

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:365

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011

FARMERS SUICIDE

Chanabasappa Shri Udasi Shivkumar;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Kumar Shri Shailendra;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Naik Shri Shripad Yesso;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Bhupendra ;Singh Shri Vijay Bahadur;Singh Shri Yashvir;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy ;Vishwanath Shri katti Ramesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether indebtedness and crop failure have been the reasons for farmers committing suicide in the country including Bundelkhand region and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the number of farmers who committed suicide due to the said reasons during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to prevent such cases in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): As reported by State Governments, reasons for suicides by farmers are manifold which, inter-alia, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

(b): Number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons in various States during each of the last three years and the current year, as reported by the respective State Governments, is given at Annexure.

(c): Government of India is implementing a Rehabilitation Package, which was announced in 2006 initially for 3 years, covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra to address the problem of agrarian distress. An amount of Rs.19880.11 crore has been released under this package till March 31, 2011. The period for implementation of the non-credit components of the package has been extended by 2 more years i.e. up to September 30, 2011.

Under the Bundelkhand Package, Rs.313.28 crore was released during 2010-11 by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under its different programmes/ schemes.

The Government has also implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers in the country involving estimated amount of Rs.65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.

In order to revitalize agriculture and improve the condition of farmers on a sustainable basis, other measures taken by the Government, 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, Watershed Management and Soil Health & Fertility etc. The Minimum Support Prices of major cereals have been increased substantially during the last 5 years for benefit of farmers.

Additional measures announced for agriculture sector in the Budget 2011- 12, inter-alia, include bringing 60,000 hectares under oil palm plantation, initiative on vegetable clusters, promotion of higher production of nutri cereals and launching of National Mission for Protein Supplements.

The interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loans up to Rs.3 lakh was enhanced in the Union Budget 2011-12, which has resulted in lowering the effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their crop loan on time to 4% per annum.