

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:372

ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidents of suicide by farmers are rising throughout the country despite the rehabilitation package and loan waiver by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year,State-wise;
- (c) whether any survey or assessment has been made to study the impact of globalisation on agriculture;and
- (d) if so,the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The suicides by farmers have been reported mainly from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kamataka and Kerala. Some cases of suicides by fanners have also been reported from the states of Gujarat, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. A statement indicating the number of suicides by farmers as reported by the State Governments is at Annexure. As reported by the State Governments, the causes for suicide by farmers are broadly crop failure, indebtedness, drought and social & economic insecurity.To address the problem of suicide by farmers, the Government of India approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh,Maharashtra,Kamataka and Kerala,reporting comparatively higher number of suicides by fanners.The package includes both immediate and medium term measures. The rehabilitation package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and fanning support services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. An amount of Rs.1 1463.49 crore (about 67.51% of total package cost) has been released by Central/State Governments and Banks under the package up to 30.06.2008. Measures taken by Government include an debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers announced in the Union Budget 2008-09 to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers in the country. In addition, for revitalization of agriculture sector, Government in a major policy reorientation has approved the National Policy for Farmers and launched new schemes of Rashtriya Kirishi Vikas Yqjana and National Food Security Mission.

(c)& (d): In a study conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture on the impact of WTO on Indian agriculture in the year 1999,it was observed that the ex-post gains accruing to Indian agriculture seems to be very little, since developed countries have used various escape routes in the Agreement on Agriculture in protecting their agriculture sector. The study also stated that our agriculture will stand to gain if we bring about improvement in irrigation, transport, agriculture extension services and research.

In the current WTO negotiations it has been agreed to have the mechanisms of Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism to address the concerns of developing countries relating to food security,livelihood security and rural development.