

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3904  
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2011  
REVIEW OF DRDAS  
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) the details of the review of functioning of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has taken or proposed to take any steps to streamline the functioning of the DRDAs in the scheduled districts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a): The Ministry of Rural Development reviews the functioning of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) with State Secretaries of Rural Development and other officials of States and districts regularly. The Ministry has also conducted an Evaluation Study to evaluate and review the functioning of the DRDAs through an independent agency in 2008. The major recommendations of the study include filling up of all vacancies as per DRDA staffing pattern, induction of professionals in DRDAs, training and capacity building of DRDA staff.

(b) to (d): Yes Sir. In order to streamline the functioning of DRDAs in the country, including those in the scheduled districts, the Ministry has constituted the Committee on Restructuring of DRDAs in 2010 under the Chairmanship of Shri V. Ramachandran, Chairman Emeritus, Centre for Management Development, Thiruvananthapuram. The Committee is to study the structure of DRDAs and to make recommendations as per `Terms of Reference` given below:

- (i) The Committee will study the structure of the DRDAs on sample basis.
- (ii) The Committee will suggest appropriate structure for the DRDAs taking into account the demands on DRDAs in different States.
- (iii) The Committee will suggest professional qualifications for the Members of staff of DRDAs.
- (iv) The Committee will suggest the mode of recruitment and other service conditions of DRDA staff.
- (v) The Committee will suggest the mode of funding of the DRDAs.
- (vi) The Committee will look at the emerging roles of poor people's own institutions (SHGs and federations) in various States and lay down rules of the game for the DRDAs in nurturing these organizations, once the organizations are strong. Similarly, the Committee will suggest ways and means of promoting harmonious relationship between the institutions of the poor and the PRIs, recognizing the legitimate role of community owned institutions in the lives of the poor.
- (vii) The Committee will suggest integration of DRDAs with Zila Parishads and the District Administrations.