

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(2012-2013)

44

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT)**

[Action taken on the recommendations contained in the Thirty Second Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology(CAPART)]

FORTY FOURTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 14.08.2013

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 14.08.2013



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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2012-2013)

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan - *Chairperson*

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LOK SABHA

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3. Shri Pulin Bihari Baske
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1. Shri Brahm Dutt - Joint Secretary
2. Smt Veena Sharma - Director
3. Shri A. K. Shah - Additional Director
4. Shri Ravi Kant Prasad Sinha - Committee Assistant

* Vacancy caused on account of demise of Shri Uma Shankar Singh on 24.01.2013.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2012-2013) having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present the Forty-fourth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-second Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology' of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development).

2. The Thirty-second Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 28 August, 2012. Replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 26 June, 2013.

3. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 24 July, 2013.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-second Report of the Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix-II**.

NEW DELHI;
7 August, 2013
16 Sravana, 1935 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2012-13) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Thirty-second Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology'.

2. The Thirty-second Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 28.08.2012 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same date. The Report contained 9 Observations/ Recommendations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Government. These have been examined and categorised as follows: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:
Serial Nos. 4 and 6

Total: 2
Chapter-II
- (ii) Observation/Recommendation which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government:
Serial No. 3

Total: 1
Chapter-III
- (iii) Observation/Recommendation in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:
Serial No. 5 and 7

Total: 2
Chapter-IV
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:
Serial Nos. 1, 2, 8 and 9

Total: 4
Chapter-V

4. The Committee desire that final replies in respect of recommendations for which only interim replies have been submitted by the Government included in Chapter V of this Report and replies to recommendations made in the Chapter-I of this Report may be furnished to the Committee expeditiously.

5. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations that require reiteration or merit comments.

Restructuring of CAPART

6. The Committee in their Thirty-second Report have made the following recommendations/ observations:

(i) The CAPART was set up in 1986 for assisting NGOs for implementation of projects for rural prosperity, promote voluntary efforts in rural development and dissemination of technologies, to promote, plan, undertake projects through Self Help Groups (SHG) and to create awareness amongst rural population. The Committee highlighted that CAPART has hardly achieved any of its objectives and admittedly there have been problems in the organization from the very beginning.

[Recommendation Serial No.1]

(ii) In the context of composition of CAPART'S Committees, the Committee highlighted that the General Body of CAPART consisting of 100 members was too large. The Committee recommended for review of membership of the General Body to make this body slim and efficient to enable it to take timely, effective decisions. The Committee also recommended that the Chairman of the CAPART should be professional person with proven track record of rural development work.

[Recommendation Serial No.2]

(iii) The Committee expressed their unhappiness to find that during the last seven years there have been as many as 7 incumbents to the post of Chief Executive of the organization. The Committee recommended that henceforth the post should have a fixed tenure to carry out plans and programmes of the organization in an organized, systematic manner.

[Recommendation Serial No.4]

(iv) The Committee highlighted that the allocation of funds for the six schemes of the CAPART have come down drastically during the last few years and there has been hardly any utilization of funds allocated.

[Recommendation Serial No.5]

(v) In the context of large number of complaints, the Committee recommended that the CAPART should take action against corrupt organizations/individuals and also against its own officers found guilty of malpractices/connivance with NGOs/VOs, inefficiency, etc.

[Recommendation Serial No.6]

(vi) The Committee noted that from 1996 onwards there have been a number of reviews carried out by various Committees to improve the working of the organization and the last one was the Study by Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). The Committee asked the Government to take a final decision in regard to future restructuring of CAPART without further delay.

[Recommendation Serial No.8]

(vii) Considering the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions which has been enlarged over a period of time, the Committee asked the CAPART apart from assisting NGOs/VOs should also co-ordinate with PRIs in implementation of its various schemes/programmes.

[Recommendation Serial No.9]

7. The Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development) in their reply have *inter-alia* stated.

- “In the 49th Meeting of the Executive Committee of CAPART held in August, 2009 “it was decided that no further project funds will be disbursed by the Regional Centres until the matter is reviewed by a sub-committee with regard to time overrun, if any, and in case of time overrun, the feasibility and rationale of disbursement”.
- Pursuant to the decision taken in 49th EC meeting, six sub groups were notified. However, only 4 sub groups became functional. Further in the 52nd EC meeting held on 30th April, 2010 it was decided that an independent assessment by professional third party may be done. The institution so appointed will prepare a report on the “State of Organization and Roadmap for Future”. It was also decided that the report of the sub groups along with comments of members if any may be made available to third party so appointed.
- Subsequently IRMA was engaged to prepare a report on the “State of Organization and Roadmap for Future”.

