

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:109

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011

FARMERS SUICIDES

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Premdas Shri

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether suicides amongst the farmers in various parts of the country still continue to rise even after implementation of the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 and the Bundelkhand package;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the farmers continue to borrow loan from local money lenders in the absence of banking network in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent further suicides by farmers?

**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. 109 DUE FOR REPLY ON 29TH NOVEMBER, 2011.

(a) & (b): No, Madam. Subsequent to implementation of Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 and Bundelkhand Package along with various other measures initiated by Government, there is decline in number of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons, as reported by State Governments.

(c) & (d): In order to reduce dependence of farmers on private moneylenders, remedial measures taken by Government include improving agricultural credit flow through institutional sources, bringing down rate of interest on farm loan, issuing Kisan Credit Card to all eligible and willing farmers in a time bound manner, increasing limit of collateral free farm loan, implementation of revival package for strengthening of Short-term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure and advising banks to finance farmers for redeeming their loans taken from private money lenders and dispense with requirement of "no dues" certificate for small loans.

(e): Steps taken by Government to prevent suicide by farmers and ameliorate their condition include implementation of:

(i) Rehabilitation Package announced in 2006 initially for 3 years, covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, to address problems of agrarian distress. An amount of Rs.19910.70 crore has been released under this package till 30.06.2011. The period for implementation of non-credit components of the package was extended up to 30.09.2011.

(ii) ADWDRS, 2008 benefitted about 3.69 crore farmers, involving Rs. 65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.

(iii) Bundelkhand Special Package for drought mitigation in thirteen districts of Bundelkhand region with budgetary outlay of Rs. 7266 crore and multi-sectoral approach focussing on water management, livelihood improvement and convergence of various flagship schemes.

(iv) Interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh was enhanced during 2011-12, which resulted in lowering of effective rate of interest to 4% per annum for such farmers, who repay their crop loan on time.

(v) Substantial enhancement in Minimum Support Price of major agricultural commodities during last 5 years to benefit farmers.

Further, in order to revitalize agriculture sector and to improve conditions of farmers on sustainable basis, other measures taken by Government, inter-alia, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through implementation of various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, Watershed Management, Soil Health & Fertility management etc.

Additional measures initiated for enhancing production in agriculture sector during 2011-12, inter-alia, include schemes for bringing 60,000 hectare under oil palm plantation, initiative on vegetable clusters, promotion of production of nutri- cereals and launching of

