

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5331

ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011

RAINFED AREAS

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total land area under cultivation in the country alongwith the percentage of rainfed area, out of the above;
- (b) whether the Government has any agricultural policy for such areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Rainfed Area Authority; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a): The net sown area in the country is about 141.36 million hectare (2008-09) of which 78.17 million hectare (about 55%) is rained.
- (b) & (c): Government has accorded high priority to holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas. Specific thrust is given for rainfed areas in all major schemes of Ministry of Agriculture like Macro Management in Agriculture (MMA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc. Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP) introduced in the year 2011-12, as a sub- scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is being piloted in 10 states with an outlay of about Rs.250 crore for productivity enhancement and augmenting family income through alternate production systems. Besides, watershed development programmes are being implemented for the development of rainfed and degraded areas based on concept of natural resource conservation.
- (d) & (e): The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) was set up as an expert body in November, 2006 to provide knowledge inputs regarding systematic up- gradation and management of country's dryland and rainfed agriculture. NRAA is assisting States in preparation of States specific perspective plans for development of rainfed areas.