

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5293

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007

NATIONAL WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the watershed schemes are being implemented by different Ministries;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring all Watershed Development Programmes under one umbrella to give focused attention to watershed development; and
- (d) if so, the steps initiated by the Union Government thereon so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Various watershed schemes are being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development in the country.

(b): Following major watershed development schemes are currently under implementation by:

(i) Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR))
2. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR)
3. Watershed Development Programme for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

(ii) Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

1. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
2. Desert Development Programme (DDP)
3. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

These specific programmes are being implemented by different Central Ministries under separate set of guidelines as the objectives, mandate and area of operation of these schemes vary. The schemes of MoA are mandated with enhancing agriculture production and productivity, whereas those of MoRD aim at development and maintenance of the natural resource base in rural areas for increased employment generation and socio-economic improvement

(c) & (d): Government has already set up a National Rainfed Area Authority(NRAA) vide order dated 3rd November, 2006, to provide the much-needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of country's dryland and rainfed agriculture. The Authority is mandated to bring about convergence and synergy among the numerous ongoing programmes and shall advise, guide and monitor their progress. The Authority is a policy making and monitoring body charged with the role of examining guidelines of various existing schemes and to evolve common guidelines for all schemes of different Ministries including Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of Rainfed / Dry land Farming Systems.