- All project funding was kept in abeyance of both RCs and CAPART head quarter as per the order of MoRD dated 30th September, 2010.
- IRMA submitted its report and made a detailed presentation on the study report on “State on the Organization and Road Map for CAPART” in 54th EC meeting held on 8th December, 2010. Subsequently IRMA conveyed their inability for taking up the assignment further.
- As per the decision of the Executive Committee in its 56th meeting held on 20th January, 2012 all the Regional Committees of CAPART were abolished and Regional Offices were closed down and regular staff shifted to Delhi.
- The posts of DG/DDG have been removed from the purview of the Civil Services Board and will now be filled up from open market through search-cum-Selection Committee.
- Draft recruitment rules for the post of DG and DDGs’ have been framed by the MoRD, which have been approved by DoPT. Further, the recruitment rules were circulated to all the members of EC under Rule 32 of Rules of CAPART for their comments. The comments of the members of EC were incorporated in the draft RRs by MoRD and approved by the Competent Authority.
- The task of restructuring has been entrusted to an independent agency namely Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. The first meeting/visioning work shop on restructuring of CAPART was organized by TISS on 8th January, 2013 at CAPART, New Delhi. In March 2013, TISS has further submitted a concept note, highlighting proposed strategies for restructuring, and the same is under consideration."

8. The Committee had expected that on the basis of report submitted by IRMA the Government would take final decision in regard to restructuring and future of the CAPART. However, IRMA conveyed their inability in taking up the assignment further. Subsequently, the task of restructuring has been entrusted to an independent agency, namely, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai and they organized first workshop on restructuring of CAPART as late as in January, 2013. TISS has further submitted a concept note highlighting proposed strategies for restructuring and the same is under consideration of the

Government. The Committee regret to note that it has taken over 4 years when the CAPART first decided in 2009 to go for restructuring of CAPART and the Government has not moved further in spite of a number of Committees which were appointed in between. The delay in taking a decision has resulted in closing of its 9 regional offices, non-utilisation of funds and bringing activities of CAPART to halt. The Committee once again urge the Government to take a final decision in regard to restructuring/ future of CAPART so that intended organizations/populace is served and intended benefit groups get due benefits of the schemes. The Committee would await conclusive action in the matter.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 4, Para No.4)

The Committee express their unhappiness to find that there have been frequent changes in the post of Director General, the Chief Executive of the organization. During the last 7 years there have been as many as seven incumbents to this post. The non-continuity of the Chief Executive has affected the working of CAPART in a big way. The Committee expect that henceforth the post will carry a fixed tenure so as to carry out the plans and programmes of CAPART in an organized and systematic manner. This would also ensure accountability of the Chief Executive of the organization.

Reply of the Government

The posts of Director General and Deputy Director Generals have been taken out from the purview of the Civil Services Board of the Department of Personnel & Training and will now be filled up from open market through search-cum-Selection Committee.

The Recruitment Rules for these posts have been finalized by the Ministry in consultation with the Department of Personnel & Training. The incumbents to these posts will now be appointed on Deputation/ Short Term Contract basis initially for a period of three years extendable by another two years.

[O.M. No.15-RD(4)/1-CRD/2011 dated 28 August 2012]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 6, Para No.6)

The Committee noted that CAPART has a number of guidelines for monitoring the implementation of the projects by the funded NGOs/VOs before sanction of the projects, during execution of the projects and post implementation of the projects. The Committee, however, find the CAPART has blacklisted as many as 634 organizations

since 2001 on account of non-furnishing of account documents, fake documents, etc. This shows the magnitude of misappropriation of funds by the funded NGOs/VOs whereby the impact of CAPART schemes has turned out to be invisible. The Committee feel that merely blacklisting of VOs/NGOs would not suffice. Strict action needs to be taken against them which may serve as a deterrent to others. Moreover, the monitoring mechanism of CAPART also needs to be strengthened. The Committee therefore, would like the Ministry to ensure that CAPART takes action against corrupt organizations/individuals and also against its own Officers found guilty of malpractice/connivance with NGOs/VOs, inefficiency etc. Also the list of black-listed NGOs/VOs should be made available to other Central Ministries/State Governments so that these black-listed organizations do not get assistance from other Government sources.

