

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(2016-2017)**

37

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

*[Action taken on the recommendations contained in the Twenty Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha)
on ' NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ']*

THIRTY SEVENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 19.07.2017

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(2016 -2017)**

Dr. P. Venugopal -- *Chairperson*

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Sisir Adhikari
3. Shri Kirti Azad
4. Shrimati Renuka Butta
5. Shri Harishchandra Deoram Chavan
6. Shri Sanjay Dhotre
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9. Shri Ajay Misra (Teni)
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12. Shrimati Mausam Noor
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15. Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss
16. Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma
17. Dr. Yashwant Singh
18. Dr. Naramalli Sivaprasad
19. Shri Balka Suman
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RAJYA SABHA

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23. Shri D. Bandyopadhyay
24. Shri Pratap Keshari Deb *
25. Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullo
26. Shri Mahendra Singh Mahra
27. Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya
28. Shri A. K. Selvaraj
29. Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla
30. Shri Rewati Raman Singh
31. Shri Devender Goud T.

Secretariat

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| 2. Shri S. Chatterjee | - | Director |
| 3. Smt. B. Visala | - | Additional Director |
| 4. Shri Ravi Kant Prasad Sinha | - | Committee Assistant |

* Nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 07.07.2017 vice Shri Bishnu Charan Das.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2016-2017) having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present the Thirty Seventh Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (16th Lok Sabha) on National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

2. The Twenty Fifth Report was presented to the Speaker on 31 August, 2016 and to Lok Sabha on 18 November, 2016 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same date. Replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 28 November, 2016.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 15 May, 2017.

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

NEW DELHI;
11 July, 2017
20 Ashadha, 1939 (Saka)

DR. P. VENUGOPAL
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2016-17) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Twenty Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj'.

2. The Twenty-Fifth Report was presented to Speaker on 31.08.2016 and to Lok Sabha on 18 November, 2016 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same date. The Report contained 26 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. 1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25

Total:21
Chapter-II

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government:
Serial No. 7 and 8

Total: 02
Chapter-III

- (iii) Observation/Recommendation in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:
Serial No. 22 and 26

Total: 03
Chapter-IV

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:
Serial No. 23

Total:01
Chapter-V

4. **The Committee desire that final reply in respect of recommendation for which only interim replies has 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.

A. Placement of Trainees trained in RSETIs

Recommendation (Serial No. 22)

6. The Committee in their afore-said recommendation had recommended as under:-

"The Committee's examination has revealed that NIRD&PR is the nodal agency for infrastructure creation under Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) by way of assisting Banks on various aspects like construction, designing curriculum for training etc. The Committee, however, are constrained to note that NIRD&PR is encountering the problem of land allotment, taking possession of allotted level, securing approvals for building plans from local bodies etc. and the issues are being pursued at the level of National Level Advisory Committee. The Committee feel that National Level Advisory Committee should resolve these basic issues with NIRD&PR for successful running of these RSETIs in the country. The Committee are also constrained to note that work done by RSETIs in settling the trained manpower during 2014-15 has not been encouraging and for 2015-16 and 2016-17 the figures of settled trainers are unavailable. For instance, while glancing the performance under 2014-15 as against total 3.87 lakh trainees trained only 2.20 lakh have been settled. The Committee feel that NIRD&PR should make all out efforts for ensuring placement of remaining trainees trained during 2014-15 and figures of trainees settled during 2015-16 and 2016-17 as on 30.06.2016 be made available to the Committee for arriving at logical conclusion."

7. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:-

"NIRD&PR mandate in RSETI Project is to ensure creation of infrastructure for skill development at the District level, by the respective banks by monitoring and disbursing the Government contribution. The placement work is attended by overall monitoring, including placements and monitored by National Centre for Excellence of RSETIs under the leadership of National Director, RSETIs. The training and capacity building is taken care of by National Academy for Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) under the leadership of the Chairman Sri. Veerendra Heggde, Bangalore.

Some of the activities taken up for better placements are as follows:

- a. Continuous handholding support to the trained candidates for a period of two years from the date of completion of training which involves personal visits to the trainees and giving the required guidance and support besides active facilitation for credit linkages.
- b. Banks also make effort to ensure that the trained candidates are given the required support and assistance in preparing Project Report, obtaining clearances / licence from the various authorities to facilitate their settlement. The progress made in disposal of loan application of RSETI trained candidates is being reviewed in State, District, Block level credit review committees and State Level Banker Committees.
- c. For a cluster of 20-25 RSETIs, State Directors of RSETIs (SDR) have been engaged who visit all the RSETIs in their jurisdiction at least once in a quarter and undertake detailed review of the performance of RSETIs on various key parameters which include settlement of trained candidates. They will also visit/contact some of the trained candidates to ascertain their difficulties and take the required follow up action for improving their settlement.
- d. Conclaves of Directors of RSETIs are held once in a year wherein detailed reviews are undertaken by the top management of Sponsor Banks of RSETIs with the individual RSETI Directors in the presence of MoRD officials, PD RSETI, NIRD&PR and NACER. Action points are worked out along with strategies for improving the overall functioning of RSETIs which focus on training and settlement.
- e. Sponsor Bank executives as well as NDR, NACER visit the RSETIs periodically and guide them in improving the performance.
- f. Best Practices as well as successful experiences of trained candidates are shared with the RSETI to bring about improvement by adopting the same.
- g. The settlement recorded by the RSETIs (National Average of 61% to trained candidates) compares very favorably with similar Institutions in the field. Notwithstanding this, efforts are on to achieve a higher settlement rate."

8. The Committee were constrained to note the low placement rate of the trainees trained in RSETIs. As against a total of 3.87 lakh trainees trained during 2014-15 only 2.20 lakh were placed. The Committee had also asked for the data of the trainees settled during 2015-16 and 2016-17 upto 30.06.2016 and had asked NIRD&PR to resolve the basic issues for successful running of the RSETIs. The Department in their reply *inter-alia* have stated that NIRD&PR mandate in RSETI project is to ensure creation of infrastructure for skill development at the District level, by the respective banks by monitoring and disbursing the government contribution and what the placement work is monitored by National Director, RSETIs. They have also enumerated the activities taken up for the better placement but have failed to provide the data of placement of trainees during 2015-16 and 2016-17. The Committee

reiterate their recommendation of providing the data of placement of trainees during 2015-16 and 2016-17 so that the Committee can arrive at some logical conclusion in assuring that the steps initiated have given the desired results or need some improvement.

B. Digitalization of Library

Recommendation (Serial No. 23)

9. The Committee in their afore-said recommendation had recommended as under:-
"The Committee are constrained to note that various historic and precious documents dating back to 1950 and 1960 dealing with rural development and women cooperation no longer form part of the NIRD&PR Library as these have been lost. The Committee are constrained to find that this has been revealed before the Committee by Secretary, MoRD. The Committee, therefore, recommend that necessary steps be initiated to modernize the NIRD&PR library urgently."
10. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:-
"Steps will be taken to modernize by digitizing the library resources."

