

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING

With a view to ensuring specialized and Ministry/Department specific scrutiny and oversight of the Executive by the Legislature, the Parliament of India introduced the system of Department Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) in 1993. Initially consisting of 17 Committees, the DRSCs System was expanded to 24 Committees after reorganization in 2004. There is an exclusive DRSC on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing mandated with the task of scrutiny and oversight of the working of the following Ministries/Departments of the Government of India:

- (i) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**
 - (a) Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
 - (b) Department of Agricultural Research and Education

- (ii) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**
 - (a) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
 - (b) Department of Fisheries

- (iii) Ministry of Food Processing Industries**
- (iv) Ministry of Cooperation**

Composition of the Committee

The Committee, constituted under Rule 331C of the *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha*, consists of 31 members: 21 members from Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, and 10 from Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee from Lok Sabha. The term of office of the members of the Committee does not exceed one year.

Functions of the Committee

The Committee has been entrusted with the following functions:

- (a) to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make Reports on the same to the Houses;
- (b) to examine such Bills pertaining to the concerned Ministries/Departments as are referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be, and make Reports thereon;
- (c) to consider Annual Reports of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make Reports thereon; and

- (d) to consider national basic long term policy documents presented to the houses, if referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be, and make Reports thereon.

Working of the Committee

Procedure relating to consideration of Demands for Grants

After the general discussion on the Budget in the House is over, the Lok Sabha is adjourned for a fixed period. The Committee considers the Demands for Grants (DFGs) of the Ministries/Departments under its jurisdiction during the aforesaid period and present/lay Reports. There is a separate Report on the Demands for Grants of each Ministry/Department. The Report on Demands for Grants does not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions. The Demands for Grants are considered by the House in the light of the Reports of the Committee.

Procedure relating to consideration of Bills

The Committee considers only such Bills introduced in either of the Houses as are referred to it by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, as the case may be. The Committee considers the general principles and clauses of the Bills referred to it and makes Reports thereon within the given time.

Procedure relating to examination of Annual Reports

The Committee also selects other subjects for examination on the basis of Annual Reports of the Ministries/Departments under its jurisdiction.

Procedure relating to examination of National Long-Term Policy Documents

The Committee considers national long-term policy documents presented to the Parliament and referred to it by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or Chairman, Rajya Sabha and make Reports on such documents.

Appointment of Sub-Committees/Study Groups

The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees/Study Groups from amongst the members of the Committee with a view to making detailed study/examination of the subjects selected by it as also for scrutinizing the action taken by the Government on the

Observations/Recommendations contained in the original Reports and for considering procedural and general matters. The Chairperson/Convenor/Alternate Convenor of the Sub-Committee/Study Group shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee from amongst the members of the Sub-Committee/Study Group.

On-the-spot Visits/Study Tours

In order to have a first hand experience of the implementation of various Schemes concerning the subjects under examination, the Committee or its Sub Committee(s)/Study Group(s) may with prior permission of the Speaker, undertake, if necessary, on the spot visits to various institutions and establishments falling under the administrative control of the Ministries/Departments under the purview of the Committee. As per the extant Guidelines of Hon'ble Speaker regarding Study Visit by Parliamentary Committees a Parliamentary Committee can undertake Study Visit for ten days during their term. The Study Visit can be undertaken in two phases of five days each.

Reports and Minutes

The Observations/Recommendations of the Committee on subjects examined are contained in their Reports which after adoption by the Committee and factual verification by the Ministries/Departments concerned, are presented to Lok Sabha/laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha by the Chairperson and the authorized Members. The Minutes of the Sitzings of the Committee are also presented to the House along with the Reports.

Action Taken Reports

The Recommendations of the Committee have persuasive value and are treated as considered advice given by the Committee. The Demands for Grants and the Bills, which are reported upon by the Committee are considered by the Houses in the light of the recommendations of the Committee. In respect of Reports on Demands for Grants, national basic long term policy documents and other subjects, the Ministries/Departments concerned are required to take action on the recommendations contained in the Report and furnish action taken replies thereon, within three months. Action taken notes received from the Ministries/Departments are examined by the Committee and Action Taken Reports thereon are presented to Lok Sabha/laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

Proceedings, Draft Reports and Minutes of the Committee are treated as 'Confidential' until the concerned Reports are presented to Parliament.

Statement made by the Minister under direction 73A of the *Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha*

In terms of Direction 73A, the Minister concerned makes a statement once in six months in the House regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Original Reports of the DRSCs with regard to her/his Ministry. This is aimed at ensuring that the recommendations of the Standing Committee are taken note of at the highest level by the Government for follow up action.

Reports Presented by the Committee

So far the Committee on Agriculture* has presented 331 Reports to the Parliament. The Lok Sabha-wise break up is as under:

Lok Sabha	Tenure	Reports Presented			
		DFG	Subjects	Bills	ATRs
Tenth Lok Sabha	1993-1996	11	09	02	16
Eleventh Lok Sabha	1996-1998	10	-	01	06
Twelfth Lok Sabha	1998-1999	10	01	-	11
Thirteenth Lok Sabha	1999-2004	20	02	02	26
Fourteenth Lok Sabha	2004-2009	20	02	05	20
Fifteenth Lok Sabha	2009-2014	20	09	05	27
Sixteenth Lok Sabha	2014-2019	20	11	01	33
Seventeenth Lok Sabha	2019 onwards	15	02	02	12
Total		126	36	18	151
Grand Total		331			

*The Committee was constituted for the first time on the 8th April, 1993 during the Tenth Lok Sabha. The Ministry of Water Resources was under the jurisdiction of this Committee from 10th to 13th Lok Sabha. A separate Committee on Water Resources was constituted after the reorganization of the System of DRSCs in 2004 (14th Lok Sabha). The name of the Committee has been changed from Committee on Agriculture to Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing and the Ministry of Cooperation has been brought under the jurisdiction of the Committee on 23.11.2021 vide Bulletin Part II No. 3293 dated 23.11.2021.