

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3791

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

Bangaru Smt. Susheela Laxman;Jha Shri Raghunath;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Mahto Shri Tek Lal;Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Singh Shri Mohan;Singh Shri Prabhunath;Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of suicide committed by farmers including female farmers due to drought, crops failure and debt recorded in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Punjab during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;
- (b) whether the rate of suicides committed by the farmers have come down this year in comparison to the last year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore;
- (e) whether the Nationalised Banks and Semi-Nationalised Banks are formulating any scheme to reduce interest on loan to the farmers;
- (f) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to constitute a committee to prevent and study the cause of such incidents;
- (h) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (i) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate/compensate to repay the debt of the families of such farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)to(f): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(g)&(h): In Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, where large number of cases of suicide by farmers have been reported in the past few years, the State Governments have taken necessary steps to deal with the problem.

In Karnataka, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Veeresh was constituted to examine the causes of suicide by farmers. The State Government has also taken measures for building confidence among farmers with the help of Psychologist and Social Scientists. The Raitha Samparka Kendras have been set up to receive representations and complaints of farmers.

In Andhra Pradesh, a Cabinet Sub-Committee has been constituted to examine the situation arising out of suicide by farmers. A Commission on Farmers` Welfare was also constituted by the State Government to examine the circumstances leading to suicide by farmers. The Commission has since submitted its report to the State Government.

In Maharashtra, Divisional Commissioner undertake the inquiry whenever a case of suicide by farmer is reported. The State Government has entrusted a study to the Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research, Mumbai to examine socio-economic issues underlying these suicides.

(i): Government of Karnataka grants an ex-gratia relief of Rs.1 lakh to each family of the deceased farmer if he has committed suicide due to burden of loan borrowed from financial institutions.

In Andhra Pradesh, the family of each of the deceased farmer is provided an ex-gratia relief of Rs.1.00 lakh besides Rs. 50,000 towards liquidation of farm debt. In addition steps are taken as part of social cushion to the families by allotment of houses under Indira Awas Yojana Scheme, provision of self-employment to atleast one member of each family etc.

In Maharashtra as ex-gratia of Rs.1.00 lakh is provided to each of the affected families from the Chief Minister`s Relief Fund if it is established that the suicide is caused due to agricultural indebtedness.