

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3102
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010
RAINFED FARMING
Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified any problems in regard to farming in rainfed areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to address such problems?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): Rainfed agriculture is complex, risk prone and is characterized by low levels of productivity and input usage. Rainfall varies widely in terms of distribution, extent and intensity leading to uncertainty in production and productivity. These risks discourage farmers for higher investment in agricultural inputs resulting in low cropping intensity & productivity.

(c): Government has accorded priority to the holistic and sustainable development of Rainfed areas. To address various problems of farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development, Government of India has established the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) in November 2006. For the promotion of rainfed farming, watershed programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development are as under:

Ministry of Agriculture

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA).
- (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR).
- (iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSCA).

Ministry of Rural Development

(iv) Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWPM): Integration and modification of the scheme of Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP).

Besides, programmes like Rashtiya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Micro Irrigation (MI), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) also accord special focus to rainfed areas for improving the livelihood security and agricultural productivity.