allocations under various Schemes of the Department such as Interest Subsidy for Short Term Credit to Farmers, Implementation of Market Intervention Scheme/Price Support Scheme (MIS/PSS), Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana, etc. as compared to BE (2020-21). The Committee also note that Agriculture plays a vital role in India's Economy. 54.6% of the total workforce is engaged in Agricultural and Allied Sector activities and accounts for 17.8% of the Country's Gross Value Added (GVA) for the year 2019-20. The Committee are of the considered view that there is need for enhancement in allocations for implementation of various Schemes of the Department for providing more support to farmers in order to achieve the aim of doubling the income of farmers by 2022. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Government to enhance the allocations for Agriculture Sector. The Committee desire the Department to take up the issue of enhancement of funds with the Ministry of Finance but however fully utilize the allocated funds for achieving the targets and effective implementation of the various Schemes and Programmes.

Reply of the Government

In line with the suggestion of the Committee, Department is making continuous efforts with Ministry of Finance for enhancing allocation of funds in Agriculture Sector. Department has requested for an allocation of Rs. 145605.41 Crore under BE (2021-22) for the Agriculture Sector and even in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented demand on public financial resources, Government of India has allocated Rs. 123017.57 crore to DAC & FW under BE 2021-22 which is 5.36% more than RE (Rs. 116757.92 Cr.) 2020-21.

Keeping in view the evoking situation arising out of COVID-19 and anticipated cash position of government, Government of India has reviewed the existing guidelines for expenditure control and many of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India have been advised to restrict their overall expenditure within 20% of BE 2021-22 in quarter 2 (July to September, 2021). However, it is apprised to the Committee that this Department has been exempted from this restriction.

This Department will further take up with Ministry of Finance to fulfill the additional requirement of funds at RE stage and will take all possible steps for maximum utilization of funds.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Surrender of Fund **Recommendation No.2**

The Committee note that the Department has surrendered an amount of Rs. 34517.70 Crore and Rs. 17849.89 Crore (tentative) during 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively. The Committee were informed that as per instructions of the Government, unutilized funds have to be surrendered to Ministry of Finance within the same Financial Year. The Committee were further informed that less utilization of funds is mainly on account of slow economic activity on the part of State Governments due to COVID-19 Pandemic and other related factors related to this. This is also attributable to non-submission of Utilization Certificates, non-release of State share by some of the State Governments which are essentially required for further release of funds in accordance with the Guidelines of the Government of India. The Committee are constrained to note that such large amount of funds surrendered would adversely affect the implementation of the Schemes. The Committee are of the considered view that there should be maximum utilization of funds available under various Schemes in order to achieve the targets and benefit the farmers of the Country. The Committee recommend the Department to vigorously pursue the matter with the State Governments and other concerned Organizations for expediting the proposals and other related issues to be resolved promptly. The Committee also recommend that the pace of expenditure and flow of funds under the various Schemes should be monitored at regular intervals so as to avoid such huge surrender of funds. The Committee, desire the Department to identify the factors and rules in Operational Guidelines which hinder or restrict the utilization of funds and take/propose necessary steps to improve the utilization of funds.

Reply of the Government

The Department has surrendered Rs. 34517.70 crore and Rs. 23824.54 crore to Ministry of Finance during 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively. The reasons behind less utilization of funds on account of slow economic activity on the part of State Governments and mainly due to Covid-19 Pandemic and other related factors such as non-submission of Utilization Certificates, non-release of State share by some of the State Governments. It may also be stated that keeping proportional provision is mandatory under 10% GBS norms for NER by non-exempted / Deaparments as per the guidelines of Ministry of Finance. The provision made for NER during 2019-20 and 2020-21 was Rs. 12986.08 crore and Rs. 13388.79 crore respectively. Out of which, Rs. 8927.11 crore and Rs. 10462 crore remain unutilized during 2019-20 and 2020-21

respectively. The less requirement in NER mainly attributed to the reasons such as (i) land holding is essential criteria for release of funds under PM-KISAN and other schemes and majority of the land holding in NER are community lands (ii) total cultivable land (area) in NER is 2.74% of Gross Cultivable Area (GCA) and (iii) Capacity constraints are affecting schemes implementation, etc.

States have already been provided flexibility and autonomy for selection, approval and implementation of the projects under schemes like RKVY as per their needs, priorities to ease implementation of projects under the scheme in their States.

