



## **LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**18 December, 2014**  
**27 Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)**

Shri **Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav**, M.P. and Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture (2014-15), presented the Third Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) to Lok Sabha today, the 18 December, 2014.

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

<b>Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture to be invariably discussed in the House before passing of the General Budget - Recommended.</b>	Having noted that Agriculture Sector is the principal source of livelihood for more than 54.6% of the Country's population and contributes 13.9% of India's GDP, the Committee felt that time has finally dawned for this Sector to be allocated commensurate funds. The Committee have, therefore, recommended that as far as possible reduction of allocated funds should be avoided. They have further recommended that the Demands for Grants of the three Departments of Ministry of Agriculture; i.e. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries should invariably be discussed in the House every year before the General Budget is passed by the Parliament.  <b>(Recommendation Para No. 8)</b>
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<p><b>Government to go for a quantum enhancement of public investment in agriculture sector at the earliest – Recommended.</b></p>	<p>The Committee have noted that investment in Agriculture Sector being in the range of 8% to 14.2% per annum during 2004-05 to 2007-08 and public sector investment being in the range of 17.6% to 22.5%, is meagre considering the fact that agriculture is the principal source of livelihood for 54.6% of the populace. They have further noted that overall gross-capital formation in agriculture as a percentage of overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 21.2% in 2012-13. Concerned to note that majority of the population i.e. 54.6% is living on 20% of the GDP, they exhorted upon the Government to go for a quantum enhancement of public investment in agriculture sector at the earliest.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendation Para No. 9)</b></p>
<p><b>Pending action on the remaining 26 points of the National Policy for Farmers be completed at the earliest by all concerned- Desired.</b></p>	<p>The Committee have noted that an Inter-Ministerial Committee was set up for preparation of a Plan of Action for operationalisation of National Policy for Farmers, 2007 and had identified 201 points where necessary action was to be taken. Out of these 64 relate exclusively to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, another 64 relate exclusively to other Central Departments/Ministries and 73 points are common to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and other Departments. They have, therefore, expressed their dissatisfaction over the fact that even after a lapse of almost seven years, 26 points still remain for further action and desired that Department of Agriculture and Cooperation take up this matter at the highest level with the concerned Departments so that pending action on the remaining 26 points is completed at the earliest by all concerned.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendation Para No. 13)</b></p>
<p><b>Establishing a dynamic monitoring mechanism and clear cut implementation guidelines at the apex level for improving performance of Flagship Schemes of the Central Government like NFSM, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)– Urged.</b></p>	<p>Having noted that the financial as well as physical performance of Flagship Schemes of the Central Government like NFSM, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) can be further improved/fine tuned by establishing a dynamic monitoring mechanism as well as clear cut guidelines for implementation at the apex level, the Committee have urged upon the Government of India to incorporate their instant suggestion at the earliest. They have further desired that the progress achieved herein be communicated to them at the earliest.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendation Para No. 19)</b></p>

<p><b>To devise a mechanism for timely settlement of approved claims – Recommended.</b></p>	<p>Discerned to note that while insurance companies are overzealous while collecting insurance premium from farmers, their zeal gets diluted when the issue of settlement of insurance claims arises. The data furnished to the Committee relates to pendency of claims, that have been approved, but not been paid to the poor farmers. Although Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is not the agency responsible for settlement of claims, yet, the Committee were of the considered opinion that being the nodal agency for agri-insurance scheme, it is duty bound to ensure timely settlement of claims by the insurance companies. Accordingly, they have exhorted the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to devise a mechanism for timely settlement of approved claims in order to give relief to the already harassed farmer on account of unforeseen accident/calamity.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendation Para No. 24)</b></p>
<p><b>Comprehensive soil analysis across the Country - Expedited.</b></p>	<p>The Committee were aware that the declining soil health due to the reckless usage of chemical fertilizers, while increasing production have negatively impacted the soil health especially in-cases of multi-crops and intensive cultivation and that is a cause of serious concern for our agriculture. This resulted in declining soil fertility as the loss of micro and macro nutrients were not being replenished year after year and in some cases also resulted in instances of soil poisoning. The Committee have expressed their anguish over this state of affairs and strongly felt that the Government have not dealt with this issue with the alacrity it demands. Being well aware of the consequences of declining soil health on our agricultural productivity and sustainability, they have strongly felt that the need of the hour is to firstly undertake a comprehensive soil analysis across the Country at the earliest so as to be apprised of the nature of soil health, take remedial action accordingly and at the same time strictly implement adherence to a judicious mix of organic and chemical fertilizers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendation Para No. 25)</b></p>
<p><b>Farmers be educated at Panchayat Level on balanced use of fertilizers before every sowing season – Desired.</b></p>	<p>The higher usage of urea in comparison to other chemical fertilizers like Muriate of Potash (MoP), Phosphate and Potash due to ignorance on part of our farmers have concerned the Committee. Being well aware of the fact that this ignorance can only be overcome by educating our farmers on the judicious and balanced use of fertilizers, the Committee have desired that training programmes be conducted at Panchayat Level before every sowing season. Krishi</p>

	<p>Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) could carry out the field demonstrations, so that farmers would have practical first hand knowledge on balanced fertilizer usage, which would help in increasing production, productivity as well as sustaining the soil health of their fields.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendation Para No. 27)</b></p>
<p><b>Early Implementation of Mission Soil Health Card Scheme – Recommended.</b></p>	<p>The Committee have exhorted upon all the concerned agencies involved to grant clearance to Mission Soil Health Card Scheme at the earliest so as to enable its implementation from this year itself.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendation Para No. 29)</b></p>