

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given in (b) above.

(d) There has been no such instance of a State Government refusing to accept Jammu and Kashmir Youths for skill development under HIMAYAT.

Role and functions of DRDAs

1191. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the role and functions of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) including its organisational structure;

(b) whether Government has reviewed the functioning of DRDAs in the country;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof with special reference to Maharashtra; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to strengthen the functioning of DRDAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (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 Governing Body of the DRDA is requested to meet once in a quarter. 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. It is his responsibility to ensure that the administration of DRDA and the programmes are conducted in accordance with the guidelines. Wherever the Zilla Parishads are not in existence or are not functional, the DRDAs function under the Collector/District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner of the District, as the case may be.

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

(b) to (d) In order to review the functioning of the DRDAs in the country, the Ministry had set up a Committee 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 Ministry. Further action in the matter has been initiated.

Indian Rural Development Report

1192. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian Rural Development Report, 2012-13 released recently; and

(b) what efforts the Ministry is making to address the shortcomings indicated in the Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The India Rural Development Report, 2012-13 is an independent assessment of the status of rural development in India prepared by a consortium comprising IDFC Foundation, Centre for Economic & Social Studies, Institute of Rural Management Anand and Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research. The report brings a range of perspectives of Rural India and covers livelihoods, sustainability, social inclusion, infrastructure, governance and participation. The report also discusses the various challenges and the way forward for the programmes. It contains a separate Chapter on the performance of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

(b) Programme-wise efforts are given in the Statement (*See below*) to address the major shortcomings indicated in the Report.