Further, in line with the recommendations of Committee, this Department is pursuing the matter with the State Governments and other concerned organizations for expediting the proposals and to resolve other related issues promptly and closely monitoring pace of expenditure and flow of funds under the various schemes and identifying the factors and rules in Operational Guidelines which hinder or restrict the utilization of funds and incorporating the provisions in proposed EFC of the schemes.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) **Recommendation No.4**

The Committee note that there is provision for earmarking specific funds for implementation of Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) under different Schemes/Programmes. The Committee further note that the BE for these Sub-Plans was scaled down at RE Stage last year and the current year and still the Department failed to utilize the allocated funds. The Department was able to utilize Rs.5543.45 Crore, Rs.12698.33 Crore and Rs.8293.33 Crore only (upto 12.2020) as against allocations of Rs.11165.86 Crore, Rs.16826.93 Crore and Rs.19289.04 Crore at RE Stage during the year 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively under Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan. Similarly, the Department was able to utilize Rs.3354.76 Crore, Rs.8434.19 Crore and Rs.7446.15 Crore only (upto 12.2020) as against allocations of Rs.5784.72 Crore, Rs. 8717.57 Crore and Rs.9993.11 Crore at RE Stage during the year 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively under Tribal Sub-Plan. The Committee are of the view that Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan are major Schemes being implemented by the Department which enhance the earning & livelihood of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers by reduction in cost of cultivation & increase in net returns. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to take necessary steps to enhance the level of utilization of funds under Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan. The Committee also recommend the Department to undertake a Special Drive for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Farmers to increase their awareness and extend benefits available under various Schemes being implemented by the Department.

Reply of the Government

Despite low demand under SC/ST category, funds were allocated proportionately as per guidelines of Ministry of Finance. However, the Department is taking all possible steps in line with the recommendations of the Committee such as enhancing the utilization of funds under SC and ST category, undertaking a special drive for SC and ST farmers for increasing awareness and extending benefits under various schemes. The actions initiated to prevent recurrence of large scale savings are as follows:-

(i) Exercise of finalization of Annual Action Plans has been initiated well in advance and states have been impressed upon to ensure full utilization of funds based on realistic plans.

(ii) States are sensitized to complete the documentation and audit of their accounts so that Ministry may release the funds in a timely manner.

(iii) The department holds the meeting of Empowered Committee to clear project based proposals from time to time and regional meetings to ascertain the problem of areas and find solutions etc.

(iv) Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) sub-scheme of ISAM has a promotional provision of enhanced grants to SC/ST category. Special awareness programme for all the beneficiaries, including SC/ST are organised under the scheme to disseminate scheme benefits to these categories.

(v) The scheme of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is area/project based. MIDH aims at promoting holistic growth of the horticulture sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies and the Annual Plans received from the State Implementing Agencies were finalized for implementation in selected Districts adopting cluster approach for each fruit and vegetable crop. Keeping in mind the overall social objectives, funds are targeted for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The State Horticulture Missions are suitably instructed to target funds allocation in proportion to SC/ST population of State for SC/ST farmers/ beneficiaries while giving subsidy as well as for skill development for growing horticulture crops. The flow of funds for SC/ST farmers is being determined on rational basis duly keeping in view the nature of the programme, its area of operation, the proportion of these categories of population in the operational area.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) **Recommendation No.5**

PM-Kisan was started on 01.12.2018 by the Government of India with a view to provide income support to all farmer families across the country and enable them to take care of expenses related to Agriculture and Allied activities as well

as domestic needs. The Scheme aims to provide all eligible farmer families across the country a benefit of Rs.6000 per year in three installments of Rs. 2000 subject to certain exclusions. The Scheme is being implemented online through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode for which an exclusive web-portal www.pmkisan.gov.in has been created. The Committee note that identification of beneficiaries for the Scheme is the sole responsibility of the State/UT Governments which upload their necessary details on the PM-KISAN portal for enabling transfer of benefits to them. The Committee note that PM-KISAN Scheme is being implemented in all States/UTs except in West Bengal. The Government of West Bengal has shown their willingness to implement the Scheme recently. Accordingly, the process of identification of eligible beneficiaries under PM-KISAN Scheme has been initiated and the benefit would be provided to farmers in West Bengal after receipt of verified data and their validation through Aadhar/PFMS in due course. The Committee also note that the initial issues such as non-availability of proper land records in many States, demographic authentication of Aadhar data, incorrect bank accounts, poor internet connectivity in the rural areas hampering uploading of data on PM-KISAN Portal, slow pace of identification of beneficiaries and uploading data by State Governments etc. in implementation of the Scheme have been gradually resolved and the Scheme has been streamlined. As a result benefits have been provided to over 10.75 Crore farmers and funds amounting to Rs.1,15,382.5736 Crore have been transferred into their Bank Accounts by way of various Installments upto 15.02.2021. The Committees are of view that PM-KISAN Scheme is one of the ambitious Programmes, which has potential to change the financial status of majority of the poor farmers. It is, therefore, imperative that all necessary steps are taken to register every eligible farmer under the Scheme in order to transfer fund directly in their Bank Accounts.

Reply of the Government

Under the PM-KISAN Scheme the entire responsibility of identification of eligible beneficiary farmer families and uploading their correct and verified details on the web portal www.pmkisan.gov.in for getting them the benefits of the PM-KISAN rests with the concerned State/UT Government. The State/UT Governments are required to identify eligible beneficiaries based on the available land records and as per the Operational Guidelines of the Scheme, which also entails applying all exclusion criteria for the purpose. All the States have been identifying the beneficiaries and helping implementation of the Scheme.

