

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2810
ANSWERED ON 10/03/2026**

FUNCTIONING OF DRDAS

2810. Shri Balwant Baswant Wankhade:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of misuse diversion of funds by certain District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) in the country during the last three years and the current year;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard, State and UT-wise;**
- (c) the details of the review of the functioning of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) conducted during the said period State and UT-wise including Maharashtra;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to improve the functioning of the DRDAs across the country; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State and UT-wise including Maharashtra?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)**

(a) to (e): The Government discontinued the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) Administration Scheme with effect from 01.04.2022 and the decision was communicated to the States/UTs with a request to take necessary action. States/UTs were advised to merge the DRDAs with the Zila Parishad/Zila Panchayats or, where such bodies do not exist, with District Councils or other appropriate district-level bodies, as decided by the respective State Governments.

Further, it was also communicated that staff working in DRDAs on deputation basis may be absorbed or repatriated to their parent departments, while the support staff on the rolls of DRDAs may be absorbed in appropriate line departments or district planning and monitoring bodies as per their qualifications. The accounts of funds

released under the DRDA Administration Scheme are to be duly audited and the balance/unutilized funds as on 31.03.2022 are to be transferred to the concerned Zila Panchayats/Zila Councils or other designated district-level bodies and accounted for appropriately.

Subsequent to the discontinuation of the DRDA Administration Scheme, no Grants-in-Aid have been released by this Ministry to DRDAs since FY 2022-23. Accordingly, the question of monitoring, review of functioning, or taking steps for improving the functioning of DRDAs by this Ministry during the last three years does not arise. However, as informed by the Government of Maharashtra, no cases of misuse or diversion of funds have been reported in respect of DRDAs in the State during the period under reference. It has further been informed that the DRDA Administration Scheme was earlier implemented with Central and State funding in the ratio of 60:40 for meeting the salary and administrative expenses of DRDA officials and staff. Following the decision of the Government of India to discontinue the Scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2022, the Government of Maharashtra, instead of closing the institutional arrangement, converted the DRDA Administration Scheme into a 100% State-funded Scheme and decided to continue it for a further period of five years from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2027. The input received from Government of Maharashtra is at Annexure.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 2810 dated 10.03.2026

Point	Reply
(a) Whether the Government has taken note of any misuse/ diversion of funds by certain District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) in the country during the last three years and the current year;	(a) No misuse/ diversion of funds in DRDAs in Maharashtra.
(b) If so, the details thereof along with the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard, State and UT-wise;	(b) Question does not arise.
(c) The details of the review of the functioning of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) conducted during the said period State and UT-wise including Maharashtra;	(c), (d) & (e) District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) Scheme grants were provided by the Central Government and the State Government in the ratio of 60:40 for the salaries of the officers and employees of the District Rural Development Agencies. However, as per the letter dated 01.11.2021 of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, instructions were given to discontinue the scheme in Maharashtra from 01.04.2022. Instead of closing the scheme, vide Government Resolution dated 01.04.2022 the State Government converted it into 100% State Scheme & continued it for the next 5 years, i.e., from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2027.
(d) Whether the Government proposes to take any steps to improve the functioning of the DRDAs across the country; and	
(e) If so, the details thereof, State and UT-wise including Maharashtra?	
