

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:130

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012

FARMERS SUICIDE

Bais Shri Ramesh;Karunakaran Shri P.;M.Thambidurai Dr. ;Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Panda Shri Prabodh;Pandey Saroj;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Sugumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers continue to commit suicide in various States/UTs despite adoption of scientific measures of farming/Bt. Cotton etc.;
- (b) if so, the number of farmers committing suicides or deaths reported due to unnatural reasons during each of the last three years in each State/UT including Vidharbha region;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of incidents of farmers' suicides on account of the rise in prices of agricultural inputs not commensurate with the Minimum Support Price of agricultural produce;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the financial conditions of farmers, overcoming indebtedness alongwith the action initiated for setting up of Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs) in rural areas of the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons during each of last three years, as reported by State Government/UT including Vidharbha region in Maharashtra, is given in Annexure.

Reasons of suicide by farmers, as reported by State Governments, are manifold which, inter-alia, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal.

Measures taken by Government of India to prevent suicide by farmers, improve financial condition and overcome indebtedness include following:

(i) Implementation of Rehabilitation Package covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, under which an amount of Rs.19910.70 crore has been released till June 30, 2011.

(ii) Implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, which benefitted about 3.69 crore farmers, involving debt waiver/relief of Rs.65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.

(iii) Increasing credit flow to agriculture sector to Rs.468291.28 crore, as of March, 2011. Target of credit flow for 2011-12 has been raised to Rs.475000 crore, against which achievement as of November 2011 is Rs.294023 crore.

(iv) Providing Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to all eligible and willing farmers in time bound manner to facilitate flow of credit to farmers and increase financial inclusion. Up to October 2011, Rs.10.78 crore KCC have been issued.

(v) Providing interest rate subvention for timely repayment of crop loan up to Rs.3 lakh, whereby effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their crop loan on time has come down to 4% per annum.

(vi) This benefit of pre-harvest interest rate subvention is now available also to small & marginal farmers having KCC for further period of up to six months post-harvest on same rate as for crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouse.

(vii) Announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for identified agricultural commodities every year to ensure remunerative price and increase farmers' income. MSP of major agricultural commodities has been stepped up significantly e.g., during 2004-05 to 2011-12, range of increase in MSP is from 80% in case of Groundnut to 148% for pulses (Moong).

(viii) Microfinance service through apex institutions like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Small Industries Development Bank of India and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh. At retail level, Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, and Cooperative banks also provide microfinance services. NABARD provides technical support in the form of capacity building of staff of Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs) and also bankers in appraisal of MFIs for providing wholesale resource support.

In order to revitalize agriculture sector and to improve conditions of farmers on sustainable basis, other measures taken by the 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.