The data of beneficiaries uploaded by the State / UT Governments undergoes a multilevel verification and validation by various concerned agencies, including the banks, which includes rejection of data for errors at various levels and re-uploading of error-free data by the State / UT Governments. Thereafter only the amount is successfully transferred into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. This entire process is replicated for transfer of every installment.

To achieve 100% saturation, a special facility has been provided to the farmers in the PM-Kisan portal, namely, 'Farmers Corner'. Through this facility, the farmers can also do their self-registration through the 'Farmers Corner' in the portal. Farmers can also edit their names in PM-Kisan database as per their Aadhaar database / card through the 'Farmers Corner' in the portal. Farmers can also know the status of their payment through the 'Farmers Corner' in the portal. Village-wise details of beneficiaries are also available on the 'Farmers Corner'. The Common Service Centres (CSCs) have also been authorized to do registration of the farmers for the Scheme upon payment of fees. The above facilities on "Farmers Corner" are also available through CSCs. A special Mobile App has also been launched on 24th February, 2020 on the 1st anniversary of the successful implementation of scheme. The App provides the facilities available through 'Farmers Corner'.

So far, as on 07.07.2021, under the Scheme, the benefits of the scheme have been provided to 11.06 crore beneficiary farmers families after the receipt of 100% verified data from State/UT Governments and their validation through Aadhar/PFMS.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - Per Drop More Crop Recommendation No.7

The Committee note that Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) operational from 2015-16 focuses on Water Use Efficiency at the farm level through precision/ micro irrigation. Besides promoting precision irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System) and better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources, this Component also supports micro level water storage or water conservation/ management activities as Other Interventions (OI) to supplement source creation through micro level water storage or water conservation/management activities to complement and supplement Drought Proofing Measures. The Committee also note that 'Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF)' with a corpus of Rs.5000 Crore was created with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during 2018-19 to provide impetus to the Micro Irrigation in the Country. The Committee have been informed that the corpus of Micro Irrigation Fund has been doubled by augmenting it by another Rs.5000 Crore. The major objective of the fund is to facilitate the States in mobilizing the resources to provide top up/additional incentives to farmers for incentivizing Micro Irrigation beyond the provisions available under PMKSY-PDMC. The Committee are of the view that use of Micro-Irrigation Methods such as Drip/Sprinkler Irrigation is need of the hour in Indian Agriculture due to scarcity of water. Against this background, promotion of Water-efficient irrigation methods are strongly recommended to protect Agriculture Sector of Country. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to enhance the level of utilization of

funds under the Scheme in a time bound manner to achieve more area coverage under Micro Irrigation in the Country.

Reply of the Government

An amount of Rs.14547.94 crore as Central Assistance has been released to States under the Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY- PDMC) for implementation of micro irrigation in the country from 2015-16 to 2020-21.

The coverage of micro irrigation has been constantly increasing from past years under the PMKSY- PDMC. Total an area of 57.30 lakh ha has been covered under Micro Irrigation under PMKSY- PDMC.

Besides, Micro Irrigation Fund with corpus of Rs. 5000 crore has been created with NABARD during 2018-19. The major objective of the fund is to facilitate the States in mobilizing the resources for expanding coverage of Micro Irrigation by taking up special and innovative projects (any project for covering micro irrigation such as Coverage in specific area, specific crop, canal command, synchronization of water bodies for micro irrigation, etc.) and also for incentivizing micro irrigation beyond the provisions available under PMKSY-PDMC to encourage farmers to install micro irrigation systems i.e. top-up subsidy projects (providing subsidy by states above the norms of scheme guidelines of Govt. of India).

Steering Committee of MIF and PSC of NABARD has approved projects amounting with loans under MIF to Rs. 3970.17 Crore. The total area of the projects is 12.81 lakh ha.

Out of the above approved amount, Rs. 1832.53 crore has been released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab & Tamil Nadu. Further, Government of India has recommended release of loans of Rs. 24.75 crore for the State of Haryana. Total area covered achieved till now is 5.04 lakh ha.

A project amounting Rs. 765.07 crore for loan to State Government of Rajasthan under MIF with 4.28 lakh of targeted micro-irrigation coverage has been approved by steering Committee of MIF.

Besides, proposals from West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and J&K are in pipeline at State levels. More and more States are showing interest in availing assistance from Micro Irrigation Fund considering the potential for Micro Irrigation and its significance.

