

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:38

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

SUICIDES BY FARMERS

Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar; Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of suicides by farmers reported by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) since 2011 in the country, State-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the National Human Rights Commission has recently issued any notice to the State Governments including Maharashtra with regard to suicides by farmers in the States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and
- (d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to prevent suicides by farmers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 38 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26TH FEBRUARY, 2013.

(a) Details of suicides by self-employed persons in farming/agriculture in the country, as reported by the National Crime Records Bureau in its latest publication Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India (ADSI)-2011, State-wise, are at Annexure. Causes of suicides mentioned in ADSI include family problems, illness, drug abuse/addiction, unemployment, property dispute, bankruptcy or sudden change in economic status, poverty, professional/career problem, love affair, barrenness/impotency, cancellation/non-settlement of marriage, dowry dispute, fall in social reputation, causes not known, etc.

(b) & (c) National Human Rights Commission took suo-motu cognizance of newspaper reports published in the Hindustan Times dated 07/12/2011 about alleged suicides by farmers and called for reports from Government of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra.

(d) Government has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing, etc. Various programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of Government is primarily on expansion of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages. Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, etc.