11. Taking note of the fact that various historic documents dating back to 1950 and 1960 dealing with rural development and women cooperation have been lost. The Committee had recommended the Department to modernize the NIRD&PR Library urgently. The Committee are constrained to note the casual reply of the Department as till now no steps have been initiated. The Committee, therefore, reiterate its recommendation of modernizing of the NIRD&PR library urgently. The Committee desire to be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

C. Collaboration with Similar Institutions to Reach to Masses

Recommendation (Serial No. 26)

12. The Committee in their afore-said recommendation had recommended as under:-
"The Committees examination has revealed that in addition to action research, the NIRD&PR has adopted 33 villages mainly, in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil-Nadu, Odisha. The Committee feel that considering the length and width of the country adopting only 33 villages that too in few States by NIRD&PR displays the fact that the Institute has no capacity to reach out to every corner of the nation. The Committee's study has revealed that less number of women are attending the programmes due to distances. The Committee suggest that to connect with the majority of rural populace, more such Institutes should be opened in various geographical locations."

13. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:-

"Village adoption is mainly focused on keeping the faculty abreast of the field level situations so that the trainings can be tailored to the local situations. It is also to expose the faculty for having first hand understanding of the field level situation and constraints in implementation of the programs. It is only taken up representing cross section of situations. However, NIRD&PR is planning to review the work done in the adopted villages and broad base future adoption with definite timelines and activities in a convergence model. Since NIRD&PR works with a network of institutions such as SIRDs, ETCs and North Eastern Resource Centre is already functioning at Guwahati to cater to the needs of the North Eastern States, it is ideal to strengthen this collaboration and expand the network with other similar institutions, rather than going for more institutions."

14. Taking note of the vast expanse of the country and the fact that less number of women are attending the programme due to distance and to connect with the majority of rural populace, the Committee had recommended to open more such institutes in various geo-graphical locations, NIRD&PR, in their reply have stated that it works with network of institutions such as SIRDs, ETCs and North Eastern Resource Centre is already functioning at Guwahati to cater to the needs of the North Eastern States strengthening of this collaboration and expansion of network with similar institutions is ideal rather than opening more institutions. The Committee are of the considered view that only one Centre for the entire North Eastern region is not enough to cater to the needs of this region. The Committee desire that expansion of network and collaboration with similar institutions, should be done in a proactive way so that the benefits of implementation of the programme reach the rural masses across the entire country.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATION WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1)

The Committee find that National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) that was started in 1958 as Central Institute of Study and Research in Community Development (CISRCD) at Mussorie, in the erstwhile UP (now in Uttarakhand) later shifted to Hyderabad in 1964 and renamed as National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD). In the year 2014 it was once again renamed as National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR). This Institute is an autonomous organization at apex level under Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development) for enabling capacity development of stakeholders in Rural Development and Panchayati Raj through State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) and Extension Training Centres (ETCs) of States. However, looking at the large number of Elected Representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and functionaries in 2.55 lakh Panchayats at three levels comprising as many as 2.48 lakh Gram Panchayats, 6589 Block Panchayats and 608 Zila Panchayats with representations of as large as 43% women, 19% of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 12% of Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Committee feel that NIRD&PR has not been able to reach out to the rank and file of Panchayati Raj system in the country despite almost six decades of its functioning as nodal agency.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that there is a need that MoRD/ NIRD&PR should reach out to elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayats through MoRD/ SIRDs/ ETCs in a more accessible manner in the nook and corner of the country in a big way and time bound manner.

Reply of the Government

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) is mandated to reach out to the Panchayat Raj Institutions for building capacity of the elected representatives and other functionaries through network of State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRD) and Extension Training Centers which are under the State Control. Since it is practically not possible to reach out to such large number of functionaries, NIRD&PR undertakes the capacity building of SIRDs and ETCs & their functionaries and some important functionaries in the form of Trainers training programs. The trained faculty of SIRDs and ETCs and other Resource Persons who have got trained will in turn undertake the task of extensive coverage of vast number of functionaries in SIRDs/ETCs. The MoRD also supports financially the SIRDs and ETCs for creating training infrastructure and funding the recurrent expenditure for staffing, with qualified faculty. The States are encouraged to provide induction training for all the Elected Representatives within 6 months of their getting elected to the PRIs. They further get exposure on various functional areas of PRI system from time to time. The Ministry of Panchayat Raj (MoPR) also supports the States to undertake training for the PRI functionaries through RGPSA, a Centrally Sponsored Program. Through concerted

effort and collaboration with the States, the MoPR with the training support of NIRD&PR, SIRDs, ETCs and states attempt to train maximum number of PRI functionaries. The PRI functionaries also get trained on major flagship programmes such as MGNREGA, NRLM etc., Despite earnest effort, the full training need is still not being met. In view of this, NIRD&PR is working under the guidance of MoPR on few innovative approaches so as to reach out to all PRI functionaries in a time bound manner. The steps proposed to be initiated are as follows.

- a. Ensuring to complete Induction training of all Elected Representatives within 6 months of their election
- b. Creating large pool of trained resource persons with specified quality standards across the States both in content and delivery by a process of certification.
- c. Launching of an online training program for potential trainers on training methods and other functional areas so that the trained resource pool can further be expanded.
- d. Launching of online cum distance certificate/diploma/ degree program for the elected representatives, functionaries. This will facilitate a convenient and continued learning for all the functionaries.
- e. Coverage of all faculty of ETCs/SIRDs for their capacity building over next two years on important areas of training methods, research methodologies etc.
- f. In order to increase the attention of States on the capacity building of the PRI functionaries, series of "Write shops" are being conducted for drawing up of "State Training Policies" and "Training Need Assessment."

NIRD&PR will continue to strengthen the networking with all 29 SIRDs, 90 ETCs and other relevant agencies for reaching out to PRIs effectively.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 2, Para No. 2.2)

While dealing with Vision of NIRD&PR focussing on policies and programmes and Mission of examining factors contributing to improvement of economic and social well-being of people in rural areas, the Committee's examination has revealed that since 2010 the functioning of NIRD has been a subject matter of review by a Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh known as 'Alagh Committee' for suggesting measures for reform and revamp of NIRD, SIRDs and ETC. Growing economy and changing rural context indicating reduction in the share of rural population from the level of 58% by 2020 to 55% by 2025 have been highlighted by the Alagh Committee and need for broadening of vision of NIRD&PR from rural non-farm output and employment to diversifying agricultural growth, artisan development, marketing infrastructure etc. has been underlined. In this connection, the Committee have been informed that though Vision and Mission of NIRD&PR have been firmed up, yet they are constrained to note that ground realities are different in implementation of prominent schemes like MGNREGA and PMAY(G) earlier known as IAY and loopholes in the system still persist. In this context, NIRD&PR has candidly admitted before the Committee that there have been shortfall/deficiencies in implementation of programmes at local level that are being addressed through field visits and by action research on continuous basis. The Committee feel that the explanation advanced by NIRD&PR/DoRD appear more like an academic discussion than a step for addressing

the issue in a holistic manner. The Committee, therefore, feel that NIRD&PR as also DoRD in collaboration with all stakeholders should ensure that ground realities in implementation of various rural development schemes should match with acclaimed Vision and Mission of NIRD&PR in a big way and people must enjoy the fruits thereof. The Committee would like to be enlightened on the issue for arriving at logical conclusion.

