

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2516

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

RELIEF MEASURES FOR FARMERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite increase in minimum support prices of crops, credit flow to agriculture, debt waiver/relief and interest subvention on crops loans, the farmers continue to commit suicides, particularly in rainfed/drought prone areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether a number of farmers in the country are falling into debt trap;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide financial and logistical assistance to farmers to mitigate their hardships and indebtedness?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Reasons of suicide by farmers are manifold which, inter-alia, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons. Details of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons, during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, as reported by respective State Government are at Annexure.

(c) & (d) As per report on "Indebtedness of Farmer Households" by National Sample Survey Organization (2005), of the estimated 89.35 million farmer households, 48.6% were indebted to either formal or informal or both sources of credit. Also, as per report of an Expert Group (2007) appointed by Government of India to look into the problems of agricultural indebtedness in its totality and suggest measures to provide relief to farmers across the country, inter-alia, indebtedness of farmers in India is as diverse and heterogeneous as are agrarian conditions and average farmer household borrowing has not been excessive.

(e) In addition to increase in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, credit flow to agriculture, debt waiver/relief and interest subvention, Government has taken various other steps to provide financial and logistical assistance to farmers, which include issue of Kisan Credit Cards, assisting formation of Joint Liability Groups, provision of agricultural inputs and other support services, redesigning crop insurance schemes, construction of warehouses, godowns, silos and cold storages and creation of infrastructure for transportation and marketing of agriculture produce, etc. In the Budget 2013-14, it has been proposed, inter-alia, to extend the interest subvention scheme for short-term crop loans to crop loans borrowed from private sector scheduled commercial banks in respect of loans given within the service area of the branch concerned, support Farmer Producer Organizations and also create a Credit Guarantee Fund.