

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 15.12.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES .**

2917 Shri D. Raja

Will the Minister of COALCOALRURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) were set up in place of erstwhile Small Marginal Farmers and Agriculture Labourers Agencies/ Small Farmers Development Agencies as per a Government of India vide letter No.1121/69/Agri. credit dated 3rd February, 1970 for purpose of implementing various poverty alleviation programmes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the staffing and funding pattern for different DRDAs;
- (d) whether Government has decided to merge the DRDAs with Zila Parishads and to continue to implement various Rural Development Programmes through them;
- (e) whether Administrative structure of Zila Parishads is capable of absorbing the services of existing DRDA employees; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and to what extent this decision has been implemented by various States/Union Territories?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a)&(b): Yes Sir, the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) were created in the year 1980 when the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was extended to all the blocks in the country. In the districts where Small Farmers Development Agencies (SFDA) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) Agencies were existing, these were merged and renamed as District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). In other districts where such agencies were not existing, DRDAs were created afresh for purpose of implementing various poverty alleviation programmes.

(c):The guidelines of DRDA Administration lay down a model staffing structure for different categories of DRDAs depending upon the number of blocks falling under their jurisdiction. The number of posts in DRDAs are 37 for Category `A` having less than 6 blocks, 47 for Category `B` having 6 to 10 blocks, 54 for Category `C` having 11 to 15 blocks and 57 for Category `D` having more than 15 blocks. Each DRDA should have eight wings namely Self Employment Wing, Women`s Wing, Wage Employment Wing, Watershed Wing, Engineering Wing, Accounts Wing, Monitoring Wing and General Administration Wing. The Scheme is funded by Central and State Governments in the respective ratio of 75:25. The funding pattern in respect of North Eastern States has been revised to 90:10 w.e.f. 2008-09. In the case of Union Territories, the Central Government provides entire (100%) funds under the Scheme.

(d):No, Sir.

(e):Does not arise.

(f):In some States such as Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, the DRDAs have been merged with the Zilla Parishad/District Panchayat and function as a separate cell maintaining separate identity and separate accounts.