

the project is not properly implemented or funds are misutilised or not spent as per Guidelines.

26. The Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samitis and the Gram Panchayats are also entitled to take on the responsibility of implementing a cluster of watershed projects in the capacity of Project Implementation Agencies, if they so desire. However, in all such cases, they shall also follow the norms prescribed for PIAs under these Guidelines.

### **Project Implementation Agencies**

27. While the ZP/DRDA shall administer the Watershed Development Programmes under the supervision and guidance of the State Governments and Government of India, the projects at the field level shall be implemented by the Watershed Committees under the overall supervision and guidance of Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs). The PIA shall normally be assigned 10-12 watershed projects covering an area ranging from 5000-6000 hectares. However, if a PRI/ Government Department has adequate infrastructure, it can be assigned more projects on the specific recommendations of the State Government concerned. The PIA shall engage a four member Watershed Development Team (WDT). The PIA should preferably be selected from amongst PRIs, failing which, it may be a Government Department or a reputed Non Government Organization/Body Corporate registered under any of the legislation such as the Societies Act, the Co-operative Societies Act, Companies Act or any other special statute. Wherever feasible, ZPs/DRDAs may implement a project through a combination of Government and Non-Government Project Implementation Agencies where community mobilization may be done by the Non-Government PIA & bio physical activities by Government PIA.

28. An NGO is eligible for selection as PIA only if it has been active in the field of watershed development or any similar area developmental activities in rural areas for some years. There is no bar for a PIA to take up two or more cluster of projects provided it has the requisite capacity and capability. However, one NGO may