Reply of the Government

NIRD&PR with its vision and mission that was re-formulated based on the recommendations of the Dr. Y.K.Alagh Committee, continues to strive to aid in improving the implementation of the programs by the States. The NIRD&PR does not implement the programs directly and the same being the responsibility of the States under overall guidance of MoRD & MoPR. NIRD&PR makes all out effort to build the capacity of rural development functionaries through Trainers training and guiding the SIRDs/ETCs and thus improving the implementation of the programs. The continued capacity building by NIRD&PR, SIRDs, ETCs etc., has made substantial improvement of implementation of programmes and thus improving the lives of poor sections of the society. The MoRD with the assistance of NIRD&PR/SIRDs are creating a trained force by name " Bare Foot Technologists" who will be available for the Panachayats for technical support in implementation of MGNREGA. Similarly, 261 number of National level Resource Persons have been created for community mobilization and creating community leaders among the Self Help Group members under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission. NRPs along with NRLM resource Cell team members conducting capacity building training programmes at the state, district, block level for developing ToTs. For this purpose NRLM Cell utilized the services of 75 NRPs for about 970 training days on various thematic areas covering 33 states and UTs. NIRD&PR will continue to strive to create capacities for effective implementation of the programs for the development of the rural areas.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 3, Para No. 2.3)

The Committee find that objectives of NIRD&PR have been to act as a 'Think Tank' for MoRD on matters related to poverty reduction, rural development programmes, organizing training programme for different stakeholders, coordinating research, addressing functioning of PRIs and analyzing problems in planning and implementation of rural development programmes and suggesting solutions. In this connection, the Committee also find that the work done by NIRD&PR in capacity building, strengthening of competencies of rural development professionals and functionaries both at national and international level have been recognized by reputed institutions like Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) from time to time and have received commendation from President of India also. The Committee, however, also find that in the light of growing challenges in capacity building in rural development arising out of Dr. Y. K. Alagh Committee Report, the NIRD&PR has to overhaul itself in terms of reorienting itself with the changed scenario with reference to urbanization, professionalizing delivery system in terms of quality of training material and

methodology, developing cadre of young Rural Managers etc. The Committee, therefore feel that a lot more is to be done by NIRD&PR in the light of Alagh Committee findings towards achieving the objectives of NIRD&PR. In this connection, the Committee learn that Mission and Vision of NIRD&PR have been firmed up by NIRD&PR and are yet to be finalized. The Committee believe that objectives of NIRD&PR should be so defined to cater to the challenging scenario in capacity building of all stakeholders involved in rural development in the country including putting an end to urban migration.

Reply of the Government

The NIRD&PR is mandated to:

- Organise training programmes, conferences, seminars and workshops for senior level development managers, elected representatives, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders;
- Undertake, aid, promote and coordinate research on its own and / or collaborate with State, national and international development agencies;
- Analyse and offer solutions to problems encountered in planning and implementation of the programmes for rural development, decentralised governance, panchayati raj and related programmes;
- Study the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and rural development programmes across the States;
- Analyse and propose solutions to problems in planning and implementation of the programmes for rural development; and
- Develop content and disseminate information and transfer technology through periodicals, reports, e-modules and other publications.

Based on the suggestions of the Committee, NIRD&PR will review and identify the areas related to the changed scenario with reference to urbanization, professionalizing delivery systems in terms of quality of training material and methodology, developing cadre of Young Rural Managers and to step up the training and capacity building.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 4, Para No. 2.4)

The Committee find that NIRD&PR which has been functioning as an Institute for Rural Development at national level since 1958 has not been popular among the rural masses for which it works and its role has been limited to organizing training programmes and doing research works. In this connection, the NIRD&PR has laboured to convince the Committee that awareness levels about work of NIRD&PR in villages are significantly encouraging through 33 village adoptions across the country, through SIRDS and ETCs, workdone under prominent schemes like MGNREGA, water and sanitations etc. The Committee are very concerned that since inception only about 33 villages have been adopted. This limited reach must coerce the Institute to do some serious introspection. The Committee further, are of the view that NIRD&PR has not been able to become a household name in rural areas as on the pattern of IITs and IIMs

for want of necessary awareness. It seems that the Institute has been reduced to a Centre for academic discussion than being in the rural forefront as a front runner to tackle the challenges being faced by the masses in rural India. The Committee, therefore, recommend that NIRD should come out of its shell and create an awareness drive for showcasing the working of NIRD&PR and its benefits by judging the ground realities.

Reply of the Government

The mandate of the NIRD&PR being capacity building through training of trainers who in turn build the capacity of the field level functionaries, NIRD&PR do not directly publicize about their activities, except through Rural Technology Park for dissemination of the technologies and their publications. NIRD&PR also adopts villages to improve the understanding of the faculty on changing rural ground level situation, problems in implementation of the programs, areas of focus for capacity building and create case studies which in turn useful for training. Taking up development activities in the adopted villages is meant for the above purpose and the development that is achieved in the adopted village is an additional benefit. As a part of training programme, NIRD also undertakes field visits in different rural and remote areas with a view to understand and develop their capacity regarding the rural development programmes sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development and its benefits. NIRD&PR has networking with institutions at State & District level such as SIRDs, ETCs, NGOs, UN Organisations with a view to outreach the findings / outcome of the Research Studies undertaken by NIRD&PR on the Rural Development Programmes implemented by both Centre and State governments. NIRD&PR also strives to reach the public by way of providing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material such as Films, Journals, Newsletter, Pamphlets and Banner on Rural Development Programmes through the rural development functionaries involved in the implementation of RD programmes at state / district / block / sub-blocks level. NIRD&PR disseminates the results of the research studies and recommendations of its various seminars and workshops through a number of publications. It brings out a quarterly Journal (JRD) which is acclaimed for its research coverage and quality and occupies a place of pride among leading academic journals on rural development and decentralised administration.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 5, Para No. 2.5)

