



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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Shri **Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav**, M.P. and Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture (2014-15), presented the Ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) to Lok Sabha today, the 24th April, 2015.

Some of the important recommendations of the Committee are as under:

Adopting rational approach while making allocations-urged	The Committee have observed out of approved Plan Outlay of Rs. 134746.00 crore, the actual allocation for the first four fiscals amounts to only Rs. 80772.35 crore, which is only 60% of the approved Plan Outlay, thus leading to a gap of Rs. 53973.65 crore between the funds earmarked and actually allocated. This has lead to a situation wherein the Department is left with 40% of the approved Plan Outlay for the last Fiscal of the Twelfth Plan i.e. 2016-17. Empathizing with the Department on this issue, they urge the Ministry of Finance to adopt a rational approach while making future allocations to ensure that the mismatch between approved Outlay and actual allocation is narrowed down to a great extent.
	(Recommendation Para No. 6)

<p>Re-examining the ratio of sharing of resources between centre and states in light of 14th Finance Commission- desired</p>	<p>The Committee note with concern that consequent to the award of the 14th Finance Commission the grant made to States from Central Divisible Pool has been hiked from 32% to 42%, which has resulted in drastic reduction of BE for 2015-16. While agreeing with the sentiments of this increased share of States in terms of fund allocation so as to increase their share in the funds pie, they are concerned to note that the revised contribution of States in Centrally Sponsored Schemes has not been arrived at. Rather, it is under discussion of a high level Committee in the NITI Ayog. Deprecating this haste in reduction of funds even before the quantum of State's contribution is finalised, the Committee desire that the high level Committee work out all modalities and arrive at the percentage share of States expeditiously.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 8)</p>
<p>Better coordination among multi-agencies to streamline the project completion-urged</p>	<p>The Committee are of the considered opinion that the Government should ensure that the three agencies involved in implementation of this Scheme, i.e. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Water Resources and Department of Land Resources have a clear cut demarcation of their area of operations and jurisdiction so that there is no overlapping of efforts or resources at the same time. There is no passing of the buck.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 15)</p>
<p>Fine-tuning the crop insurance schemes to mitigate the impact of adverse climatic events-urged</p>	<p>The Committee express their satisfaction on observing that during the course of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, due to increase in the coverage/penetration of schemes, more and more farmers are coming in crop insurance fold. The resultant of this is the increasing requirement of funds as is evident from the figures of allocation and utilization of funds, which reflect the same. They further note that for the first time, the States of the North Eastern Region (NER) were brought under the ambit of insurance scheme. Being well aware of the fact that vagaries of nature have increased the element of risk and uncertainty in agriculture, the Committee exhort upon the Government to further fine tune the implementation of NCIP so that the risk factor can be mitigated to the extent possible and in the wake of natural calamities, settlement of claims be resolved in real time so that succour can be provided to farmers when they need it most.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 21)</p>
<p>Instituting monitoring mechanism for regulated markets under APMC Act and also obtaining all data</p>	<p>The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government set its house in order and come up with a monitoring mechanism promptly to ensure that all data pertaining to 7114 regulated markets under the</p>

<p>about rural markets- recommended</p>	<p>APMC Act are collected, analysed and made available in the public domain.They further desire that the Ministry of Agriculture obtain all necessary data on the 22,759 rural markets from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development at the earliest and furnish the Report to the Committee within three months from the presentation of this Report to Parliament.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 25)</p>
<p>Improving soil health through integrated nutrient management, upgrading skill and knowledge of Soil testing Laboratories- recommended</p>	<p>The Committee consider the Soil Health Management (SHM) Scheme under the National Mission on sustainable Agriculture to be a pivotal scheme, that, if implemented correctly would nurture our soil health and sustain it in the long run. This is so, as Soil Health Management aims at promoting integrated nutrient management through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity; strengthening of soil and fertilizer testing facilities to provide soil test based information to farmers for improving soil fertility. This Scheme also aims to upgrade skill and knowledge of Soil Testing Laboratory staff, extension staff and farmers through training and demonstration and promoting organic farming practices etc. The Committee, therefore, impress upon all agencies involved in the implementation of this scheme to work in real earnest towards firstly having real-time information on the status of soil health across India and then taking cogent remedial measures to improve and sustain our soil health in good time. They emphasise the Department to pursue the States to implement the Scheme in letter and spirit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 26)</p>
<p>Extending technological progress and extension services to farmers- recommended</p>	<p>Taking into consideration the pivotal nature of this scheme that aims for empowering the farmer, the Committee desire that ATMA work in such a way that the benefits of agriculture technology in terms of good practices/new developments in scientific approach are able to percolate down to the farmer who is then able to imbibe the same with his traditional knowledge and practice. This can only be ensured if the extension services are able to deliver their mandate. Further, Government should ensure adequate funding and impress upon optimum utilization of allocated funds, so as to make this extension system farmer centric and farmer accountable. The Department should conduct periodic training of specialist/functionary staff, who would in turn impart training to the farmers i.e. 'Training the Trainers' so that they can further train large number of farmers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. 28)</p>

Promoting organic farming and balanced use of fertilizers- recommended

The Committee are petty sanguine that if properly implemented, the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana would be successful in bringing about the perfect mix of balanced use of fertilizers and also ensure the increased popularity of organic farming by motivating farmers to use more of organic manure and bio-pesticides/bio-fertilizers. The Committee further desire that in order to popularize organic farming the Government should provide all sops/incentives to the organic fertilizer/bio-pesticides/bio-fertilizer industry so as to bring them at par with the chemical fertilizer industry and give our farmers the right to choose between the same. Lastly, they impress upon the Government to widen the scope of PKVY and bring under its ambit the upgradation/modification of traditional agricultural implements as well as popularize the usage of traditional/light weight agri-implements so as to cater to the needs of small and marginal farmers.

(Recommendation Para No. 29)