

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5719

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013

COMMITTEE ON FARMERS SUICIDE

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Choudhry Smt. Shruti;Gutha Shri Sukender Reddy;Singh Kunwar
Rewati Raman;Singh Shri Uday Pratap

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court had expressed concern over the large scale suicides by farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any high level committee to report on such cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to bring out a white paper on farmers' suicide;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and (g) the details of the compensation paid to the kins of deceased farmers during the last three years, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Writ Petition (Civil) No.359 of 2006 was filed to review the existing agriculture policy and modify the same in the interest of farmers so that there is no recurrence of suicide by farmers.

The Government in its affidavit explained various policy initiatives taken/being taken in this regard including significant stepping up of public investment, increasing availability of credit, rehabilitation package to mitigate distress in 31 identified districts, announcement of Minimum Support Prices for major agricultural Commodities each season, ensuring availability of agricultural inputs and other measures.

The Writ Petition was accordingly disposed of by the Supreme Court on 21.09.2010.

(c) to (f): No, Madam.

(g): Payment of compensation to kins of deceased farmers is the prerogative of respective State Government. Government of India had approved a rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, in 2006. Under the package, Rs.19998.85 crore (as on Sept, 2011) has been released to these States. After implementation of the Rehabilitation Package, there has been a declining trend in Farmers' suicides.