The Committee's examination has revealed that although training programmes/research work etc. are regularly being done by NIRD&PR, yet in the absence of proper planning in rural areas these are invisible at ground level, as a result a large exodus of population is taking place from rural to urban areas. In this connection, the Committee have been informed by NIRD&PR/DoRD that NIRD&PR continuously strives for achieving/implementing the objective for which it is set up and considering the importance of planning currently effort is to build capacities for Gram Panchayat planning through community mobilisation, livelihood opportunities under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and also under MGNREGA, Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise (IPPE) etc. and under skill development programmes for providing conditions for better living in rural areas. The Committee recall that since

Socio-Economic Caste Census, 2011 provisional data is already in the public domain making it easier for NIRD&PR to work closely with DoRD for starting balanced planning in rural areas. In this context, the Committee find that under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) which is experiencing a couple of problems like lack of monitoring, absence of funds etc., a composite beginning has already been started and NIRD&PR which is also working as 'Think Tank' for DoRD should work in coordination with MoRD in this area, subsequently, the process may be replicated throughout the length and breadth of the country with the help of SIRDs/ETCs.

Reply of the Government

The capacity building of rural development functionaries is very important for improving the implementation and delivery of various programmes. NIRD&PR undertakes the task with utmost seriousness and helps the States and their functionaries for properly planning and execution. The trainings for better implementation of MGNREGA, NRLM, Skill Development etc., have made considerable progress in implementing various development programs and thus living condition of people. Efforts will be made to utilize the Socio Economic Caste Census 2011 for better targeting and accelerated improvement in the life of the targeted beneficiaries under various programs. The NIRD&PR, Hyderabad is chiefly supporting various SAGY related administrative activities and capacity building and also facilitating provision of manpower and other services to the MoRD. As part of monitoring and evaluation of SAGY, field visits to various Gram Panchayats were conducted during 2016 for validation of Panchayat Darpan data and Village Development Plan progress under SAGY, by both MoRD and NIRD&PR. The outcomes of the evaluation have been published in the form of reports.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 6, Para No. 2.6)

The Committee welcome that composition of General Council responsible for determination of policies and strategies of NIRD&PR has been significantly over-hauled in the light of Alagh Committee recommendations to include large spectrum of society like NGOs, Peoples Organizations, Journalism, Teaching, Agriculture and other allied activities, Chairpersons of Zilla Parishad, MPs from Standing Committee on Rural Development, representatives from prominent organizations engaged in rural development, rural reconstruction like Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA), Tata Institute for social Sciences (TISS), Indian Institute of Management (IIMs)/Banking and Insurance Bodies etc. However, the Committee are constrained to find that the representatives in General Council is largely concentrated from Universities in big cities like Delhi, Mumbai etc. to be nominated by rotation in every two years. In this connection, the Committee have been informed that composition is in final stages. On the issue of looking after the interest of remote and difficult areas like Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States, the Committee have been assured that adequate care will be taken as far as possible for making General Council truly representative in character. The Committee, therefore, feel that current composition of

General Council be reviewed again for guaranteeing the representation from remote and difficult areas including North-Eastern for encouraging a sense of belongingness among the rural people in these States/Areas. While appreciating the role of experts, academicians, scholars etc. in the General council, the Committee again emphasize inclusion of representatives from the ground level who have a first experience from all the corners of the country including the North Eastern States and hilly terrains who have a different set of challenges.

Reply of the Government

The proposed composition of the Governing Council has substantially been expanded and also proposed to include prominent people from ground level who have contributed for the rural development. A special focus will also be given to have representation from the North Eastern Region.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 9)

The Committee are dismayed to note that soon after constitution of Alagh Committee on March, 2010 for suggesting measures for reform and revamp of NIRD&PR, the process of restructuring has been underway by way of holding several rounds of discussions within NIRD&PR, including of DG/NIRD&PR, leading to submission of its Report before MoRD on 28th March, 2014, examination thereof in MoRD in consultations with NIRD&PR/SIRDs, conveying its discussions to NIRD&PR in August, 2014 followed by constitution of Transitional Management Committee for operationalising necessary changes etc. The Committee are constrained to note that the restructuring process is still underway in 2016. In this context, the Committee have been informed by NIRD&PR that extensive consultations/discussions with multiple stakeholders including consultations with States and SIRDs require a longer time. In this connection, the Committee have been enlightened by Secretary, DoRD that three-fourths work is already over. The Committee however feel that nearly two year's time has since been lost in the process subsequent to conveying the Government's decision to NIRD&PR. The Committee, therefore, recommend that already long time has been taken in overall restructuring process and NIRD/MoRD alongwith other stakeholders like State Governments/ SIRDs etc., should join hands to accomplish the work at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

The decisions of the Alagh committee pertaining to restructuring of schools and centres, allocation of faculty, formation and restructuring of committees, closure of regional centres at Patna and Jaipur, video conferencing facilities to SIRDs have been implemented. Other decisions pertaining to Networking with Institutions and strengthening of SIRDs/ETCs are already taken up and in process.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 10)

The Committee's examination has revealed that around 30,000 trainees pass out and about 1,000 training programmes are being run by NIRD&PR annually. Looking at as large as 2.55 lakh PRIs at three level with 2.48 lakh Gram Panchayats 6,509 Block Panchayats and 608 Zilla Panchayats in the country, the Committee feel that annual quantum of training programmes need manifold upscaling. The Committee have been informed by NIRD&PR that over 1.2 lakh representatives have already been benefitted by such training programmes of NIRD&PR. The Committee's examination of work done by NIRD&PR on training during the last five years from 2011 to 2016 of programmes conducted and participants attended under different themes reveal that themes like 'Making PRIs effective, Transparency and Accountability in Governance' has by and large witness status quo whereas themes like 'Community Development' are witnessing same fate from 2013-14 onwards. Further, important theme of Gender Budgeting and Gender Responsive Governance have even witnessed decline from 2013-14 onwards. The Committee understand that NIRD&PR is undergoing restructuring and this might have faced difficulties in conducting training programmes also. The Committee, therefore, feel that there is a need to strengthen the training network to a considerable extent so that training requirements of lakhs of elected representatives and functionaries are met early.

Reply of the Government

The focus areas of training will keep changing based on the priorities of the programs of the GOI. The depleted faculty strength has also led to slow down in the initiatives. However, now efforts are being made to build up the training activities and it is expected over the next few years that substantial up-scaling will be achieved.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 11)

The Committees examination of workdone by prominent schools for Livelihoods and Infrastructure, Sustainable Development and Science-Technology and Knowledge System has revealed about various important works done like Annual Action Plan on MGNREGA, capacity building of barefoot technicians, training under livelihood programmes such as sustainable house/building activities, assembling solar appliances etc. The Committee apprehend that the workdone demonstrated above appear academically useful, however, it should be operationalized in a big way at ground level by NIRD&PR.

