

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:24
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013
SUICIDE BY FARMERS
Lingam Shri P.;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of suicides by farmers reported from several parts of the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has announced any special packages to address the agrarian crisis and to mitigate the hardships being faced by the farmers in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved thereunder, so far; and
- (d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to empower farmers and to prevent them from committing suicide?

Answer

MINISTER 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. 24 DUE FOR REPLY ON 6TH AUGUST, 2013.

(a): State-wise details of suicides by farmers during the last three years, as reported by the National Crime Records Bureau, are at Annexure-I. Causes of suicides 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.

State-wise details of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons during the last three years and the current year, as reported by respective State Governments, are at Annexure-II.

(b) to (d): Government has announced several packages to mitigate the hardships faced by farmers including Rehabilitation Package of Rs.19998.85 crore covering 31 suicide prone districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, Package of Rs.1840.75 crore for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system in Kerala, Package of Rs.764.45 crore for mitigating agrarian distress in Idukki district of Kerala, Bundelkhand Special Package of Rs. 7266 crore for drought mitigation and Vidarbha Intensified Irrigation Development Programme for which Rs. 600 crore has so far been allotted under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

Government has also taken several other steps to revitalize the 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, revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure.