

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3248**  
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2021

FUNCTIONING OF BRLF

3248. SHRI NISITH PRAMANIK:  
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:  
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:  
SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:  
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:  
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BAAIYA):  
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has set up Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF) to empower rural India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the structure, functions and source of budgets;
- (c) whether the BRLF has been entrusted to ensure better implementation of Government schemes in partnership with civil society organizations.
- (d) if so, whether the BRLF organises various activities and programmes for tribals ;
- (e) if so, the details of achievements made and funds sanctioned during the last three years, State-wise;
- (f) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of the BRLF; and
- (g) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for improvement in the working of the BRLF?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF) was set up as an independent society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on 03<sup>rd</sup> December 2013. BRLF's mission is to facilitate and upscale civil society action in partnership with Government for transforming livelihoods and lives of rural households, with an emphasis on women, Particularly in the Central Indian Tribal Region.

BRLF is governed by a General Body and Executive Committee comprising elected, nominated or ex-officio members. The Secretaries of three Central ministries – Rural Development, Tribal Affairs and Panchayat Raj are ex-officio members of its General Body (GB) and Executive Committee (EC). GB and EC also include representatives of state governments, eminent persons from academia, civil

society and the corporate sector with demonstrated experience, understanding and commitment to the issues of concern to BRLF, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, philanthropic foundations, academic institutions and institutions representing industry. Presently the President of BRLF is Shri Hasmukh Shah, Former Chairman, IPCL.

BRLF is mandated to provide financial grants to civil society organizations (CSOs) to meet their human resource and institutional costs for up scaling of proven interventions, invest in institutional strengthening of smaller CSOs and capacity building of professional human resources working at the grassroots.

BRLF has two sources for its budget:- (i) corpus and endowment funds wherein only interest earned on the funds is utilised for operations and (ii) grants and donations Govt. has provided BRLF with Rs. 200 crore to create its corpus. BRLF can also partner with private philanthropies, public and private sector undertakings seek contribution to its corpus fund or annual grant or co-financing support to the projects funded by it.

(d) & (e): As mentioned above, BRLF engages with CSOs and provides grant support mainly for the Human Resources and operations cost of CSOs. In addition, each CSO supported by BRLF attempts to leverage the resources made available by both banks and government for a number of national and/ or state level rural development programmes/ schemes.

As per information provided by (BRLF),**the following are major achievements made by BRLF:-**

A. BRLF was designated as a Centre of Excellence of Ministry of Tribal Affairs ( MoTA). In this role, BRLF has been mandated to screen NGOs for MoTA's Grant-in-Aid Scheme, do Research Study on UsharMukti program and evaluate Grant-in-Aid Scheme of MoTA.

B. BRLF supports CSOs to conduct the following capacity building programmes :-

(i). Certificate Programme in Rural Livelihoods (CPRL) which is a 6-month certificate programme targeting the tribal youths of 18-40 years of age. A total of 6 batches with a collective strength of 174 tribal youths have been launched till date.

(ii) BRLF has been providing financial support to bright Adivasi students from the Central India Tribal Belt to pursue a two-year MBA in Rural Management from School of Development Studies, IIHMRU, Jaipur since 2017. Till now 22 students have been supported to go through this course.

(iii) BRLF has supported 25 rural professionals of tribal areas to receive advanced training on 'Water Science and Policy' in partnership with Shiv Nadar University.

(iv) BRLF signed an MoU with Jharkhand State Livelihoods Promotion Society (JSLPS) on 25th May 2019 to impart training to 90 Field Thematic Coordinators to improve current knowledge of field staff on contemporary facets of rural livelihoods.

C. Since 2017 BRLF has special thematic partnerships with some state governments for large scale projects. Highlights of these programs as under:-

(i). Support to spring rejuvenation program of West Bengal in four districts of the State viz., Darjeeling, Allipurduar, Kalimpong and Jalpaiguri for reviving 457 natural springs through implementing partners PRASARI and ACWADAM and financial support of Arghyam, Bangalore.

(ii). Support to the “UsharMukti Project” of Govt. of West Bangal was launched across 10,091 villages, 2,080 micro-watersheds, 472 GPs, 55 blocks across 6 districts (Purulia, Bankura, Jhargram, Birbhum, PaschimMednipur and PaschimBardhaman).