Reply of the Government

A three-tier monitoring mechanism has been introduced by CAPART (pre-funding appraisal, mid-term & post evaluation) to meet the requirement of monitoring during the course of project implementation. Suitable action against corrupt organizations/individuals and its own officers are being initiated as per CAPART guidelines and Government norms. The list of blacklisted NGOs/VOs is already made available to other Central Ministries/State Governments through the NGO Portal so that these blacklisted organizations do not get assistance from other Government sources.

[O.M. No.15-RD(4)/1-CRD/2011 dated 28 August 2012]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

Recommendation (Serial No. 3, Para No.3)

CAPART's headquarters are located at New Delhi and it has 9 Regional Offices spread across the country viz., Ahmedabad, Bhubneshwar, Chandigarh, Dharwad, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow and Patna. The Committee regret to find that in spite of spread of the organization across the country, the various activities carried out by CAPART are declining year after year. The Committee strongly recommend that these Regional Offices should be strengthened so that they focus in their respective regions to have wider reach to the rural areas across the country. Besides, there should be small advisory committees at Regional level having elected representatives on board for wider and meaningful consultations.

The Committee would also like the Government to engage institutions of national importance like IIMs/IRMA, etc. geographically located near to the respective Regional Centers in evaluation of the working of Regional Centres of CAPART so that timely remedial/corrective measures are taken on the shortcomings pointed out during such review/evaluation.

Reply of the Government

As regard the Regional Offices, it is stated that the Executive Committee in its meeting held on 20.01.2012 decided to dissolve all the Regional Committees of CAPART. Accordingly, all the Regional Offices of CAPART were closed in March, 2012.

[O.M. No.15-RD(4)/1-CRD/2011 dated 28 August 2012]

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Serial No. 5, Para No.5)

CAPART has been carrying out 6 Schemes, viz.. Public Cooperation (help to Self Help Groups), Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme (ARTS), Organization of Beneficiaries, Help to Disabled, Marketing of Rural Products and Extending Help to Young Professionals. From the information furnished to the Committee by the Ministry it is seen that during the last 3 years, i.e., after 2008-09, activities of CAPART have almost been standstill. For instance, in the Scheme for Helping Self Help Groups, the number of beneficiaries during 2010-11 has come down to 303 from 9974 in 2008-09. Similarly, under Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme and Disability Action, Marketing, Gram Shree Melas, etc., the activities have come down drastically. The Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry should not take refuge of the impending restructuring of the CAPART which is under planning process for the years together. The CAPART should have motivated the States to participate in the Gram Shree Melas which is a wonderful platform for the rural artisans to showcase their talent and products to the outer world. Similarly the CAPART should have assisted the VOs who are doing credible work in enhancing the skills and living conditions of the rural masses. Similarly, CAPART should have utilized the allocated funds fully. The Committee are anguished to find that the Ministry also failed in guiding the CAPART to carry out its given responsibilities efficiently. The Committee deplore such casual approach on the part of the Ministry.

Reply of the Government

The six mentioned schemes are kept under abeyance as restructuring of CAPART is under process by the Ministry since 2009. The chronology of events and progress made in this regard is as follows:

- In the 49th Meeting of the Executive Committee of CAPART held in August, 2009 “it was decided that no further project funds will be disbursed by the Regional Centres until the matter is reviewed by a sub-committee with regard to time overrun, if any, and in case of time overrun, the feasibility and rationale of disbursement”.
- Pursuant to the decision taken in 49th EC meeting, six sub groups were notified. However, only 4 sub groups became functional. Further in the 52nd EC meeting held on 30th April, 2010 it was decided that an independent assessment by professional third party may be done. The institution so appointed will prepare a report on the “State of Organization and Roadmap for Future”. It was also decided that the report

of the sub groups along with comments of members if any may be made available to third party so appointed.

