

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2688

ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012

AFRO ASIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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

- (a) whether the Government has sanctioned grants for Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of such grants provided by India to AARDO since its inception;
- (d) the details of the activities carried out by Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation during each of the last three years and the current year in India; and
- (e) the benefits likely to be accrued from such activities?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SH. PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a): No Sir.

(b)&(c): Do not apply.

(d): Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) is an Inter- Governmental, International Organisation with headquarters at New Delhi. The major activities of AARDO are Human Resource Development, Development Pilot Projects and Dissemination of Information in the field of Rural Development and Agriculture for AARDO Member countries. AARDO is devoted to develop understanding among members for better appreciation of each others problems and explore opportunities collectively for coordination of efforts for promoting welfare and eradication of thirst, hunger, illiteracy, disease and poverty amongst rural people. India is one amongst the 30 members of AARDO and is one of the key founder members of this Organisation. The Govt. of India, as of now, gives an annual membership contribution of US \$116,600 to AARDO.

Government of India, during its Presidentship of AARDO for the triennium 2009-2011, committed an additional contribution of about US\$ 600,000 (US\$ 200,000 per annum) in order to enable AARDO to expand the scale and scope of its activities. To best utilize the additional contribution provided by the Government of India, a number of specialized training institutes and courses were identified which are not covered under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) of the Government. The additional contribution has been provided to be utilized for capacity building of member countries through training in the institutions of excellence in India as well as study visits to areas where successful and innovative models of rural development and poverty alleviation have been implemented. These programmes were attended by a total of one hundred seventy three (173) participants from the member countries as per the following year-wise details.

Year    No. of Training Programmes    No. of Participants  
          /workshops/seminars/courses

2009	5	30
2010	8	43
2011	6	60
2012	3	40

(e) The likely benefits from the activities of AARDO are :

# By utilizing the platform of AARDO, India cultivates bilateral relationships with other member countries.

# Support provided by Government of India is a reflection of India's proactive policy of encouraging South-South cooperation and Afro-Asian solidarity.

# AARDO serves as a forum for India to promote collaboration and networking with other Afro-Asian member countries in the field of rural development by way of transfer of technology, sharing of experience and best practices.

# AARDO`s workshops/seminars have been a useful forum for Indian experts, policy makers, planners and agricultural scientists to exchange their experiences and learn from successful models particularly those followed in agriculturally advanced AARDO member countries.

# The capacity building programmes have not only exposed the participants to the rich and varied Indian experiences in agricultural and rural development but has also enriched the Indian participants and faculties through cross fertilization of ideas and experiences of participants from other member countries.