

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1715
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/03/2023

MERGER OF DRDA WITH ZILA PARISHAD

1715 **SHRI NARESH BANSAL:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any policy has been prepared for the merger of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) with Zila Parishads in order to strengthen the Panchayati Raj;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the purposes it is supposed to fulfil;
- (c) whether the policy also envisages the proposal to absorb the employees of DRDA in Zila Parishads; and
- (d) the number of States where DRDA have been merged with Zila Parishads?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (c) The Government discontinued District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) Scheme with effect from 01.04.2022 and this decision has been communicated to States/ UTs with the request to take the following actions :-

- (i) The States/ UTs may merge the DRDAs with the Zila Parishad/ Zila Panchayats of the States/ UTs. Where there are no ZPs e.g. in North Eastern States, the DRDA may be merged with District Councils 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 competencies and qualifications 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 Zila Panchayats/ Zila Council or any other body, as the case may be and be accounted for in subsequent releases.

(d) As per available information, eight State Governments/ UT Administration (namely Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Manipur, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir and Assam) have merged their District Rural Development Agencies with Zila Parishad/ Zila Panchayat/ Others Bodies.