

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:3

ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of suicide by farmers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have increased during the last six months;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported in various States during the said period, State- wise;
- (c) the reasons for sudden spurt in such incidents;
- (d) whether the Government propose to provide any special package to State Governments to check such incidents; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 3 DUE FOR REPLY ON 5TH JULY, 2004.

(a)&(b): The number of suicides committed by farmers in Andhra Pradesh as reported by the State Government is as under:-

Year	No. of suicide
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1999	151
2000	34
2001	62
2002	36
2003 (June end)	8

Total: 291

However, no case of suicide by farmers has been reported by the State Government of Kerala for the above periods.

A status report on suicide committed by farmers in other States as reported by the concerned State Governments is as under:-

State	No. of suicide	Period
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Karnataka	469	(1.4.99 to 18.10.2003)
Orissa	100	(1.4.99 to 5.8.2003)
Punjab	3	(1.4.99 to 31.3.2003)
Rajasthan	3	(1.4.99 to June, 2003)

Tripura (1.4.99 - June, 2003). Though some farmers have committed suicide, no number has been reported.

(c): The reasons for such suicide can broadly be attributed to:-

- ? crop failure,
- ? indebtedness because of high rate of interest on loans,
- ? drought,
- ? social and economic insecurity,
- ? family disputes, marital disharmony.

(d)&(e): To mitigate the problems of the farmers, the Government has identified the following areas for focussed and priority attention:-

- ? Doubling Rural Credit in three years, easing the burden of debt and high interest rate.
- ? Dry Land Farming, promotion of Horticulture production and Water Management.
- ? Creation of additional irrigation facilities.
- ? Market support to farmers` produce for ensuring fair and remunerative prices.
- ? Insurance of crops against production loss due to natural calamities.
- ? Assistance to the farmers under various agricultural and horticultural crop production programmes.