

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2229
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
REVAMPING OF NATIONAL RAINFED AREA AUTHORITY
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to revamp the National Rainfed Area Authority;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has finalised any roadmap for the said purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be implemented?

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) to (d): The Union Government has set up a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) as an advisory, policy making and monitoring body to provide knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of country's dryland and rainfed agriculture in November, 2006. The Authority is already functioning and has published the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects with a fresh framework for the next generation watershed programmes. The Guidelines coupled with the flexibilities inherent in them would provide an enabling framework for the planning, design, management and implementation of all watershed development projects in the country. New watershed projects are being implemented in accordance with these Common Guidelines with effect from 1st April, 2008. NRAA has organized orientation workshops for adoption of Common guidelines in the States. The Authority has also prepared a vision document "Harnessing Opportunities in Rainfed Areas".