- Subsequently IRMA was engaged to prepare a report on the “State of Organization and Roadmap for Future”.
- All project funding was kept in abeyance of both RCs and CAPART head quarter as per the order of MoRD dated 30th September, 2010.
- IRMA submitted its report and made a detailed presentation on the study report on “State on the Organization and Road Map for CAPART” in 54th EC meeting held on 8th December, 2010. Subsequently IRMA conveyed their inability for taking up the assignment further.
- As per the decision of the Executive Committee in its 56th meeting held on 20th January, 2012 all the Regional Committees of CAPART were abolished and Regional Offices were closed down and regular staff shifted to Delhi.
- The posts of DG/DDG have been removed from the purview of the Civil Services Board and will now be filled up from open market through search-cum-Selection Committee.
- Draft recruitment rules for the post of DG and DDGs’ have been framed by the MoRD, which have been approved by DoPT. Further, the recruitment rules were circulated to all the members of EC under Rule 32 of Rules of CAPART for their comments. The comments of the members of EC were incorporated in the draft RRs by MoRD and approved by the Competent Authority.
- The task of restructuring has been entrusted to an independent agency namely Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. The first meeting/visioning work shop on restructuring of CAPART was organized by TISS on 8th January, 2013 at CAPART, New Delhi. In March 2013, TISS has further submitted a concept note, highlighting proposed strategies for restructuring, and the same is under consideration.

[O.M. No.15-RD(4)/1-CRD/2011 dated 28 August 2012]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 7, Para No.7)

The Government has been providing a grant of Rs.100 crore to CAPART to carry out its various activities including administrative expenses. However, in the recent years it has never utilized its funds fully. For instance, against the target of Rs.50 crore in 2007-08 there was unspent balance of Rs.26 crore which increased to Rs.61 crore and Rs.50 crore in 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively. It appears that during the last three years instead of giving any assistance for rural activities or to Self Help Groups, the CAPART has been incurring expenditure on the salary of its employees and other administrative expenditure only. The reason put forth by the Ministry that pending restructuring of CAPART, the funding of new projects has been kept in abeyance is not convincing to the Committee. The Committee feel that this step has only hampered the development of the rural populace. The Committee therefore, desire that the ongoing projects should continue to be funded till the final decision of restructuring of CAPART is taken, so that the developmental activities in rural areas are not stopped altogether.

Reply of the Government

Restructuring of CAPART is under process by the Ministry. After restructuring of CAPART, fresh proposals can be considered as per the outcome of the restructuring process.

[O.M. No.15-RD(4)/1-CRD/2011 dated 28 August 2012]

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation (Serial No. 1, Para No.1)

The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) set up in 1986 by merging two organizations, viz., People's Action and Development India (PADI) and Council for Advancement of Rural Technology (CART) has been functioning as an autonomous body under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development. It was set up with the vision to play a dynamic and catalytic role in the many sided development of rural India through its network with the various Governmental agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Even though the objectives of CAPART are laudable which, inter alia, include to encourage, promote and assist voluntary action for implementation of projects for rural prosperity, promote voluntary efforts in rural development and dissemination of technologies suitably modified for serving rural population, to promote, plan undertake projects through Self Help Groups (SHGs) and to create awareness amongst rural people, etc., the committee's examination has revealed that CAPART has hardly achieved any of its objectives. The Department of Rural Development themselves have conceded that there have been problems in the organization since its beginning and it is plagued by poor image, ineffectiveness and inefficiency. Further admittedly, and disregard of the objectives. The Committee's findings are detailed in succeeding paragraphs.

Reply of the Government

In 1986, a unique body was created under the Rural Development Ministry – namely, CAPART – with the purpose of funding VOs engaged in rural development and coordinating the activities of such agencies. To fulfill the objectives of CAPART as laid down in the Memorandum of Association, CAPART has been sanctioning projects to NGOs under various schemes. The Council in the past has facilitated various NGOs to build successful models on various development issues and has published some success stories.

The Executive Committee in its 49th meeting held on 24 August, 2009 decided that a roadmap may be drawn for reorganization and rationalization of CAPART offices. The Ministry has taken a decision to assign the task of restructuring exercise to Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai which may go into specific details of all aspects of the organization and its functioning and render assistance in the restructuring exercise.

[O.M. No.15-RD(4)/1-CRD/2011 dated 28 August 2012]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 2, Para No.2)

The organizational structure of CAPART is a broad spectrum consisting of 100 members out of which 40 are from voluntary societies, 20 from other institutions, 25 ex-officio members and 10% individuals. The General Body is the highest governing body of CAPART comprising of its members presided over by the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development which gives overall policy guidelines and approves the annual budget, balance sheet, etc. Besides it has Executive Committee Chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Director General of CAPART being the Secretary to the Executive Committee, and the Secretary of the Ministry its ex-officio Vice-Chairman. Also there is a Standing Committee on Finance and Administration headed by Director General. The Committee are unhappy to find that an institution entrusted with rural development under the overall control of the Minister of Rural Development and the Secretary of Rural Development, has been allowed to die a silent death. It is high time that it is taken out of slumber to make this institution vibrant, so as to achieve its stated objectives. The Committee feel that there is also a need to review the membership of General Body to make this body slim and efficient to enable it to take timely effective decisions. The Committee also recommend that the Chairman of CAPART should be a professional person with proven track record of rural development work. The Committee would like to be apprised of the specific action taken by the Government in regard to reorganization of CAPART's General Body/Executive Committee, its Chairman and composition of other Committees.

