

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2369  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF DRDAS  
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH;N.N. KRISHNADAS

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government propose to hold a national conference of all project officers of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs);
- (b) if so, the objectives of this conference;
- (c) whether the Government have devised any machinery to look into non-functional project by the District Rural Development Officers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps proposed to make DRDAs more efficient?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a) Yes sir.

(b) The objectives of the proposed Conference is to review various Rural Development Programmes, inform the Project Directors about the revised guidelines and to share the experience of implementation of the Programmes in different States. The purpose is also to provide opportunities to the Project Directors to make presentation in respect of the innovative work being done in the Districts and describe `success stories` and `best practices`.

(c) & (d) No special machinery has been devised to look into non-functional projects. However, the projects are being reviewed regularly till they are complete, by the Ministry in coordination with the State/District Rural Development Agencies.

(e) In order to make DRDAs more efficient greater emphasis is being laid on appropriate staffing structure and suitable personnel policies. Keeping in view the role and functions of the DRDAs, the State Governments have been advised that the DRDA staffing structure must include positions for Planning for poverty alleviation, Project formulation, Social organization and capacity building, Gender concerns, Engineering supervision and quality control, Project Monitoring, Accountancy and Audit functions as well as Evaluation and Impact studies. Also instructions have been issued that the staff appointed should be dedicated to DRDA-related work and should not be frequently transferred. In the selection of the Project Directors, Project officers and Assistant Project Officers, more emphasis is to be given on dynamic and young officers. In order to make the DRDA a professional body, constant training of the officials and staff is also being emphasized so as to sensitize them regularly about the recent developmental initiatives.