Reply of the Government

The good work done by different schools of NIRD&PR is regularly documented and sent to all Ministries, States and SIRDs for information/replication. The work done by the different schools of the Institute is also uploaded in the NIRD&PR website for wider dissemination. The good work done in the form of Annual Action Plan of MGNREGA, Barefoot Technologist training programs, capacity building of community level workers of Self Help Groups under NRLM are actually directly benefitting the field level functionaries and thus the public. Some of the highlights are placed below.

- a. Barefoot Technicians
 - i. NIRD&PR has trained 545 Master Trainers and their services are placed at the disposal of States to carry out three Month Training Programmes to Create Certified Barefoot Technicians.
 - ii. So far, the States have conducted 39 training programmes (Three Month duration) and created 1173 certified Barefoot Technicians who will be utilised as Mahatma Gandhi NREGA functionaries at Gram Panchayati level. During the rest of the current financial year 6237 Barefoot Technicians will be trained and their services will be placed at the Gram Panchayat level.
- b. Social Audit Functionaries
 - i. NIRD&PR trained 121 Master Trainers in regard to Social Audit Capacity building programmes and their services are placed at the disposal of States to carry out training programmes.
 - ii. By utilising the services of these Master Trainers, 5760 Social Audit functionaries across the country (State/District/Block Resource Persons) will be trained through States Institutes of Rural Development. The certified Social Audit trainers will be available to Gram Panchayats for the Socai Audit.
- c. Gram Rozgar Sahayaks
In order to orient the Gram Rozgar Sahayaks (who operate at grass-root level) on Rights and Responsibilities under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, various provisions under the Act, guidelines in vogue, NIRD&PR trained master trainers who in turn conducting 300 programmes (through State Institutes of Rural Development) to orient 1.25 lakh Gram Rozgar Sahayaks at grass-root level during the current financial year through cascading mode (ToTs at state level and then trainings at block level).
- d. Orientation to Panchayati Raj Functionaries
The PRI functionaries (Sarpanches and Ward Members) who form the basic governance unit at grass-root level are to be oriented on various provisions under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA so as to strengthen the effective implementation of the programme. Keeping this in view, 5 ToT Programmes are being organised during the current year to generate around 100 Master Trainers who in turn carry out training programmes at grass-root level to cover 1.25 lakh PRI functionaries at grass-root level.

The above activities along with other initiatives, are creating positive impact at grassroots level.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 12)

The Committee's examination has revealed that participation at different States/UTs in training programmes of NIRD&PR is not uniform. For instance, big States like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh with large population have representation of as low as 8.16% and 4.40% whereas small States like Uttarakhand and Jharkhand have participation of 6.36 % and 4.36%. In this connection, the Secretary, MoRD himself candidly admitted before the Committee that certain areas like Uttar Pradesh, entire North East and also Himalayan States need special coverage and MoRD will try to correct the same. The Committee feel that proper balanced rural development, the States/UTs-wise coverage of participation in NIRD&PR programmes be corrected suitably.

Reply of the Government

Special efforts will be made to ensure uniform participation of states. In particular, these will be focused on States like UP and other bigger states. As part of these, the course directors will pursue with the states after announcement of the programme and contact with the concerned officials. In addition, more number of off-campus programmes will be organized in the above states for better participation. These apart, the networking programmes, initiated by NIRD&PR for capacity building on flagship programmes on rural development and panchayati raj will be held in the states where the participation so far was not as expected. The training calendar for the ensuing years will be prepared keeping in view of the recommendations of the Committee.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 13)

The Committee's examination has revealed NIRD&PR has taken up training programmes during 2015-16 on large number of themes like Panchayati Raj, Rural Employment, Rural Livelihoods, Rural Infrastructure, Social Development and so on. The Committee apprehend that their actual use and benefit hardly reaches to the intended one i.e. implementing agencies, elected panchayati raj representatives, functionaries, the rural eligible households etc. for want of proper promotion. The Committee, therefore, feel that NIRD&PR should promote its activities by educating, the implementing agencies and Panchayats about the workdone under different themes for their capacity building requirements.

Reply of the Government

Networking with SIRDs / ETCs / NGOs and other implementing agencies is for enabling to reach the capacity building requirements of large extent of panchayats & implementing agencies. Since the NIRD&PR mostly takes up trainers training for the States, who in turn takes up further training of various functionaries in their respective States, the benefit of training is reported across the states. However, the efforts will be stepped up to expand the engagement with the Panchayats and States.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 14)

The need for motivational training by NIRD&PR to Sarpanchs, Ward Members, Block Pramukhs came up before the Committee in a big way as it was pointed out before the Committee that Sarpanchs, Ward Members etc are largely unlettered and even unaware about their responsibility to handle various rural development schemes being launched from Central and State Government with the result available funds meant for betterment of common man go unutilized. In this connection, the Committee have been enlightened by DG, NIRD&PR that their effort is to create the urge to serve and NIRD&PR is starting a drive from top to bottom through ETCs and it is a programme for motivational service oriented faculty development module. Besides,

providing greater guidance to 29 SIRDs and 90 ETCs have also been outlined before the Committee. The Committee feel that NIRD&PR should take along such Sarpanchs, Ward Members and Block Pramukhs in motivational initiatives and modules so that these programmes reach at the doorstep of Panchayats in a big way across the States for the benefit of common man in rural areas.

Reply of the Government

In order to take along the Sarpanchs, Ward members and Block Pramukhs in motivational initiatives and trainings, NIRD & PR has taken steps to include motivational modules for the Trainers who in turn use the same while training the field level functionaries including the Panchayat representatives. The proposed certification of Resource Persons and improving the training modules used for training of the PRI functionaries will achieve the objective of motivation as suggested by the Committee. The certification of Resource Persons will also take appropriate motivational interventions into account.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 15)

The Committee are constrained to note that six schools in different areas like Development Studies, Social Justice, Rural Livelihood and Infrastructure etc. and various programmes under different themes like Poverty Reduction and Livelihoods, Rural Micro Enterprises etc. are being run by NIRD&PR, yet at ground/district and block level there is lack of coordination among different areas related with livelihood like production of vegetable, fruits, herbal products etc. In the light of uneven geographic locations at different States/UTs, need for greater coordination among agricultural Universities, NGOs, Forestry Universities was outlined before the Committee. In this connection, the Secretary, MoRD also agreed with the Committee for clubbing together workdone under different schools and centres within NIRD&PR for greater coordination. The Committee feel that for balanced rural development, workdone by NIRD&PR under different schools and concerned centres be clubbed together through proper coordination among implementing agencies.