Reply of the Government

In the meeting held on 20th January, 2012 the General Body and Executive Committee of CAPART considered the proposal that the President of the Society may be a person of eminence in the field of public service, rural development, voluntary action or other such field and such a person should be appointed as the President of the General Body of CAPART by the Ministry of Rural Development. The proposal was approved in principle, to be implemented in due course as part of CAPART's restructuring exercise. Reorganisation of both Executive Committee and General Body will be part of the restructuring exercise.

Thereafter, the Ministry has taken a decision to assign the task of restructuring exercise to Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai which may go into specific

details of all aspects of the organization, its functioning and examination of current governing structure including General Body/Executive Committee, its Chairman and composition of other Committees. The first meeting/visioning work shop on restructuring of CAPART was organized by TISS on 8th January, 2013 at CAPART, New Delhi in which broad issues relating to restructuring exercise were discussed. In March

2013, TISS has further submitted a concept note, highlighting proposed strategies for restructuring, and the same is under consideration.

[O.M. No.15-RD(4)/1-CRD/2011 dated 28 August 2012]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 8, Para No.8)

The Committee find that since 1996 onwards there have been a number of reviews carried out by various Committees to improve the working of the CAPART and to bring efficiency and accountability in the working of CAPART. These Committees, inter-alia, include strategy and Organization Review (TCS) (1996), Short review of the Structure (2000), Review of Secretary RD (2005), Vittal Committee Review (2005), Vinay Shankar Committee (2005-06), Sayeed Hameed Report (2005-06) and Sevottam (2008-09). The Committee are surprised to note that with so many reviews carried out by various Committees on the working of CAPART and visible non-functioning of the system coupled with corruption and black listing of several NGOs, did not prompt the Ministry of Rural Development to take any action or initiative to root out the inefficiency in the institution. It was only in 2009 that 6 Sub-Committees of the Executive Committee (EC) were constituted to suggest reforms in CAPART and the reports submitted by these Sub-Committees have been evaluated by a third party viz, the institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). The Committee have now been informed that based on IRMA Study Report, the Government is in the process of taking a decision in regard to restructuring of the CAPART. The measures suggested in the Report range from creating a new focus for CAPART on capacity building, focus on marketing, creating institutional networking of stakeholder organizations, structural reorganization including open selection of DG's post, etc. The Committee hope that the measures suggested in the Reports of Sub- Committees will help CAPART to come out of slumber and give it a new life. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Government to take a final decision in regard to future, restructuring of CAPART without further delay.

Reply of the Government

As far as functioning / restructuring of CAPART is concerned it is under process. IRMA submitted its report and made a detailed presentation on the study report on “State of Organization and Road Map for CAPART” in 54th EC meeting held on 8th December, 2010. Subsequently, IRMA conveyed their inability for taking up the assignment further. Thereafter, the Ministry has decided to engage an agency viz. Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) which may go into specific details of all aspects of the organization and its functioning and render assistance in the restructuring exercise. The first meeting with TISS officials was held on 08.01.2013 wherein broad issues relating to Restructuring of CAPART were discussed. In March 2013, TISS has further submitted a concept note, highlighting proposed strategies for restructuring, and the same is under consideration.

The posts of Director General and Deputy Director Generals have been taken out from the purview of the Civil Services Board of the Department of Personnel & Training and will now be filled up from open market through search-cum-Selection Committee. The Recruitment Rules for these posts have been finalized by the Ministry in consultation with the Department of Personnel & Training. The incumbents to these posts will now be appointed on Deputation/ Short Term Contract basis initially for a period of three years extendable by another two years.