To further strengthen & expand the adoption of Micro Irrigation systems by the farmers in the country for enhancing water use efficiency at farm level, a Budget announcement has been made to double the initial corpus of Micro Irrigation Fund of Rs. 5000 crore created under NABARD, by augmenting it by another Rs. 5,000 crores.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) **Recommendation No.8**

Keeping in view the importance of Beekeeping in overall sustainable development of Agri & source of livelihood of Rural poor, and to address the challenges in the Sector, the Government of India approved a new Central Sector Scheme entitled “National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)” with total budget outlay of Rs.300.00 crores for 2 years (2018-19 & 2019-20) for overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping in mission mode to achieve the goal of “Sweet Revolution” in the country. As informed by the Ministry the main objective of the Scheme is Holistic growth of beekeeping industry for income & employment generation, providing livelihood support to farm and non-farm households and to enhance agriculture/ horticulture production by promoting Scientific Beekeeping in the Country. The Committee note that NBHM has been revised and approved with an amount of Rs.500.00 crore for 3 years (2020-21 to 2022-23) under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Announcement for Beekeeping initiatives. The main outcomes/ targets proposed to be achieved under the Scheme by end of 2023-24 will be: Honey production – 1,82,000 Metric Tonnes(MTs), No. of Honey Bee Colonies- 45 lakhs, Export of Honey-90,000 MTs & Generation of Employment about 5 Lakhs. The Committee are of the view that Beekeeping has been useful in pollination of crops, thereby, increasing income of the farmers/beekeepers by way of increasing crops yield and providing honey and other beehive products, viz, royal jelly, bee pollen, propolis, bees wax etc. that serves as source of livelihood for the rural poor. Diversified Agro-Climatic conditions of India provide great potential and opportunities for beekeeping/ honey production and export of Honey. The Committee while appreciating the vision of the Government to achieve the goals of "Sweet Revolution" desire that all out efforts be made to achieve the ambitious targets set under this Mission with a time bound Action Plan worked out for the purpose. The Committee feel that the NBHM will not only help in increasing income of farmers and provide source of livelihood for rural poor but also help in earning precious foreign exchange from the export of Honey.

Reply of the Government

Keeping in view the importance of beekeeping, a new Central Sector Scheme entitled **National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)** was approved by Government of India for Rs. 300.00 crores for period of 2 years (2018-19 to 2019-20). National Beekeeping & Honey Mission has again been approved for **Rs. 500.00 crores** for three years (2020-21 to 2022-23) under **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Announcement** for its implementation in the field for overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping & to achieve the goal of “**Sweet Revolution**”. Scheme is being implemented through National Bee Board. National Beekeeping & Honey Mission has 3 Mini Missions: **(i) Mini Mission-I:** will concentrate on production & productivity improvements of various crops by promoting adoption of scientific beekeeping by the farmers/ beekeepers. Thrust will be given on setting up of Integral Beekeeping Development Centres/ Centre of Excelences on Beekeeping at district/ division/ state and national level, Human Resource Development/capacity building, development of infrastructural facilities, training centres/ institutes, honey testing labs, custom hiring centres, Api-therapy centres, nucleus stock, bee breeders, etc. and empowerment of

women through Beekeeping; **(ii) Mini Mission-II:** will concentrate on post-harvest management of beekeeping/ beehive products, including collection, processing, storage, marketing, value addition, etc. with thrust to develop requisite infrastructural facilities for these activities; and **(iii) Mini Mission-III:** will concentrate on Research & Technology generation for different Regions/ States/ Agro-Climatic and Socio-Economic conditions.

2. As mentioned in above, under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission thrust will be given for post harvest management of honey & other beehive products, including, collection, processing, storage, marketing, value addition, etc. It will help in promoting export of honey and achieving the targets of export of 90,000 MTs of honey by the end of 2023-24.

3. Further, among others, for quality control of honey & other beehive products, 5 Regional/ Big Honey Testing Labs & 100 Mini/ Satellite honey testing labs have been planned to set up under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission. Out of which, 3 Regional/ Big Honey Testing Labs & 13 Mini/ Satellite honey testing labs have been set up upto March, 2021 under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission. One Regional/ Big State of the Art Honey Testing Lab **at National Dairy Development Board**, Anand, Gujarat has already been set up & started testing of honey & other beehive products as per the standards notified by **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.

4. Further, among others, 2 more Regional/ Big & 87 Mini/Satellite Honey & other beehive products Testing labs/ Honey Testing labs have been planned to set up under NBHM.

5. 100 main beekeeping districts/ clusters have been selected for formation of 100 FPOs of Beekeepers/Honey producers for overall promotion & development of scientific beekeeping in the country.

