

(c) whether Government would consider for implementing this important project and the time by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir. This Ministry has not received any project from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for increasing production of Pulses.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

#### **Scheme for rural women employment**

1347. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under which women belonging to rural areas could be employed in animal husbandry and dairy sector; and

(b) if so, the details of those schemes which would be helpful for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Even though under the Departmental schemes, a large number of women are employed, there is no scheme exclusively for women belonging to rural areas.

(b) The Question does not arise.

#### **Functioning of NRAA**

†1348. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA);

(b) whether this authority remained indifferent towards unirrigated areas of the country except Bundelkhand;

(c) if so, whether Government has prepared any action plan about widespread functioning of the authority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) was setup by Government of India in 2006 to ensure

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

holistic and integrated development of Rainfed areas in the country. The Authority is presently serviced by Ministry of Agriculture. An outlay of Rs. 123 Crore has been made for implementation of the activities of the Authority during the XI Plan.

(b) The Authority is providing technical inputs at the policy level for the holistic development of rainfed areas in the country. As far as Bundelkhand region is concerned, the area is basically rainfed and the NRAA has been assigned the responsibility for providing technical support and in monitoring and supervision of the Special Package for drought mitigation in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The Authority has much broader mandate for sustainable development of rainfed areas of the country. The mandate assigned to NRAA is given in Statement.

***Statement***

*Mandate of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)*

1. To prepare a perspective plan, outlining the national strategy and road map for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed farming areas.
2. To evolve common guidelines for all schemes of different Ministries including Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of Rainfed / Dry land Farming systems.
3. To coordinate and bring convergence within and among agricultural and wasteland development programmes being implemented in rainfed areas of the country.
4. To identify rainfed areas in different States which need priority attention and prepare watershed development programmes for integrated natural resource management, in consultation with States, focusing on multi dimensional crop, livestock, horticulture, agri-pasture integrated systems and programmes for landless farming communities.
5. To identify gaps in input supply, credit availability, dissemination of appropriate technology and other requirements relevant for development of rainfed areas.

6. To guide the implementing agencies on priority setting and monitor the specific interventions required.
7. To develop plans/programmes for capacity building of Centre/State Government functionaries in rainfed areas.
8. To suggest modalities to strengthen National and State Level Institutions concerned with Rainfed/Dryland areas, and establish institutional linkages with prioritized watersheds.
9. To monitor disbursement of rural credit/ insurance cover/safety net programmes developed for rainfed areas.
10. To set the research agenda including a critical appraisal of on-going programmes and promote diffusion of required knowledge for integrated farming in rainfed areas to district and lower level authorities.
11. To evaluate the effectiveness of completed watersheds and concurrent evaluation of on-going programmes.

#### **NAFED'S assistance to coconut growers**

1349. SHRI MOHD ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NAFED plans a brand push for coconut;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) NAFED has reported that in association with Coconut Development Board (CDB), they have opened an outlet at Cochin on 18th June, 2010 for marketing of coconut and other value added products on trail basis. Initially, it has been planned to market coconut virgin oil, desiccated coconut powder, coconut milk powder, coconut chips, tender coconut water, ball copra etc. These products are being procured from the CDB aided processors, certified by CDB and being sold in their brand name. Depending upon the financial viability of the project, NAFED may launch these products in its own brand, provided the response is encouraging and economically viable.

- (c) Question does not arise.