[O.M. No.15-RD(4)/1-CRD/2011 dated 28 August 2012]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 9 Para No.9)

The Committee are anguished to find that the CAPART though associated with the rural activities, does not have any coordination with the Panchayati Raj Institutions so far and it mainly has been dealing directly with the NGOs/VOs. Even though the Panchayati Raj Institutions were strengthened by the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments as far back as 1992, which made Panchayati Raj Institutions as institutions of Self Government, CAPART did not find it necessary to associate PRIs with its activities. Under article 243G read with Schedule XI of the Constitution, the State Government, may, by law, endow the Panchayats with powers to function as institutions of Self government in the areas of agriculture, land improvement, minor irrigation, water management/ watershed development, fisheries, minor forest produce, drinking water, roads, culverts, bridges, education, technical training, library, market and fairs, health and sanitation, woman and child development, PDS, social welfare

including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded, etc. While the CAPART has lost valuable time of over two decades in searching right module for helping the rural populace, the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has increased substantially during this period. Similarly, from the information made available to the Committee, it is seen that CAPART has hardly any presence in backward regions/ scheduled areas for carrying out welfare activities. The Committee are of the strong view that while taking a final decision in regard to future of the CAPART, assist the PRIs in terms of capacity building, training and providing necessary technology inputs in implementation of various schemes. Since Panchayati Raj Institutions are getting direct funding from the Central Schemes as also the State's share in some of the schemes, the pro-active role of CAPART can help the PRIs in a big way. The Committee therefore, desire that CAPART apart from assisting NGOs/VOs should also coordinate with PRIs in implementing its various schemes/programmes. The Committee would await the final decision of the Government in the matter within three months of the presentation of the Report to the Parliament.

Reply of the Government

The mission of CAPART is to work in close coordination with rural NGOs and empower them by engaging them in dialogue, respecting their thought and ideas, listening to their voice, harnessing their resources, funding their activities, strengthening their hands, particularly the women, the weaker section of the rural society and disabled and other underprivileged sections of rural society, walking hand in hand with them on the road to rural prosperity. Any intervention in rural areas cannot be successful without involvement of Panchayats. However, there is no structural mechanism presently under CAPART for this purpose. The suggestions of the Hon'ble Committee have been noted and will be taken up as part of the restructuring exercise.

[O.M. No.15-RD(4)/1-CRD/2011 dated 28 August 2012]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

NEW DELHI;
7 August, 2013
16 Sravana, 1935 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development

APPENDIX - I

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY, THE 24 JULY, 2013

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1235 hrs. in Committee Room '074', Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan - *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Thangso Baite
3. Shri Premchand Guddu
4. Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique
5. Shri Maheshwar Hazari
6. Shri Ramesh Vishwanath Katti
7. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
8. Shri Anantha Venkatarami Reddy
9. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi
10. Smt. Annu Tandon
11. Smt. Usha Verma
12. Shri P. Viswanathan
13. Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi

Rajya Sabha

14. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
15. Shri Vinay Katiyar
16. Shri Mahendra Singh Mahra
17. Dr. Chandan Mitra
18. Shri C.P. Narayanan
19. Shri Mohan Singh
20. Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri Brahm Dutt | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri A.K. Shah | - | Additional Director |
| 3. Smt. Meenakshi Sharma | - | Deputy Secretary |

Representatives of Ministry of Panchayati Raj

1. Smt. L.M. Vas - Secretary
2. Dr. Avtar Singh Sahota - Senior Economic Adviser
3. Shri Sushil Kumar - Joint Secretary
4. Shri Maha Bir Pershad - Director

2. XXX XXX XXX

3. XXX XXX XXX

{The witnesses then withdrew}

4. Thereafter the Committee took up for consideration the following Draft Reports:

- (i) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-Second Report on the "Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)

(ii) XXX XXX XXX

{The witnesses then withdrew}

5. After discussion the the committee adopted both the Draft Reports.

XXX XXX XXX

6. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Draft Reports after taking into account consequential changes arising out of factual verification, if any by the concerned Ministries and to present the same to both Houses of Parliament in ensuing session.

The Committee then adjourned.

XXX Relevant portions of the minutes not related to the subject have been kept separately.

APPENDIX II

[Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report]

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRTY-SECOND REPORT (15TH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

I.	Total number of recommendations:	9
II.	Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government : Serial Nos.: 4 and 6	
	Total:	2
	Percentage:	22.22 %
III.	Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies : Serial No.: 3	
	Total:	1
	Percentage:	11.11%
IV.	Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee: Serial Nos: 5 and 7	
	Total: 2	2
	Percentage:	22.22 %
V.	Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited : Serial No. 1, 2, 8 and 9	
	Total:	4
	Percentage:	44.45 %