6. Some other achievements of NBHM/ beekeeping/ **National Bee Board(NBB)** are summarized as under:

- **Honey production** has increased from 51,000 MTs (2006-07) to 1,25,000 MTs (2020-21 Estmtd.).
- **Export of honey** has increased from 8135.62 MTs (2006-07) to 59,999.23 MTs (2020-21).
- **About 30000 farmers/ beekeepers** have been trained in scientific beekeeping, including production of high value beehive products, viz.; Bee Pollen, Propolis, Royal Jelly, Bee Venom, etc.
- **10,000** Beekeepers/ Beekeeping & Honey Societies/ Firms/ Companies with **16.00 lakhs honeybee colonies** have been registered with **National Bee Board**.
- **Advisories on Good Beekeeping Practices (GBPs)** published & circulated to all State Governments. & concerned Agencies/ Stakeholders.
- **Pursued for Standards of Honey & other beehive products. Standards of Honey, Bees Wax & Royal Jelly notified by FSSAI.** In pursuance to efforts made by NBB, in addition to implementation of 15 parameters of honey standards, orders for implementation of standards/ tests of **Specific Marker for Rice and Foreign Oligosaccharides**, which were previously deleted, **have been issued by FSSAI.**

- **Safal Brand of honey** launched by Mother Dairy under technical guidance/advice & support of **National Bee Board** and honey is being sold at Safal Outlets in NCR.
- Project of Online registration/ traceability system for honey & other beehive products under NBHM launched and is working.
- Total 45 projects for assistance of Rs. 86.23 crores approved/ sanctioned for funding **under NBHM** till date, including setting up of three honey testing labs at National Dairy Development Board, Anand (already setup), Indian Agricultural Research Institutes, Pusa, New Delhi & Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bengaluru, setting up of 13 mini/ satellite & two big/ regional honey testing labs, awareness/ seminars & capacity building in scientific beekeeping, empowerment of women through beekeeping, technology demonstrations on impact of honeybees on yield enhancement & quality improvements of Agricultural/Horticultural. produce, distribution of specialized beekeeping equipments for production of high value products, viz. royal jelly, bee venom, comb honey, etc., development of quality nucleus stock, online registration/ developing traceability source of honey and other beehive products, etc., bee disease diagnostic labs, setting up of honey & other beehive products processing & bottling units, in-house testing labs, collection, trading, branding & marketing centres, storages, etc. and R&D have been sanctioned under NBHM. In these projects, **some of the projects are approved for implementation in Aspirational Districts /remote & other difficult areas, including North Eastern & Hilly Areas.**
- Specific Marker for Rice & Foreign Oligosaccharides tests included in honey standards.
- 5 FPOs of Beekeeper/honey producers in Bihar, UP, MP, Rajasthan & West Bengal formed/ launched by Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare on 26.11.2020.
- For marketing support to the FPOs, NAFED has developed 14-15 Honey Corners in their stores. More Honey Corners will also be developed by NAFED to promote market support for honey & other beehive products.
- Details of Honey Exported from India during last 7 years are given as under:

Details of Honey Export for the last 7 years (2014-15 to 2020-21)		
Honey Export in Metric Tonnes (MTs)		
S. N.	Years	Quantity in "000" MTs
1	2014-15	29.58
2	2015-16	38.18
3	2016-17	45.06
4	2017-18	51.55
5	2018-19	61.33
6	2019-20	59.54
7	2020-21	59.99

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)

Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs)

Recommendation No.9

The Committee note that a New Scheme 'Farmer Producer Organizations' has been launched in July 2020. Under the Scheme, formation of 10,000 FPOs across the Country is targeted in five years period till 2023-24. New FPOs will be developed by specialist 'Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs)' engaged by Implementing Agencies which will further engage Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) to form and provide professional handholding support to FPOs for a period of 5 years. The Committee have been informed by the Department that intensive efforts will be made to form and promote at least 15% of the targeted 10,000 FPOs in Aspirational districts with at least one FPO in each Block of Aspirational Districts of the Country. The Committee also note that Rs.700 Crore has been allocated during BE 2021-22 for the Scheme with the target of formation of 2500 FPOs during 2021-22. The Committee are of the view that FPOs help their Farmer Members in aggregating and also helps in value addition and providing common logistic to provide better linkages to market; which, in turn, helps towards reducing Post-harvest losses. FPOs will be able to enhance productivity through efficient, cost-effective and sustainable resource use and realise higher return through better liquidity and market linkages for their produce and become sustainable through collective action. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to make sincere efforts to properly implement and achieve the target fixed under the Scheme as its proper implementation will not only help in augmenting income of the farmers but also considerably improve the rural economy and create job opportunities for rural youths in village itself.

Reply of the Government

The scheme has following objectives:

- a) The scheme will provide holistic and broad based supportive ecosystem to form and promote 10,000 FPOs to make them economically sustainable and agri enterprising leading to overall socio-economic development of agrarian community.
- b) The scheme will provide professional handholding and support to FPOs up to 5 years from the aggregation in all aspects of management of FPO, input, production, processing and value addition, market linkages, credit linkages and use of technology, effective capacity building etc.
- c) FPO Management Cost of Rs. 18 lakh per FPO will be provided towards for salary of staffs, registration of FPO, office rent and utility charges, minor equipment cost, travel & misc. expenses etc.
- d) Dedicated fund of upto 1500 crore has been created for providing suitable credit guarantee cover to accelerate flow of institutional credit to FPOs by minimizing the risk of financial institutions for granting loan to FPOs so as to improve their financial ability to execute better business plans leading increased profits.
- e) Equity Grant will be provided in the form of matching grant upto Rs. 2,000 per farmer member of FPO subject to maximum limit of Rs. 15.00 lakh fixed per FPO.

