

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4923

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE;NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers in various parts of the country particularly in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are realing under heavy debt;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether being helpless in the repayment of the loan they are resorting to suicide;
- (d) if so, the number of suicide cases of farmers reported during the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Union Government have formulated any concessional scheme or appointed any highlevel committee to investigate the reasons in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government to curb this suicide trend by farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b) : As per the Debt Investment Survey, 1992 over 23% of rural households were found indebted in the country in 1991. The percentages of rural households indebted in States of Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are given as under :

Punjab	25.1%
Andhra Pradesh	34.6%
Mahrashtra	22.4%
Bihar	16.2%
Uttar Pradesh	18.9%

(c) & (d) : On the basis of information made available 386 farmers in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab committed suicide during last three years on account of various reasons such as family discord, alcohol and illicit drug use, indebtedness etc.

(e) & (f) : The Government of India constituted a Study Group in the context of the distress caused by indebtedness of farmers in Andhra Pradesh. The Group examined the nature and extent of indebtedness among the farmers of Andhra Pradesh and suggested measures for increasing the role of financial institutions in the purveyal of credit, making available quality seeds and other agricultural inputs and enforcement of private Money Lending Act more stringently. The recommendations of the Group have already been forwarded to the State and other agencies concerned for taking appropriate action in the matter.