

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3277

ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014

SUICIDES BY FARMERS

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Venugopal Shri P.;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified the areas which are prone to suicides by farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the incidents of suicides by farmers reported in these areas during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any advisory to agricultural universities to assist the families of the deceased farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent suicides by farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b): Agriculture including agricultural research and education and agricultural indebtedness are State subjects under the Constitution. Therefore, State Governments formulate appropriate policies/programmes for development of agriculture and welfare of farmers including identification of areas prone to suicides. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

Sixteen districts in Andhra Pradesh, six districts each in Maharashtra and Karnataka and three districts in Kerala were identified for inclusion in the Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package which was announced by Government in the year 2006, to mitigate agrarian distress. State-wise details of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons in identified districts during last three years, as reported by respective State Governments, are at Annexure. No incident of suicide by farmers during the current year 2014 has been reported by the State Governments.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Question does not arise.

(e): Government of India 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 (VIIDP) with total allocation of Rs.3250 crore from 2012-13 to 2016-17.

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, interest subvention on crop loans, introduction of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs), revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure etc.