

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 04.12.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**DEVELOPMENT OF RAINFED AREAS .**

1681

Shri Natuji Halaji Thakor

Will the Minister of COALCOALAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has identified rainfed areas in the country for the purpose of their sustainable development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the total expenditure earmarked for development of rainfed areas under the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION)

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): The net sown area in the country is about 140.30 million ha of which 60.86 million ha area is covered under irrigation and the remaining 79.44 million ha is rainfed. The state-wise details of net sown area and rainfed area is annexed.

Government of India has accorded highest priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through integrated watershed development approach. Ministry of Agriculture under the Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture allocates approximately Rs. 500 crores annually for the Programmes of Natural Resource Management for development of rainfed and degraded areas based on watershed approach as per Annual Work Plan proposed by the States. Department of Land Resources has made provision of Rs. 15,359 crores for the XI Plan for watershed management. Government of India has set up a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to address various problems of farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development of rainfed areas. For the XI Five Year Plan, Rs. 123 crores has been earmarked for this purpose. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has also allocated a budget of Rs. 75 crores for Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) and All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture in XI Plan.