- f) This will contribute to enhancing cost effective production and productivity and higher net incomes to the member farmer producers through better liquidity and market linkages for their produce and become sustainable through collective action.
- g) It is a major step towards improving farmers' income substantially.
- h) This will considerably improve rural economy and create job opportunities for rural youths in villages itself

With the above mentioned objectives envisaged under the scheme, the Department is committed to make all out efforts to effectively implement the scheme so that the benefits of the scheme reaches to the targeted groups. So far, 402 FPOs have been formed till June 30, 2021.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) **Recommendation No. 10**

The Committee note with high degree of appreciation that a new Central Sector Scheme 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)' has been approved by Cabinet in July, 2020 to provide medium – long term debt financing facility for investment in viable Projects for Post-harvest Management Infrastructure and Community Farming Assets through interest subvention and financial support. Under the scheme, Rs. 1 lakh crore will be provided by Banks and Financial Institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public Private Partnership Project. All loans under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 Crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of 7 years. Further, Credit Guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Scheme for a loan up to Rs. 2 Crore. The Committee, recommend the Department to implement the Scheme properly to achieve the desired aim of creation of infrastructure at the farm gate. The Committee also recommend the Department to plan for creation of requisite Farm Gate Infrastructure in all Regions of the Country so as to avoid concentration of Projects in a particular Region.

Reply of the Government

Recommendation of the Committee to implement the AIF scheme properly to achieve the desired aim of creation of infrastructure at the farm gate will be complied and to avoid Concentration of Projects in a particular region funds have been allocated

to all states for creation of requisite Farm Gate Infrastructure to avoid concentration of projects in a particular region.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) - Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)

Recommendation No.12

The Committee note that a Sub-Scheme named Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana was initiated in 2010-11 with the objective of improving productivity in the rice based cropping system of Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, U.P and Chhattisgarh. The Committee have been informed that the production of rice has increased in seven Eastern States from 45.65 Million Tonnes during 2009-10 to 59.97 Million Tonnes during 2019-20 after implementation of BGREI. Further, the productivity of rice has increased in seven Eastern States from 1786 kg/ha during 2009-10 to 2373 kg/ha during 2019-20 whereas the productivity of rice has increased in rest of the Country from 2656 kg/ha during 2009-10 to 3158 kg/ha during 2019-20. The Committee are of the view that the productivity of rice in Eastern States is quite less than rest of the Country despite implementation of BGREI and it seems the desired objectives of BGREI were not achieved. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take proactive steps for enhancing productivity of rice in the States of Eastern India.

Reply of the Government

Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) programme for rice is being implemented to address the constraints limiting the productivity of “**rice based cropping systems**” for enhancing the productivity of rice in 120 district of Eastern States namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The States have been given flexibility to extend erstwhile BGREI scheme benefits under normal RKVY during 2021-22.

In order to enhance productivity of rice, the financial support is being provided to the States for promotion of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) and Hybrids of rice under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in low productivity districts i.e. non BGREI districts of the Eastern states. Under NFSM, assistance is provided for Cluster Demonstrations on Direct Seeded Rice/Line Transplanting, System of Rice Intensification; Demonstrations on Hybrid Rice; Demonstrations on submergence/stress tolerant varieties viz; Swarna Sub-1/SahbhagiDhan; Seed Distribution; Plant & Soil Protection Management; Resource Conservation Techniques/Tools; Pump sets; Trainings etc.

In addition, BGREI is proposed to be subsumed into NFSM from 2021-22 for which approvals are being taken. Further erstwhile BGREI components can be taken under

RKVY as per norms of RKVY till such time the approval for subsuming BGREI into NFSM is being obtained.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)
Recommendation No.13

The Committee note that recognizing the need to mechanize Small and Marginal farms which constitute about 85% of the total land holdings, and for inclusive growth of the farm mechanization sector in the Country, a Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) was launched in the year 2014-15 with the objectives of increasing the reach of farm mechanization, promoting Custom Hiring Centres, creating hubs for hi-tech and high value farm equipment, creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities and ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the Country. The Committee also note that the utilization of fund under SMAM since inception is less than the allocation. Out of Rs. 4715.66 Crore allocated, expenditure has been only Rs. 3240.42 Crore. Also, the Committee are dismayed to note the poor Physical Performance under this Mission. In fact, there are Regional disparities in the performance under various parameters. No demonstrations have been conducted in States like Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu and Tripura. Again no Custom Hiring Centre has been established in Jharkhand and few North-East States. Again, Hi-Tech Hubs have been established only in 11 States under this Mission. The Committee are of the view that Agriculture Mechanization is an essential input in Modern Agriculture to increase productivity and for making judicious use of other inputs like seeds, fertilizers, chemicals, pesticides and natural resources like water, soil nutrients, etc. besides reducing human drudgery and cost of cultivation. Agriculture Mechanization also helps in improving safety and comfort of the agricultural worker, improvements in the quality and value of farm produce and also enabling farmers to take a second and subsequent crop making Indian agriculture more attractive and profitable. It can enable Indian farming to switch over from being subsistence-based to commercially based. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take necessary steps for removing inter-regional disparities in level of mechanization in the Country and for this there is an urgent need to introduce and improve farm equipment in their existing farming systems in selective manner and improve their availability for existing cropping systems in less mechanized regions of the Country.

