

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4364  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014  
FUNCTIONING OF DRDAS  
Nayak Shri B.V.

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

- (a) the role and functions of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) including their organizational 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 Karnataka; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government to strengthen the functioning of DRDAs?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) The DRDA is a registered society registered under Societies' Registration Act or a distinct cell in the Zilla Parishad having a separate identity. The staffing structure of DRDA must include 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 carried out by a governing body. The governing body of the DRDA provides policy directions, approves the annual plan and also reviews and monitors the implementation of the plan, including the different programmes. The chairman of the Zilla Parishad is the chairman of governing body of the DRDA. The executive and financial functions however lie with CEO, Zilla Parishad/District Collector who is designated as the Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director.

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 mandate of the Committee was to study the functioning of DRDAs and give suitable recommendations for its restructuring. The Ministry has received the recommendations of the Committee which are being processed.