

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:906

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2006

PERFORMANCE OF DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of review of performance of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) carried out if any, together with the findings thereof;
- (b) the details of DRDAs found to be deficient especially in terms of management of funds, implementation of schemes and benefiting the targeted groups etc. in each case;
- (c) whether conduct of audit of the accounts of DRDAs in statutory to be carried out by independent audit agencies;
- (d) if so, the rules governing appointment and termination of the statutory auditors and scope of their exercise; and
- (e) the details of instances where DRDAs accounts have been referred to the C&AG for scrutiny?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

- (a) Performance of DRDAs is reviewed constantly through various monitoring measures such as District Level Monitoring, field studies by National Level Monitors. Periodic examination of accounts and fund utilization/management is also conducted by the office of the Chief Controller of Accounts of the Ministry.
- (b) The Ministry of Rural Development has put in place a mechanism to ensure proper management of funds by the DRDAs, at the time of release of second instalment a detailed scrutiny is undertaken in which the position of utilization of funds and progress of implementation of programmes are taken into account.
- (c) & (d) The statutory auditors of the DRDAs are the State Accountants General. As per the Scheme guidelines, the accounts of DRDAs are required to be audited by Chartered Accountant or any other auditor appointed for the purpose. According to the Guidelines of Accounting Procedure circulated by the Ministry, preference will be given to Chartered Accountants listed in the panel of AGs of the States or Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG).
- (e) The Accounts of DRDAs are open to test audit by the C&AG. In terms of the Scheme guidelines, the C&AG has the right to conduct the audit of the accounts of the society and for this purpose shall have the right of access to the books of accounts and other relevant records of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs).