

the Gram Panchayat/Gram Sabha. ZP/DRDA should endeavor to release the funds directly to Watershed Committees on recommendations/consultations of PIAs.

Watershed Project Account

51. The WC will take necessary action open a bank account in its name in the local branch of any Nationalised Bank/Cooperative Bank. This account shall be operated upon jointly by the Chairman of WC, one member of the WDT & Watershed Secretary. Application to the ZP/DRDA for release of funds to the Watershed Project account shall be jointly signed by the Chairman of WC and the Watershed Secretary and shall be duly recommended by the Project Leader of the WDT. The Watershed Secretary shall maintain the necessary records of income and expenditure from this account in the manner prescribed by the ZP/DRDA.

Watershed Development Fund

52. One of the mandatory conditions for selection of villages in watershed development programme is contribution towards watershed development fund as per the activities being undertaken in individual lands as well as community lands. The contributions to (WDF) shall be at least @ 10% of the cost of works done on individual lands and 5% of the works on Community lands. However, in case of SC/ST and persons identified below the poverty line, the minimum contribution for works on all lands including private lands shall be @ 5%. Care should be taken that the contribution comes from the farmers and not from the labourers engaged to treat the private lands. These contributions would be acceptable either in cash/voluntary labour or material. A sum equivalent to the monetary value of the voluntary labour and materials would be taken from the watershed project account and deposited in this fund. All such contributions shall be deposited in Watershed Development Fund, which shall be maintained separately, to be operated after the project is completed.