

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4246
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2012
RESTRUCTURING OF DRDAS
Nagpal Shri Devendra

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Committee to study the restructuring of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) has submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the recruitment mode and the follow-up action taken thereon;
- (c) whether Committee has suggested the mode of recruitment and other service condition of DRDA staff, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of employees working in DRDAs?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): Yes, Sir. The main recommendations of the Committee are:-

(i) District Plan Support Unit (DPSU) to be set up with the responsibility to prepare a district level holistic anti-poverty sub plan converging all the centrally sponsored schemes directly related to the poverty reduction along with similar schemes of the state and local governments and oversee and guide convergent implementation.

(ii) DPSU to be a lean and coherent professional team driven by a shared vision to eliminate poverty.

(iii) DPSU should be located within the District Planning Committee (DPC) as a distinct part of its technical secretariat. However, as DPCs are still in the nascent stage in almost all the states, in the interim during the period of Twelfth Five Year Plan, this unit could be part of the Zila Parishad except in States where DPCs are fully functional.

(iv) At the State Level, there would be a unit to guide and assist the DPSUs to achieve their tasks. It would consolidate at the State level all the data and inputs of DPSUs.

(v) The suggested professional staff both at district and State level to be fully funded by Government of India through a centrally sponsored scheme. In order to give confidence and comfort to the States the scheme should be guaranteed to continue for at least three Plan periods.

(vi) The professional positions may be of permanent nature and the recruitment made by the State governments following the regular procedure of recruitment. However, continuance of such staff to be allowed only after performance assessment on the basis of clear indicators to be developed for the purpose. If some States feel the need for contract or consultancy arrangements, minor modifications could be made with adequate justification.

In addition, the Committee has also made recommendations on functioning and composition of DPSU/ State Level Set up, Block Level arrangements, Selection process, Compensation structure, etc.

The report has been accepted by the Government with some modification.