

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4403
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
FAILURE OF NATIONAL RAINFED AREA AUTHORITY
Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has been able to meet its objectives;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to improve the functioning of NRAA to meet its objectives?

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): 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. The Authority has published the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects with a fresh framework for the next generation watershed programmes. It has also prepared a vision document "Harnessing Opportunities in Rainfed Areas". The Authority has organized workshops in the States for adoption of Common Guidelines. The Authority has also prepared a comprehensive report on 'Mitigation Strategy for Buldelkhand Regions of UP and MP'. To improve the functioning of the Authority, it has now been strengthened with human resources and infrastructure facilities with an outlay of R. 123 crores for the XI Plan period.