

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1479
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005
MERGER OF DRDA WITH ZILA PARISHAD
Majhi Shri Parsuram

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal for the merger of DRDA with Zila Parishad was under the consideration of the Government; and
(b) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be finalised?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) In the First Round Table of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj held at Kolkata in July 2004, it was resolved that the role of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) should be reconceived as an important instrument for Panchayati Raj development through the progressive merger of DRDAs with the District Panchayats. The technical expertise and other facilities of the DRDAs should become available to all tiers of the PRIs under the overall responsibility and disciplinary control of the elected authority in the PRIs at the appropriate level. The activities of the reconceived DRDAs with respect to the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system should be patterned on the activity map for the devolution of functions, functionaries and funds so that all the three tiers of PRIs have equitable access to the resources, expertise, facilities and manpower of the DRDAs.

The guidelines of the DRDA Administration Scheme issued by the Ministry of Rural Development do not prescribe merger of DRDAs with Zilla Parishads as a general policy. However, under the guidelines, the State Governments have been allowed flexibility to operate the DRDAs as a distinct cell in Zilla Parishads with a separate identity. A Committee of Secretaries from various States is under constitution by Ministry of Rural Development to formulate changes in Structure of DRDAs.

(b) In three States, namely, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, the DRDAs have been merged with the Zilla Parishads. The position regarding other States is annexed.

ANNEXURE

THE STATE-WISE STATUS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DRDAs

Sl.No. STATES CHAIRMAN

1. ANDHRA PRADESH Dy.Commissioner
2. ARUNACHAL PRADESH Dy.Commissioner
3. ASSAM Chairman ZP
4. CHHATTISGARH Chairman ZP (DRDA Cell within ZP)
5. BIHAR Chairman ZP
6. GOA Chairman ZP
7. GUJARAT C.E.O.
8. HARYANA Dy. Commissioner
9. HIMACHAL PRADESH Chairman ZP
10. JAMMU & KASHMIR Dy. Commissioner
11. JHARKHAND Dy. Commission (No ZP)
12. KARNATAKA Chairman ZP (Merged)
13. KERALA Chairman ZP
14. MADHYA PRADESH Chairman ZP (Merged)
15. MAHARASHTRA Chairman ZP (DRDA Cell within ZP)
16. MANIPUR Chairman ZP
17. MEGHALAYA Panchayat Act not Applicable Dy. Commissioner
18. MIZORAM Panchayat Act not Applicable Dy. Commissioner
19. NAGALAND Panchayat Act not Applicable Dy. Commissioner
20. ORISSA Chairman ZP
21. PUNJAB Dy. Commissioner
22. RAJASTHAN Chairman ZP (DRDA Cell within ZP)
23. SIKKIM Secretary RD
24. TAMIL NADU Dy. Commissioner
25. TRIPURA Chairman ZP
26. UTTAR PRADESH Chairman ZP

27. UTTARANCHAL Chairman ZP
28. WEST BENGAL Chairman ZP (Merged but with separate account)