

State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) and Extension Training Centres (ETCs)

The Ministry supports the training activities of States for effective implementation of rural development programmes by providing financial support to State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) and Extension Training Centres (ETCs). The SIRDs and ETCs are State Government institutes for imparting training in the field of rural development to rural development functionaries, elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and members of Village Monitoring Committees at State level and at District/Block level respectively.

(a) State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs)

These institutes aim at improving the knowledge, skill and attitude of rural development functionaries and elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions at State and District level. At present, there are 28 SIRDs, one in each State.

100% Central assistance is being provided to SIRDs for non-recurring expenditure while recurring expenditure is shared equally between the Central and State governments. Under the head recurring expenditure, 100% funding support is also provided for five senior core faculty members of SIRDs. The funds under both recurring and non-recurring heads are directly released to SIRDs. The scheme is demand-driven. From 2007-08, the scheme has been merged with the new scheme "Management Support to RD Programmes and Strengthening of District Planning Process" as Central Sector Scheme.

The courses conducted by SIRDs include Training Skills and Methodology for ETCs, Planning and implementation of RD schemes, Rural Credit, Computer Information System for RD, Courses for BDOs, Voluntary Organisations, Management Development Programmes, Integrated Watershed Development, etc.

(b) Extension Training Centres (ETCs)

The Extension Training Centres (ETCs) function under the State governments at Regional level to impart training to the rural development functionaries and elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions at village and block level. So far, 89 ETCs have been established and upgraded all over the country with Central assistance. Consequent on increase in the number of developmental functionaries and the need for providing training to members of Panchayati Raj institutions, ETCs have acquired an added importance. Central assistance is provided @ 100% for non-recurring expenditure and up to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 lakh per ETC per annum for recurring expenditure to enable them to cope with increased training load for RD functionaries and PRI members.

The ETCs conduct courses for rural artisans, rural entrepreneurs, Self - Help Group (SHGs), Gram Sevaks/Sevikas, Secretaries of Panchayats and Co-operatives, grass-root level functionaries of all development departments, orientation to schemes like Watersheds, etc. in addition to courses for PRI members, members of Village Monitoring Committees at Block and Gram Panchayat level.

The Financial and Physical achievement of SIRDs and ETCs during the last three years is as follows:-

| Financial Achievement (Rs. in crores) | | | Physical Achievement (Number of Training Programmes conducted together by SIRDs and ETCs) | | |
|--|------------|---------|--|-------------|--------------|
| Year | Allocation | Release | Target | Achievement | Participants |
| 2007-2008 | 26.24 | 26.24 | 8000 | 17688 | 7,58,872 |
| 2008-2009 | 39.71 | 39.71 | 15000 | 25786 | 11,82,090 |
| 2009-2010 | 41.72 | 41.72 | 18000 | 27065 | 13,72,251 |