

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1394
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR MAHARASHTRA FARMERS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether complaints have been received that farmers from Maharashtra are not getting the benefits of special package announced for them;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of the said special package;
- (c) if so, the loopholes that have been identified while reviewing implementation of packages; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the benefits actually reach the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)to(d): No such incidents have been reported by the Government of Maharashtra. However, there have been some reports from certain quarters including the press about incorrect selection of beneficiaries under the Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in six suicide prone districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

Government of Maharashtra constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Gopal Reddy, the then Director General, Vasantnao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission, Amravati on 15th September, 2008 to enquire into the reports regarding incorrect selection of the beneficiaries under the Central and State Government's rehabilitation packages for the farmers in the identified suicide prone districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and to ascertain the truth and take action, if necessary. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government of Maharashtra in April, 2009 and the Government has initiated the process of taking action on its findings.

The Government is keeping close watch over the actual implementation of the rehabilitation package to ensure that the intended benefits under the package reach the farmers. Implementation of the package is being closely monitored by the State Government of Maharashtra at State, Divisional and District level. Besides, Government of India is also regularly monitoring the progress of implementation of rehabilitation package.