

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:81  
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011  
CAUSE OF FARMERS` SUICIDES  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether loss of crops and excessive loans have been the reasons for farmers committing suicides in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of farmers who have committed suicides due to loss of crops and excessive loans during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent crop loss and promote agriculture in the interest of the farmers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) & (b): As reported by State Governments and as confirmed by various studies, reasons for suicides by farmers are manifold which, inter-alia, include crop failure, indebtedness, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons. While loss of crops and indebtedness are also the reasons, these are not the only reasons for farmers committing suicides.

Number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons during the last three years, as reported by State Governments, is given in Annexure.

(c): To prevent crop loss, Ministry of Agriculture supplements the efforts of State Government/Union Territories through assistance provided to farmers for procuring inputs such as seeds, nutrients, plant protection chemicals, machinery etc., under various Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) forms the main plank of plant protection strategy for monitoring pest/disease, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and human resource development by organizing Farmers' Field Schools.

To promote agriculture and improve the condition of farmers on a sustainable basis various steps have been taken by the Government which, inter-alia, include significant increase in public 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 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 September 30, 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 crop loan 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, as per provisional figures.