

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 118
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/12/2021

RESHUFFLING OF DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (DRDA)

118 SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to disable or reshuffle the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) all over the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the impact of this move by Government;
- (d) whether the fund allocation for the rural development schemes for Tamil Nadu will be reduced due to disabling of DRDA; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and to what extent?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 118* due for answer on 08.12.2021

(a) to (c) The Government had set up a Committee on Performance Based Payments for better outcomes in Rural Development programmes headed by Shri Sumit Bose, former Finance Secretary, to examine the human resources deployment under rural development programmes and suggest a framework for human resource integration at Panchayat level. One of the recommendations of the Committee was to merge District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) in District Panchayats/ Zilla Parishads in States where this has not yet been done. An evaluation of DRDA organization structure and management was also done by a third party, namely Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) (Gujarat). The overall recommendation of the evaluation report submitted by IRMA on 4th April, 2020 was also to merge the DRDAs with the Panchayati Raj Institutions in all States.

In view of the above, the Government has, therefore, decided to discontinue Scheme of DRDA Administration across the country including Tamil Nadu with effect from 01.04.2022 and this decision has already been communicated to States/UTs with the request to take the following action :-

- (i) The States/UTs may merge the DRDAs with the Zilla Parishad/ Zilla Panchayats of the States/UTs. Where there are no ZPs e.g. in North Eastern States, the DRDA may be merged with District Council or any other body, as may be decided, by the State Government.
- (ii) Staff working at the DRDAs on deputation basis can be absorbed back in their parent departments.
- (iii) The support staff who are on the rolls of the DRDAs may be absorbed (a) by the appropriate line departments; (b) in the District Planning and Monitoring Body as per their qualification. In case such fitment is not possible and is not organic, they can be placed with other schemes as per their competence and qualification in suitable capacities.
- (iv) The accounts of funds released under DRDA scheme may be got audited and the balance/ unutilized amount with DRDAs as on 31.03.2022 reflected in Audit Reports, may be transferred to Zilla Panchayats/ Zilla Council or any other body, as the case may be and be accounted for in subsequent releases.

(d) & (e) The fund allocation of rural development schemes shall continue as before, as per their guidelines.
