

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1679

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of farmers' suicides in Vidharba of Maharashtra and other areas of the country are on the rise;
- (b) if so, the number of such suicides reported during the last six months and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a long term policy to prevent these suicides;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the relief measures announced by the Government to provide succour to the farmers of Vidharba region in Maharashtra?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. Since implementation of Rehabilitation Package in identified districts in 2006 coupled with various other measures taken by Government to revitalize agriculture sector and improve condition of farmers in the country, the number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons, as reported by respective State Governments, including Maharashtra, has not risen.

(c) & (d): National Policy for Farmers (NPF) 2007, is long-term in scope and places emphasis on increased productivity, profitability, institutional support, improvement of land, water & support services, appropriate price policy, risk mitigation etc., for the benefit of farmers in the country. Various programmes/schemes viz., Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro- Irrigation etc., are being implemented by Government in accordance with this policy with a view to increasing investment, productivity, production and income in agriculture & allied sectors.

(e): Six districts in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra were included in the Rehabilitation Package announced by Government in 2006, which has since been implemented. The Vidarbha Intensified Irrigation Development Programme, which seeks to bring in more farming areas under protective irrigation, was announced in the Budget 2012-13. Other measures taken by Government for benefit of farmers in the country, including Vidarbha region in Maharashtra, comprise enhancement in Minimum Support Price of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, providing debt waiver, debt relief, interest subvention on crop loan etc.