

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:275
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
FUNCTIONING OF DRDAS
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the role and functions of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) including its organisational structure;
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of DRDAs in the country;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof with special reference to Maharashtra; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government to strengthen the functioning of DRDAs?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 275 TO BE REPLIED ON 29TH AUGUST, 2013

(a) The DRDA is a registered society registered under a Societies Registration Act or a distinct cell in the Zilla Parishad having a separate identity. The staffing structure of DRDA includes 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.

The administration of the DRDA is to be carried out by a governing body. The Governing Body of the DRDA will provide policy directions, approve the Annual Plan and also review and monitor the implementation of the Plan, including the different programmes. They shall give such directions to the DRDA as may be necessary from time to time. The Governing Body of the DRDA will meet once in a quarter. The Chairman of the Zilla Parishad shall be the Chairman of governing body of the DRDA. The executive and financial functions shall however lie with CEO, Zilla Parishad/District Collector who shall be designated as the Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director. It shall be his responsibility to ensure that the administration of DRDA and the programmes are conducted in accordance with the guidelines. Wherever the Zilla Parishads are not in existence or are not functional, the DRDAs would function under the Collector/District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner of the District, as the case may be.

The responsibilities of DRDAs include planning for effective implementation of anti- poverty programmes; coordinating with other agencies - Governmental, non-Governmental, technical and financial for successful programme implementation; enabling the community and the rural poor to participate in the decision making process, overseeing the implementation to ensure adherence to guidelines, quality, equity and efficiency; reporting to the prescribed authorities on the implementation; and promoting transparency in decision making and implementation.

(b) to (d): The Ministry had set up a Committee on Restructuring of DRDAs in November, 2010. The Committee submitted its report in January, 2012. The recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted by the Government with some modifications. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, a EFC note for restructuring the DRDAs has been prepared. The decision taken by the Government on restructuring of DRDAs will be applicable to the State of Maharashtra as well.