

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:110

ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz; Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports of suicides committed by the farmers in various States during the last one year and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to prevent such unfortunate incidents;
- (d) the details of the welfare/rehabilitation schemes for farmers being implemented by the Government; and
- (e) the number of farmers benefited thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

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.110 DUE FOR REPLY ON 16-11-2010

(a) & (b): Number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons during 2009 and 2010, as reported by the State Governments, is given in Annexure I. Reasons broadly identified as contributing to suicides by farmers, inter-alia, include crop failure, indebtedness, drought, personal reasons and social & economic insecurity.

(c) to (e): In order to revitalize agriculture and improve the condition of farmers on a sustainable basis various measures have been taken by the Government which, inter-alia, include significant increase in investment in agriculture sector through various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, scheme for 60,000 "pulses and oil seed villages" in rain-fed areas during 2010-11, scheme for extending Green Revolution to Eastern India, watershed management and soil health etc. The Guidelines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme have also been amended by the Government in July, 2009 to allow provision of irrigation facility, horticultural plantation and land development works on land belonging to small and marginal farmers under the Scheme. The Minimum Support Prices of major cereals have been increased substantially during the last 5 years.

The Government of India had approved a Rehabilitation Package of Rs.16978.69 crore in 2006 covering 31 districts in 4 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra initially for a period of 3 years to address the problem of agrarian distress. The period for implementation of the non-credit components of the package was extended by 2 more years i.e. up to 30-09-2011. The interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loans up to Rs. 3 lakh has also been enhanced from 1% to 2% for the year 2010-11. Thus, the effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their loans in time will be 5% per annum.

The Government has also implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers involving an estimated amount of Rs. 65,318.33 crore. State-wise details of the number of farmers benefitted by the scheme and allocation/release under the major flagship schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture during each of the last three years and the current year are at Annexure II and Annexure III respectively.