

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:689
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015
RESTRUCTURING OF DRDAS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the role and functions of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) including its organisational structure;
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of DRDAs in the country, if so, the details and outcome thereof with special reference to Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether the Government has set up a Committee on restructuring of DRDAs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the recommendations of the Committee and the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to strengthen the functioning of DRDAs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(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 (e): In order to review the functioning of the DRDAs in the country, 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 Committee submitted its report in January, 2012. The recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted by the Department of Rural Development with some modifications. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, a EFC note for restructuring the DRDAs has been prepared and meeting of EFC took place on 10/02/2014. The decision taken by the Government on restructuring of DRDAs will be applicable to the State of Andhra Pradesh as well.