

No.A.45020/2/2019-Admn.I
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying
(Administration Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001

April 29, 2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: - Transfer of work to the Department of Fisheries – regarding.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Department of Fisheries D.O. letter No.8-23/2019 – Admn.V, dated 12.04.2019 and OM No.8-45/2019-Admn.I dated 25.04.2019 on the above-noted subject, wherein following issues have been raised: -

(i) The staff allocation is severely inadequate in comparison to staff allocated to the Department of Fisheries at the time of transfer of Fisheries Division to the DAHD in 1997. There are 57% vacancies among the staff transferred to the Department of Fisheries. Further, staff allocation has been effected without consulting the Department of Fisheries;

(ii) Budget earmarking from the combined budget of 2019-20 has been effected without consulting the Department of Fisheries;

(iii) Due to paucity of space, the Department of Fisheries is not able to even outsource the services of retired government servants etc. to manage the work.

(iv) Ministry of Finance has allocated the funds under various object heads for the year 2019-20 (i.e. till March 2020) to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and not to the Department of Fisheries. Therefore, the proposals / bills of the Department of Fisheries may be examined / settled by the DAHD.

3. In this connection, the point-wise factual position is as under: -

(i) Department of Fisheries have referred to a position which existed around 22 years back and since then considerable changes have undergone due to various economy measures taken towards downsizing the staff strength. Further, some of the posts might have been abolished with the passage of time. The situation is the same in DAHD also. As such, there is no rationale in making such a comparison. However, the position that was obtaining at the time of creation of Department of Fisheries as a separate entity has been taken as the base for division of resources including manpower. Therefore, the immediate action was to transfer the technical manpower exclusively belonging to that Department, vide Order dated 07.02.2019, to enable it to continue with its core activity. This was followed by transfer of other category of posts including Secretariat Posts, vide Order dated 05.03.2019. While transferring these posts along with manpower, it has been ensured that there is no cut in the resources already available with Department of Fisheries. In fact, some more posts along with manpower over and above what was already available have been provided to the Department of Fisheries. Besides, one post each of Secretary and Joint Secretary has been got created and also filled up.

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The transfer of posts has also created problems for this Department to manage affairs as the meager resources have got further depleted with the bifurcation of DAHDF. What was feasible has already been allocated to Department of Fisheries and it is not possible to provide any more assistance in terms of manpower / posts. Department of Fisheries will have to approach Nodal Departments for posting of manpower as also creation of more posts as per their requirement. Any further transfer of posts/manpower will have serious repercussions on the functioning of this Department which has been saddled with new responsibilities by way of setting up of Kamdhenu Aayog and transfer of work from Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (which has been doing by a full-fledged Division in that Ministry).

The tone and tenor of language used by the Department of Fisheries in its O.M. dated 25.04.2019 should have been more palatable. The presumption that the decision of bifurcating staff and number of posts was done unilaterally and without a rationale is far from the facts. In fact, at that point of time, Secretary (AHD) was holding the charge of Department of Fisheries also and transfer of manpower was done with his approval. Further, the consent of the Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries was also obtained. The transfer of posts and manpower has been done in very rationale and judicious manner, keeping in view the provision of manpower available. It is also relevant to mention that vacant posts provided to the Department of Fisheries is 43% and not 57% as mentioned in the DO letter dated 12.04.2019.

(ii) The Department of Fisheries was requested to give their tentative requirement of funds on various heads under Secretariat Economic Service. Secretary (AHD) had taken personal initiatives and discussed this issue with the JS (Fy-SM). The Department of Fisheries furnished an advance copy of budgetary requirement to the tune of Rs.165 lakhs against three heads (OE, OAE and IT). However, the Department of Fisheries have been provided Rs.10.74 Crore towards 14 different heads, which is almost 23% of the total budget provision. This has been done in a very systemized and rationale manner, keeping allocated staff strength and other factors in view, and in consultation with the Internal Finance Division. Moreover, this is an interim arrangement till final budgetary allocation is provided by the Parliament after General Election with the provision of supplementary grant as options available for Department of Fisheries.

(iii) As Department of Fisheries is already aware, the DOAC had not provided enough space since creation of this Department despite repeated requests. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have also expressed their inability to provide space anymore. As such, this Department is already facing acute shortage of space. Two Deputy Secretary of this Department are sitting together in a very small narrow room and there is no space available to accommodate another Deputy Secretary recently joined. Hence, the Department of Fisheries have to take necessary steps at their own with various agencies to fulfill further requirement of space.

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29.04.2019
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