(iii). **Chhattisgarh Mega Watershed Project:** Under the project, an estimated 1,388 Micro-watersheds are being taken up for area treatment, checking soil erosion and runoff reduction over 6.94 lakh hectares of land. Under the MoU, the state government has committed to providing Rs1166.4 crores (from MGNREGA) for all treatment measures, while BRLF and Axis Bank Foundation take care of the CSO facilitation costs. In terms of administrative sanctions, projects worth Rs. 302.15 crores have been sanctioned, of which schemes worth Rs. 135.17 crores have been completed creating more than 51.4 lakh person-days of employment.

(iv). **Odisha Agriculture Production Cluster Project:** This four year project is a collaborative initiative of the Directorate of Horticulture, Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM), BRLF, PRADAN and 16 local CSOs to ensure doubling of income of 100,000 small and marginal farmers especially women by establishing 650 Producer Groups (PG) aggregated to form 30 APCs/Producer Company (PCs) in 40 blocks of 12 highland districts. Of these about 64% households belong to ST and SC Communities. The estimated cost of the project is INR. 401.60 crores of which Rs.381 crores is program expenses to be met out of government contribution from different departments, and Rs.20.34 crores is earmarked towards CSO facilitation, being borne by BRLF and participating CSOs. Under this project, 790 PGs have been formed covering 85,167 households and a total of 5509.7 acres of irrigation potential has been created by leveraging resources through different schemes available in the state. Rs. 81.36 crores have been leveraged from the state government till September 2020

(v).. **Jharkhand MGNREGA Mega-Watershed Project:** BRLF has signed an MoU in August 2020 with the Rural Development Department of Jharkhand (via MGREGA Commissioner) for a mega-watershed project to be implemented across 24 blocks of 6 districts of the state over 4 years. The project aims at doubling the income of at least 1 lakh families in these blocks while providing water security to 1.91 lakh households and bringing cropping intensity in approximately 1.81 lakh hectares of land.

(vi). **Strengthening Civil Society action in the areas of water, clean energy and climate change:** The project, being funded by the European Union, is being implemented in 279 villages of 4 blocks in 3 districts of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand to transform the lives and livelihoods of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups and dalits of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand Under this, 1359 water harvesting structures have been constructed under MGNREGA and 450-hectare land has been brought under protective irrigation. 7448 household have been covered under Ujjwala scheme. 1463 houses have constructed under Pradhan MantriAwasYojna and 9922 farmers from 172 villages supported to adopt sustainable agriculture practices

(vii). **Special Thematic Areas:** BRLF has been working on the following special thematic areas since inception - Non-Pesticide Management based agriculture, Participatory Ground Water Management, Water and Sanitation, De-notified and Nomadic Tribes, Backyard Poultry and Farmer Producer Organizations. Special knowledge partners have supported the work of BRLF partner CSOs in working on these thematic areas.

The table below gives state- wise grant expenditure incurred by BRLF:

<b>BRLF state wise Grant Expenditure</b>					
S. No	State	<b>FY 2020-21</b> <b>(as on 10<sup>th</sup></b> <b>March,2021)</b>	<b>FY 2019-20</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>	<b>FY 2017-18</b>
1	Madhya Pradesh	1,81,28,275	2,93,75,611	3,12,81,231	2,15,80,526
2	Jharkhand	39,55,895	1,66,77,941	1,76,22,244	2,64,95,622
3	Rajasthan	18,31,602	91,94,308	80,16,942	1,66,19,000
4	Gujarat	33,13,885	2,19,73,784	2,15,23,926	1,70,18,664
5	West Bengal	3,06,07,158	4,49,50,843	5,26,79,722	4,40,25,192
6	Maharashtra	27,43,806	1,75,96,403	1,85,81,473	1,88,16,470
7	Odisha	4,13,09,543	7,01,41,755	4,87,77,846	2,82,30,461
8	Chhattisgarh	4,24,38,894	5,14,49,451	2,16,42,358	11,06,025
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14,43,29,058</b>	<b>26,13,60,096</b>	<b>22,01,25,742</b>	<b>17,38,91,960</b>

(f): No Sir

(g): In view of above, the question does not arise.

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