Reply of the Government

Though the State-wise allocation since 2014-15 to 2020-21 was made for Rs. 4715.66 Crores, the actual release of funds to the States based on the Annual Action Plans was Rs. 4357.64 Crores as on 31 March 2021. The expenditure of the funds as

reported by the States as on 31.03.2021 was Rs. 3653.02 Crores (83.83%). The shortfall in expenditure is mainly due to the facts that the States of Punjab, Assam, Telangana, Bihar & Jharkhand could not utilize the funds due to non-availability of matching grants from State Plan. Some of the smaller and NE States prefer for establishment of Village Level Farm Machinery Banks depending on the financial status of the farmers and land holding and therefore in some of the such States the Custom Hiring Centres have not been established. The Hi-tech hub encompasses the high value machines mainly used for commercial cropping like sugarcane & cotton. Therefore, Hi-tech hubs have been established by some of the major States only. The farm power availability in India has increased considerably from 1.73 kW/ha during 2013-14 to 2.49 kW/ha during 2018-19 due to lot of efforts and farm mechanization interventions through the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM). In order to address issues of inter-regional disparities in level of mechanization, establishment of Custom Hiring Centres and Farm Machinery Banks are promoted to increase the level of farm mechanization of small and marginal farmers and in regions where availability of farm power is low.

The Department has also launched a multi-lingual mobile app-based aggregator platform 'FARMS' (Farm Machinery Solutions) App, which facilitates hiring and renting of farm machinery from and by the Custom Hiring Centres/owners of the farm machinery. This mobile app encompasses a fair and transparent rental process while focusing on quality, dependability and timely delivery of the services. So far 69704 service providers have registered on this app with more than 162284 machines for renting. More than 52391603 farmers/other users have also registered for availing the services through this app.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

CHAPTER - III

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

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CHAPTER - IV

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

Status of Utilization Certificates

Recommendation No.3

The Committee note that the issue of pending Utilization Certificates (UCs) is one of the factors which led to less utilization of Funds allocated to the Department. This issue has been raised time and again by the Committee. The Committee further note that there is pendency of an amount of Rs. 536.57 Crore, Rs. 1438.31 Crore and Rs. 2931.88 Crore against the outstanding Utilization Certificates as on 01.04.2018, 01.04.2019 and 30.12.2020, respectively under various Schemes of the Department. The non-submission of UCs by the respective States/UTs is of serious concern to the Committee as further processes are often held up for want of submission of such Certificates; which may in turn result in stalling the progress in implementation of important Schemes having direct impact on the vulnerable farmers in the Country. The Committee have emphasized, time and again, on resolving this pernicious problem. However, the Department has not been able to resolve this issue till date. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to initiate corrective measures to resolve this issue and also to pursue the matter proactively with all the Implementing Agencies so as to be able to seek a lasting solution to this perennial problem. The Committee would like to be apprised of the Action Plan worked out by the Department to resolve the problem.

Reply of the Government

The matter of Unspent balance is regularly followed up with the State Governments and other implementing agencies through correspondence, telephonic discussions, video conferences, etc. The need for finalizing the projects under the various schemes and furnishing UCs in time has also been emphasized in various review meeting held with officers of the concerned State Governments. Normally, funds are released to the States after their submission of UCs along-with State share & progress report.

Due to concerted effort, number of UCs and amount pending in respect of the Department has been reduced considerably and status as on 30.06.2021 vis-à-vis 30.06.2020 may be seen as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.		UCs Pending against the release made upto 01.04.2016		UCs Pending against the release made upto 01.04.2017		UCs Pending against the release made upto 01.04.2018		UCs Pending against the release made upto 01.04.2019	
		Nos	Amount	Nos	Amount	Nos	Amount	Nos	Amount
1.	30.06.2020	151	696.63	215	1277.67	348	2890.73	599	5178.6
2.	30.06.2021	119	206.98	161	685.77	232	862.62	351	1993.5

Department is holding video conference with concerned officials of State Governments frequently to monitor the scheme implementation. They were asked to submit UCs at the earliest to avail further installment of funds under the scheme in such meetings, besides sending communication to defaulting states. Efforts are also being made by the Department to convince the States to utilize funds at the earliest and submit the UCs to avail further installments of funds under the scheme through various means of communications. Further, under some schemes, Department is encouraging & motivating States to submit UCs at the earliest by incentivizing the better performing States by providing them additional funds from the savings available at the end of financial year as a result of less utilization of funds by some States.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.7 of Chapter I of this Report.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PMKMY) Recommendation No.6