Reply of the Government

After restructuring / revamping of the activities of the Institution, six schools were created on different subjects. Each school has its own mandate and accordingly training and research activities designed. Focus is given on greater coordination on different Rural Development programs by way of multi-disciplinary faculty. NIRD&PR working with different disciplines like NRM, Disaster Management, Agriculture, Livelihoods, Wage employment, Self-employment. Also coordinates different sectors of Rural Development and line departments depending upon their training needs. NIRD&PR has also taken initiative to bring better coordination in the activities of various training and research organizations working in the area of rural development, by arranging coordination meeting of relevant institution at frequent interval.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 16)

During the course of examination the need for associating local MPs and MLAs in training programmes of NIRD&PR came up before the Committee as it was brought before the Committee that in the absence of associating local MPs and MLAs, whatever training programmes are conducted by NIRD&PR specially in Rajasthan and other parts of the country are of no avail as the poor and farmers are not involved. In this connection, DG, NIRD&PR has candidly admitted before the Committee that involvement of local representatives of public was limited in training programme of NIRD&PR and wherever possible in action research and model village study, the public representatives are involved. The Committee have also been informed that as regard involvement of Panchayat level representatives is concerned, Master Training is done at NIRD&PR and therefore, they undergo further training at SIRDs. The Committee find merit in the suggestion of associating local MPs, MLAs and Sarpanchs in all training programmes of NIRD&PR in a big way across the States/UTs so that the workdone under these programmes do not go waste and the people's representatives too can give their valuable inputs to make the training a success.

Reply of the Government

Efforts will be made to involve the MPs in the training programs of NIRD&PR, wherever possible. SIRDs will also be encouraged to involve MLAs in their training programs.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 17)

The Committee noted that there is a built-in system within NIRD&PR of impact assessment of work done by NIRD&PR at two levels, one assessment is done at the last day of training programme and the other is through external agencies. The Committee are constrained to find that only two external assessments have been done one in 2002 and other in 2007 of workdone by NIRD&PR so far and preparation for third through IRMA Administration Staff College of India (ASCI) is underway which is in formative stages. DoRD has stated that it will be completed in the current financial year. The Committee are not satisfied with the way of impact assessment of workdone by NIRD&PR and feel that such assessment be done on regular intervals to ensure that the training programmes have a cascading effect in bringing prosperity in the rural areas.

Reply of the Government

Concurrent evaluation and assessment of the impact of the training and learnings on the trainees is a continuous process and happens after completion of the training program. The trainees also share their experiences of using the learning they have made in these trainings, from the field from time to time. The impact assessment by external agency is envisaged only at long interval and it will be ensured that such assessment will be done at least once in 3-4 years.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 18)

The Committee appreciate that NIRD&PR is undertaking transfer of appropriate, affordable technologies to rural poor by undertaking special projects through Rural Technology Parks and by organizing Rural Technology Mela annually within the country and through supporting such efforts in few African countries through Ministry of External Affairs. The Committee have been informed by DG, NIRD&PR that satellite mapping has been launched in ten districts of the country through ISRO's Bhuvan platform for proper alignment of various works under MGNREGA, PMGSY etc. For this MOU has already been signed with Department of Space. In addition, the Committee have been informed that 17 other technologies with the help of retired Defence Scientists from DRDO has been identified for areas like drinking water, sanitation and other areas for which necessary MOUs are to be signed between MoRD and Ministry of Defence. The Committee have also been informed that necessary study at ground level is underway. The Committee feel that work done by NIRD&PR should be done in such a fashion that implementing agencies and common man are well informed about these initiatives. The Committee recommend that such initiative be implemented in a proper manner after ascertaining the outcome of studies already underway.

Reply of the Government

The premise of establishment of Rural Technology Park (RTP) is to bring awareness on different sustainable / appropriate rural technologies so as to facilitate the use/adoption of these technologies for well-being of the rural poor. Since its inception in 2005, Rural Technology Park has been taking several steps to popularize the environment friendly and employment generation oriented technologies through the organization of exposure visits of different categories of rural people, capacity development training of both skill and EDP and demonstration of various technologies as live models at RTP. The initiative of collaborating with Defense Scientists will be taken forward and mainstream the identified technologies. The technologies that are relevant to the rural areas are popularized by visits to RTP by all the participants of the training, all visitors to NIRD&PR and by conducting Rural technology Crafts Melas. 14th Annual Rural Technology Crafts Mela is scheduled to be held in the month of November, 2016.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 19)

The Committee appreciate that NIRD&PR through Centre for Geo-Informatics Applications (C-GARD) is engaged in introduction of Geo-Informatics Technology like Geo-Informatics System (GIS) Remote Sensing and Global Positioning System (GPS) in rural development that seeks to help rural development functionaries and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for better planning and monitoring of work in execution in different areas like water resource planning, MGNREGA related works etc. The Committee's examination has also revealed that from GIS Facility Centre at Assam, Gujarat and Odisha are functional to promote the use of scientific information derived from Satellites, GPS and GIS technologies in rural development programmes. Further in some villages in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, Spatial Development Plans have been prepared and

similar exercise on pilot basis has been started. The Committee feel that work of C-GARD be accelerated in other States also for the purpose of ensuring better planning and monitoring of development of works.

Reply of the Government

The suggestion of the Committee will be implemented to expand the good work done and the benefits of GIS technologies to other States and State functionaries.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 20)

The Committee also notice that NIRD&PR under its NRLM Resource Cell has been conducting programmes and imparting training in institution building, capacity building etc. for the purpose of strengthening State Rural Livelihood Missions by way of assisting them in preparing action plans and training modules and during the last three years NRLM Cell within NIRD&PR and has conducted 209 programmes and trained 9,350 trainees. The Committee feel that since NRLM is one of the flagship programme of MoRD, the quantum of workdone by NRLM Cell with NIRD&PR during the period under review is too less and be suitably enhanced for future requirements.

