

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3372
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
NATIONAL RAINFED AREA AUTHORITY
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to move the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) from Agriculture Ministry to Rural Development Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the major achievements of NRAA in the last three years?

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 (c): National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) is functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture and is providing technical services to the Ministry of Rural Development for watershed development programme as an inter-ministerial agency.

The Authority has published the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects with a fresh framework for the next generation watershed programmes. The Authority has also prepared a vision document 'Harnessing Opportunities in Rainfed Areas'. The Vision Document will help to guide and provide future direction to harness innovative policies, knowledge, technologies and opportunities for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas. The authority has developed a detailed format for facilitating the States in preparing the prospective plan for development of rainfed areas in the states. The Authority has organized workshops in the States for adoption of Common Guidelines and also have started organizing workshops for preparation of prospective plans. NRAA is associated in review of the schemes of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in all the States of the country with Planning Commission through a Committee of Experts. The Authority has provided technical and scientific back-up in the Climate Change Mission of Agriculture and Environment Ministries. The Authority has also prepared a comprehensive report on 'Mitigation Strategy for Bundelkhand Regions of UP and MP'. Besides above, the following publications have been made by NRAA:

- i. Rainfed Livelihoods: Progressive Paradigms
- ii. Soyabean based farming systems for improving livelihood of rainfed areas.
- iii. Hiware Bazar-An experience in integrated natural resource management.
- iv. Harmonization of wastelands/Degraded Lands Datasets of India.
- v. Food Security, Water and Energy Nexus in India.
- vi. Farmer & Industry Partnership for diversified livelihood and enhanced productivity – an ITC case study.