

Year	Total No. of road accidents	Total No. of persons killed	Persons killed per hour (approx)	Percentage of road deaths in rural India	Number of persons who died in road accidents in Delhi in the year 2009
2009	486384	125660	14	61.7	2325

(d) This Ministry has been taking the following steps to prevent road accidents:

- i. Road safety is an integral part of road design at the planning stage.
- ii. Road Safety Audit of selected stretches of National Highways/Expressways.
- iii. Establishment of driving training institutes.
- iv. Tightening of safety standards of vehicles like helmets, seat belts, power-steering, rear view mirror.
- v. Publicity campaigns on road safety awareness.

(e) and (f) The syllabus for imparting instructions in driving of Motor vehicles by driving schools and establishments has been prescribed in Rule 31 of Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. Besides, this Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs for setting up model Institutes of Driving Training and Research. The Ministry also operates a scheme for imparting refresher training to drivers in the unorganised sector.

Achievements of National Rainfed Area Authority

*234.DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) was set up as an expert body to provide knowledge inputs regarding systematic upgradation and management of country's dry land and rainfed agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details of the activities undertaken by it; and
- (c) the targets fixed and achievements made during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) In pursuant to the Cabinet decision, the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) was set up on 3rd November, 2006 as an inter-ministerial body in the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation to address the problems of rainfed areas and for sustainable development of such areas. It was envisaged as an expert body to provide knowledge inputs regarding systemic upgradation and management of country's rainfed areas. The mandate of NRAA is as under:

- i) To prepare a perspective plan, outlining the national strategy and road map for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed farming areas.
- ii) To evolve common guidelines for all schemes of different Ministries including Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of rainfed/dry land farming systems.
- iii) To coordinate and bring convergence within and among agricultural and wasteland development programmes being implemented in rainfed areas of the country.
- iv) 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.
- v) To identify gaps in input supply, credit availability, dissemination of appropriate technology and other requirements relevant for development of rainfed areas.
- vi) To guide the implementing agencies on priority setting and monitor the specific interventions required.
- vii) To develop plans/ programmes for capacity building of Centre/ State Government functionaries in rainfed areas.
- viii) To suggest modalities to strengthen National and State Level Institutions concerned with Rainfed/ Dryland areas, and establish institutional linkages with prioritized watershed.
- ix) To monitor disbursement of rural credit/ insurance cover/ safety net programmes developed for rainfed areas.

- x) 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.
- xi) To evaluate the effectiveness of completed watersheds and concurrent evaluation of on-going programmes.

The Authority became operational with the joining of Chief Executive Officer in May 2007 and other Technical Experts. It was housed in and serviced by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Considering the role of NRAA as an Inter-Ministerial body to network, coordinate, converge, plan and monitor various schemes and programmes and bring synergy among them to cover all aspects of sustainable and holistic development of rainfed areas, the Government has relocated NRAA in the Planning Commission on 17.8.2010.

Some significant achievements of NRAA since it became operational in May, 2007 are as follows:

- a. NRAA has prepared vision document entitled "Harnessing Opportunities in Rainfed Areas - A Pathway to prosperity Vision 2025" in May, 2009 after detailed consultation with other Ministries, State Governments and other academic institutions. This document is being used by the States for preparing detailed projects.
- b. The authority has prepared Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects in consultation with DoLR, DAC and Planning Commission and circulated amongst all the States in 2008. National and State level workshops has been organized for sensitization of common guidelines. The guidelines are being used by the States in implementing watershed development projects.
- c. The detailed Format for preparation of States specific Perspective Plans for rain-fed areas and watershed development has been circulated to all States and many of the States are following this format.
- d. NRAA has undertaken more than 35 capacity building/ training programmes through sensitization of senior officers/ middle & junior level officers on emerging watershed paradigms and preparation of DPRs. States have also been guided for organizing capacity building programmes and preparation of their Capacity Building Plans.

- e. NRAA has Commissioned following three pilot projects:
 - i. Management of Fringe Forest and Adjoining Non-Forest Land for Ecological, water, Food and Livelihood Security and Sustainability of JFM Programme in the States of Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh and Tripura.
 - ii. Pilot Study on capitalizing opportunities of rice fallow for sustainable livelihood development in the state of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
 - iii. Pilot Project on Livestock Centric Intervention for livelihood improvement in arid regions in Nagore District of Rajasthan.
- f. An inter-ministerial team headed by CEO, NRAA was constituted for evolving strategies for mitigating drought in Bundelkhand Region. As a result of field visits, Bundelkhand package was proposed by the Authority with the main focus on harnessing and conserving water resources and also to fill up gaps in the input supply and use of appropriate technology and special funds for development of Bundelkhand Region to combat drought. An integrated package of Rs.7266 crore has been sanctioned for the Bundelkhand by the Cabinet of which Rs.3450 crores is provided as Additional Central Assistance (ACA). Another Rs.200 crore have been provided for drinking water in the rural areas in Bundelkhand region. NRAA is now providing requisite technical approval and support for implementation of Bundelkhand Package. Monitoring is also being done.
- g. Policy paper on 'Food-Security, Water and Energy Nexus in India' was prepared and circulated. A scheme of Rs.400 crore in Eastern and Rs.200 crore in Western India has been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture on the basis of this Policy paper. Policy paper on "Soybean based Farming systems for improving Livelihood of Rainfed areas" published and circulated.
- h. The Authority has prepared a Mini DPR for simultaneous treatment of fringe forest and adjoining non-forestlands for conservation of water, bio-diversity and sustainability of JFM and poverty alleviation for the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
 - i. NRAA has undertaken a number of research studies. The main studies completed include the following:

1. Evaluation of 108 watersheds of NWDRA project implemented during 10th Plan.
2. Monitoring and Evaluation Study on effectiveness of artificial recharge of groundwater programmes/schemes/projects in the rainfed regions of Maharashtra.
3. Prioritization of Rainfed Areas in the country.
4. Study on impact of high rainfall/flood on ground water resources in the Krishna River Basin.
5. Study on Water Management for Food Security in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh (under progress).
6. Impact Evaluation of Watershed Activities of People - A Case Study of Kalimati Watershed in Uttarakhand State.
7. Impact Evaluation of Watershed Activities of People - A Case Study of Fakot Watershed in Uttarakhand State.

NRAA is engaged in innovative convergence processes to be followed for optimizing outputs and outcomes in rainfed area development.

Forged licence to pilots

†*235. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employees of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) against whom action has been taken in the case of giving licences to pilots on the basis of forged documents;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the pilots whose documents have been found to be forged?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As a result of the investigation by crime branch of Delhi Police, following officials of DGCA were arrested for their involvement in issuing licences based on forged documents:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.