Reply of the Government

NRLM resource cell at NIRD&PR is supporting State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) in training the Trainers, designing various need based training programs, modules, Audio- Visual materials and conducting workshops, Orientations, Induction, Field immersions and development of National Pool of Resource Persons on various thematic areas. SRLMs in turn undertake various training and capacity building activities to the community members, leaders, cadres and Project staff from block to state level in all States in diverse thematic areas. NRLM Resource cell at NIRD&PR has trained State Level Resource Persons (SRPs) from 29 states and 3 UTs who in turn conducted 101 trainings covering 4009 participants at District and Block level in all the states in a cascade model. With this strategy all SRLMs will train about 60,000 Block level Trainers during this financial year, 2016. NRLM Resource cell is providing handholding support to SRPs by deputing National Level Resource Persons and its staff. NIRD&PR has North Eastern Resource cell at NERC, Guwahati, that cater to the capacity building needs of North Eastern States. This cell has been supporting SRLMs by conducting various need based trainings, workshops, inductions, immersions, briefing and debriefing programs. The cell has conducted 15 programs and trained 588 participants as on 30.09.2016. NRLM Resource cell in association with BIRD, Lucknow conducted ten TOTs to Bankers, Project Staff Director -RSETIs and FLCC coordinators on Financial Literacy and SHG- bank Linkage. And also conducted two Bank Mitra TOTs to Community Cadres on Financial Literacy and SHG- Bank Linkage. And TOTs will in turn conduct Financial Literacy campaign at District, Block and sub block level across the country in a cascade model.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 21)

The Committee find that DDU-GKY Cell with NIRD&PR has been acting as Central Technical Support for MoRD for monitoring implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) in 16 States and 2 UTs. Besides, NIRD&PR is also responsible for monitoring 'Roshni Projects' across the country and skilling rural youths in Jammu & Kashmir and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts under Himayat and Roshni Projects. The Committee however, note that placement after training under Himayat projects have been good, however, the Committee are constrained to note that this is not the case with workdone under Roshni projects where as against total number of persons trained of 10,601 the placement was as low as 2,955. The Committee find that the position in various States like Chattisgarh and Bihar is dismal where as against 1043 and 1391 trained persons, as low as 137 and 223 got placement. The Committee, therefore feel that all out efforts be made by DDU-GKY and NIRD&PR to make up the deficiency.

Reply of the Government

The number of candidates trained as indicated in the report pertains to only the Roshni projects. In addition, under DDU-GKY programme, while in the state of Bihar 11,468 candidates have been trained and 2,844 candidates placed, in the state of Chhattisgarh, 12,834 candidates trained and 3,371 candidates placed as on 30th Sept 2016. NIRD&PR as a Central Technical Support Agency (CTSA) is responsible for monitoring the implementation of DDU-GKY projects (including Roshni projects). Actual implementation responsibilities rest with the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) under the guidance and direction of the respective State Governments under over all guidance of the Ministry of Rural Development and the CTSA's. These PIAs are responsible for providing placement to at least 70% of the trained candidates and payment to them is subject to achieving this milestone. Further, some of the key initiatives taken up by State Governments and MoRD to improve the training and placement numbers are as following:

1. Organizing Job fairs at regular interval
2. Engaging GRPs/CRPs/SHGs from mobilization to Post Placement of tracking the candidates.
3. Setting up Migration Support Centres at different places in other states.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 24)

The Committee examination has revealed that there are large number of ongoing studies under NIRD&PR since 2013-14 onwards. For instance, during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 as low as 16, 8 and 11 studies were completed and as large as 36 are still ongoing. The Committee feel that these does not augur well with the over-all work done by NIRD&PR with regard to research work. The Committee, therefore, recommend the DoRD to impress upon NIRD&PR to complete the pending work expeditiously and take up new challenges.

Reply of the Government

Research work is regularly monitored for timely completion. There are few studies which are long term in duration and took more time. However, NIRD&PR is working on to get the studies completed on time. Out of 36 ongoing studies, during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, as pointed out, 2 studies have been completed. 19 studies are long term, of which some are action research, consultancy and some are expected to be completed by December, 2016. As regards the remaining 15 studies, they are in the final stage of submission of reports. The concerned faculty members were advised to expedite submission of reports by December, 2016.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 25)

The Committee's examination has revealed that research work done by NIRD&PR is not been utilized by rural people and need for location based research was underlined before the Committee. In this connection, the Committee have been informed that NIRD&PR undertake master training and under Rural Technology Parks (RTPs) models are created and so far 78 units have been set up across the States for manufacturing herbal products, hand-washing products etc. The Committee feel that location specific research be promoted for sustainable development.

Reply of the Government

The findings of research studies and action research are utilised in the training programmes as training inputs and disseminated by publishing in various Journals and posting on the website. The same is shared with the SIRDs and ETCs. Location specific research activities will also be initiated.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 7)

The Committee deplore that a premier Institute like NIRD&PR remained without a full fledged Director-General for nearly five years from 1st October, 2011 to March, 2016. This shows the seriousness the Government attaches to this Institute. The Committee have been informed by DoRD that consequent upon on-going restructuring of NIRD&PR, the necessary appointment was held up. The Committee feel that an apex institute like NIRD&PR running without DirectorGeneral for quite a long time may have retarded the overall functioning of NIRD&PR and does not at all augur well with the overall planning and implementation on the part of nodal Ministry i.e. Ministry of Rural Development and desire an explanation from MoRD for inordinate delay in appointment of full fledged Director-General for NIRD&PR.

Reply of the Government

The post of DG has been filled up and he has taken charge on 10.3.2016 and discharging his assigned duties. Initially, the recruitment of Director General of NIRD&PR was made through Central Staffing Scheme. The recruitment rules for the post of Director General were formulated that required consultation with Department of Personnel and Training & Ministry of Law and approval by the Executive Council. After issue of the new recruitment rules, the process of constitution of Search Committee, inviting the applications through open advertisement, shortlisting of the applied candidates, conduct of interaction cum Interview, being time taking processes, has taken long time, as proper procedures has to be followed. However, it is submitted that, all effort was made to fill up the post as expeditiously as possible. Therefore, there is no willful delay in filling up the post.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 8)

The Committee are constrained to note that though six schools and twenty five centres are currently functioning within NIRD&PR after re-organisation as per Alagh Committee recommendations and action taken thereon, yet they are constrained to note that institute of national importance like NIRD&PR has been experiencing huge shortage of manpower in the categories of Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors way back from 2013-14 onwards and NIRD&PR has itself admitted before the Committee that its performance has been adversely affected due to large number of vacancies. The Committee are also constrained to note that as against the total sanctioned strength of 436, the NIRD&PR is working with a strength of only 296 leaving as large as 140 vacancies. Further coming to category-wise details, the Committee find that as against the sanctioned strength of 18 Professors, 23 Associate Professors and 45 Assistant Professors, as low as 4 Professors, 11 Associate Professors and 32 Assistant Professors are actually working, leaving as large as 14 vacancies in

Professors, 12 Associate Professors and 13 Assistant Professors. In this connection, the Committee have been informed that process of filling up of vacancies is already underway. The Committee recommend that all out efforts should be made by MoRD/NIRD&PR to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously on full time basis.