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana Scheme (PMKMY) is a Pension Scheme for the Small and Marginal Farmers having cultivable land up to 2 Hectares. Farmers within the age group of 18-40 years are eligible to get themselves enrolled under the Scheme. The Scheme aims at providing an assured pension of Rs. 3000 per month once the farmer attains the age of 60 years. The Scheme was introduced in the month of September 2019 (Financial Year 2019-20) and aimed to cover about 5 Crore beneficiaries upto the year 2021-22 (First Three Financial Years) which has been revised downwards to three Crores in the Financial Year 2019-20 to 2021-22. The Committee have been informed that only 21,20,310 farmers have subscribed to this Yojana till date. The Committee view PMKMY as a Flagship Social Security Scheme catering to provide financial security to most deprived section of our society. This Scheme, if properly implemented, will help Small and Marginal Farmers which constitute

majority farming community of our Country, to lead a dignified life in their twilight years. However, the Committee are not happy with very low level of enrolment under the Scheme till date. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to identify the reasons for low subscription of farmers to the Yojana and if needed, comprehensively modify the Yojana to make it attractive for the subscription by the farmers.

Reply of the Government

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana was launched in the month of September 2019 (FY 2019-20) and it was initially anticipated that about 5 crore beneficiaries will join the scheme upto the year 2021-22. However, since it is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for small and marginal farmers, the anticipated number of farmers have not joined this scheme mainly due to the reason that State/UTs could not find sufficient number of small and marginal farmers in the age group of 18-40 years due to lesser number of landholding farmer in that age group. Further, at the time of start of the scheme, it was envisaged that some of the States/UTs would bear the contribution due to farmers which will incentivize them to join the scheme, however Haryana became the only State government who agreed to share the cost of farmer's contribution.

Regular campaigns are being run to enroll new beneficiaries with the help of network of common service centres around the country.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.10 of Chapter I of this Report.

Procurement of Cattle Dung From Farmers **Recommendation No.11**

The Committee note that Government of Chhattisgarh is procuring Cow Dung under 'Godhan Naya Yojana' since 2020 @ Rs.2.0/kg from farmers for vermi-composting. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water and Sanitation) have been implementing a Scheme named 'Gobardhan'. The Committee are of considered view that procuring of Cattle Dung directly from the farmers will not only augment their income and provide employment opportunity but also address the problem of stray cattle and promote Organic Farming in the Country as the Country has vast cattle population. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to initiate a Scheme for procurement of Cattle Dung from farmers in coordination with Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Reply of the Government

For Procurement of cow dung-Under PKVY and MOVCDNER schemes, Government is providing financial assistance to farmers for procurement of organic input. Farmers practicing organic farming are having milch animals/cattles. However, under PKVY cow dung is not being procured for composting by the states. Moreover, it has come to the notice that Govt. of Chhattisgarh is procuring Cow dung under 'Godhan Naya Yojana' since 2020@ Rs 2.0 / kg from farmers for vermi-composting. Since under PKVY certified organic farming is being done, therefore, dung from stray cattle is not allowed.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)
Dated. 28th July, 2021]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.13 of Chapter I of this Report.

CHAPTER - V

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

-- N I L --

**NEW DELHI;
07 December, 2021
16 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)**

**P.C. GADDIGOUDAR
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal
Husbandry and Food Processing.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD
PROCESSING**

(2021-22)

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 7th December, 2021 from 1500 hrs. to 1635 hrs. in Committee Room No.2, Block-A, PHA Extension, Block-A, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri P. C. Gaddigoudar – Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Horen Singh Bey
3. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
4. Shri Abu Taher Khan
5. Shri Mohan Mandavi
6. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
7. Smt. Shardaben Anilbhai Patel
8. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
9. Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil
10. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
11. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
12. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
13. Shri V.K. Sreekandan

RAJYA SABHA

14. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa
15. Shri Kailash Soni
16. Shri Vaiko

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Shiv Kumar | – | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Juby Amar | – | Director |
| 3. | Shri Prem Ranjan | – | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the followings Reports:

- (i) Draft Action Report on Action Taken by the Government on Observations / Recommendations contained in the 24th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare);

* (ii) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

* (iii) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

* (iv) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

* (v) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the Draft Action Taken Reports without any modifications and the Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize and present these Reports to Parliament.

*4. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*5. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*6. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

The Committee then adjourned.

(A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the Sitting has been kept.)

*Matter not related to this Report

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON
THE TWENTY FOURTH REPORT (17th LOK SABHA) OF
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2020-21)
(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	13
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government Para Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13	
	Total	10
	Percentage	76.92%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Para No. NIL	
	Total	00
	Percentage	00.00%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Para Nos. 3, 6 and 11	
	Total	03
	Percentage	23.08%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited Para Nos. NIL	
	Total	00
	Percentage	00.00%