Reply of the Government

Advertisement for vacant posts of academic positions of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor has been issued on all India basis in National Dailies in the last week of September, 2016 and 1st week of October, 2016 in EPW & Employment News for recruiting on Direct/ Deputation basis. After receipt of the applications before the last date fixed, the selection process will be completed as expeditiously as possible.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 22)

The Committee's examination has revealed that NIRD&PR is the nodal agency for infrastructure creation under Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) by way of assisting Banks on various aspects like construction, designing curriculum for training etc. The Committee, however, are constrained to note that NIRD&PR is encountering the problem of land allotment, taking possession of allotted level, securing approvals for building plans from local bodies etc. and the issues are being pursued at the level of National Level Advisory Committee. The Committee feel that National Level Advisory Committee should resolve these basic issues with NIRD&PR for successful running of these RSETIs in the country. The Committee are also constrained to note that work done by RSETIs in settling the trained manpower during 2014-15 has not been encouraging and for 2015-16 and 2016-17 the figures of settled trainees are unavailable. For instance, while glancing the performance under 2014-15 as against total 3.87 lakh trainees trained only 2.20 lakh have been settled. The Committee feel that NIRD&PR should make all out efforts for ensuring placement of remaining trainees trained during 2014-15 and figures of trainees settled during 2015-16 and 2016-17 as on 30.06.2016 be made available to the Committee for arriving at logical conclusion.

Reply of the Government

NIRD&PR mandate in RSETI Project is to ensure creation of infrastructure for skill development at the District level, by the respective banks by monitoring and disbursing the Government contribution. The placement work is attended by overall monitoring, including placements and monitored by National Centre for Excellence of RSETIs under the leadership of National Director, RSETIs. The training and capacity building is taken care of by National Academy for Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) under the leadership of the Chairman Sri. Veerendra Heggde, Bangalore. Some of the activities taken up for better placements are as follows:

- h. Continuous handholding support to the trained candidates for a period of two years from the date of completion of training which involves personal visits to the trainees and giving the required guidance and support besides active facilitation for credit linkages.
- i. Banks also make effort to ensure that the trained candidates are given the required support and assistance in preparing Project Report, obtaining clearances / licence from the various authorities to facilitate their settlement. The progress made in disposal of loan application of RSETI trained candidates is being reviewed in State, District, Block level credit review committees and State Level Banker Committees.
- j. For a cluster of 20-25 RSETIs, State Directors of RSETIs (SDR) have been engaged who visit all the RSETIs in their jurisdiction at least once in a quarter and undertake detailed review of the performance of RSETIs on various key parameters which include settlement of trained candidates. They will also visit/contact some of the trained candidates to ascertain their difficulties and take the required follow up action for improving their settlement.
- k. Conclaves of Directors of RSETIs are held once in a year wherein detailed reviews are undertaken by the top management of Sponsor Banks of RSETIs with the individual RSETI

Directors in the presence of MoRD officials, PD RSETI, NIRD&PR and NACER. Action points are worked out along with strategies for improving the overall functioning of RSETIs which focus on training and settlement.

- l. Sponsor Bank executives as well as NDR, NACER visit the RSETIs periodically and guide them in improving the performance.
- m. Best Practices as well as successful experiences of trained candidates are shared with the RSETI to bring about improvement by adopting the same.
- n. The settlement recorded by the RSETIs (National Average of 61% to trained candidates) compares very favorably with similar Institutions in the field. Notwithstanding this, efforts are on to achieve a higher settlement rate.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 26)

The Committees examination has revealed that in addition to action research, the NIRD&PR has adopted 33 villages mainly, in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil-Nadu, Odisha. The Committee feel that considering the length and width of the country adopting only 33 79 villages that too in few States by NIRD&PR displays the fact that the Institute has no capacity to reach out to every corner of the nation. The Committee's study has revealed that less number of women are attending the programmes due to distances. The Committee suggest that to connect with the majority of rural populace, more such Institutes should be opened in various geographical locations.

Reply of the Government

Village adoption is mainly focused on keeping the faculty abreast of the field level situations so that the trainings can be tailored to the local situations. It is also to expose the faculty for having first hand understanding of the field level situation and constraints in implementation of the programs. It is only taken up representing cross section of situations. However, NIRD&PR is planning to review the work done in the adopted villages and broad base future adoption with definite timelines and activities in a convergence model. Since NIRD&PR works with a network of institutions such as SIRDs, ETCs and North Eastern Resource Centre is already functioning at Guwahati to cater to the needs of the North Eastern States, it is ideal to strengthen this collaboration and expand the network with other similar institutions, rather than going for more institutions.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 14 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER V**RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE
GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED****Recommendation (Serial No. 23)**

The Committee are constrained to note that various historic and precious documents dating back to 1950 and 1960 dealing with rural development and women cooperation no longer form part of the NIRD&PR Library as these have been lost. The Committee are constrained to find that this has been revealed before the Committee by Secretary, MoRD. The Committee, therefore, recommend that necessary steps be initiated to modernize the NIRD&PR library urgently.

Reply of the Government

Steps will be taken to modernize by digitizing the library resources.

[O.M. No. G-2011/04/2014-Trg dated 28 November, 2016, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 11 of Chapter I of the Report)

NEW DELHI;
15 May, 2017
25 Vaishakha 1939 (Saka)

DR. P. VENUGOPAL
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2016-2017)**MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY, THE 15 MAY, 2017**

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1305 hrs. in Room 'G-074', Ground Floor, Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. P. Venugopal - *Chairperson*

**Members
Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Sisir Kumar Adhikari
3. Shri Kirti Azad
4. Shrimati Renuka Butta
5. Shri Harishchandra Deoram Chavan
6. Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank"
7. Smt. Mausam Noor
8. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
9. Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma
10. Dr. Yashwant Singh
11. Shri Ladu Kishore Swain
12. Shri Chintaman Wanaga

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri Shamsher Singh Dullo
14. Shri Mahendra Singh Mahra
15. Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya
16. Shri A. K. Selvaraj
17. Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla

Secretariat

1. Shri Abhijit Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri S. Chatterjee - Director
3. Smt. B. Visala - Additional Director
4. Smt. Emma C. Barwa - Deputy Secretar

Representatives of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation

1. Shri Parameswaran Iyer - Secretary
2. Shri Arun Baroka - Joint Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee to the sitting convened for consideration and adoption of Draft Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 25th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj' and XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX.

3. Firstly, the Committee considered and adopted the Draft Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 25th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj'. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Report and present the same to Parliament.

[Witnesses were then called in]

4. XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX

5. XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX

[The Witnesses then withdrew]

5. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

XXX Not related with the Draft Report

APPENDIX – II

[Vide para 4 of Introduction of Report]

**ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT
(16TH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

| | | |
|------|--|---------|
| I. | Total number of recommendations: | 26 |
| II. | Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government : | |
| | Serial Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 | |
| | Total: | 21 |
| | Percentage: | 80.77 % |
| III. | Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies : 7 and 8 | |
| | Total: | 02 |
| | Percentage: | 7.69 % |
| IV. | Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee : | |
| | Serial No. 22, and 26 | |
| | Total: | 02 |
| | Percentage: | 7.69 % |
| V. | Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited : | 01 |
| | Total: | 01 |
| | Percentage: | 3.85 % |