

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1966
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009
INDEBTEDNESS OF FARMERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of farmers have been reported to be indebted in a survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether indebtedness has compelled the farmers to sell their land holdings thereby being rendered landless agricultural labour;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the fall in agricultural holding in the country including Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) the steps taken to stem the fall in land holdings in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Yes, Madam. 48.6 per cent of the farmer households in the country were reported to be indebted i.e. having a liability in cash or kind with value Rs.300 or more at the time of transaction as per the findings of the Survey Report No.498 on 'Indebtedness of Farmer Households' released by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

(b): State-wise details is annexed.

(c) to (f): Government has no information about any substantial sale of landholdings by farmers due to indebtedness. Government has already implemented Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 for mitigating distress of farmers due to indebtedness from institutional sources. As per the provisional figures, a total of 3.01 crore small and marginal farmers and 0.68 crore 'other farmers' have benefited from the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 involving debt waiver and debt relief of Rs.65,318.33 crore. Government also constituted a Task Force to look into the issue of a large number of farmers, who had taken loans from private money lenders, not being covered under the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008. Further, the Government has initiated several measures for improving farmers' access to institutional credit sources so that their dependence on private money lenders could be reduced. As a result of these measures, the ground level farm credit flow has increased from a level of Rs. 86981 crore in the year 2003-04 to a level of Rs.287149 crore in the year 2008-09 and is targeted to reach Rs.325000 crore in the year 2009-10.

Total number of operational agricultural holdings in the country was reported to be 886.93 lakh as per the Input Survey conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture with reference to year 1996-97 which has increased to 1077.06 lakh as reported in the last Input Survey conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture with reference to year 2001-02. The details are as under:

Input Survey	Total no. of operational holdings in the country	Total no. of operational holdings in the Rajasthan	Total no. of operational holdings in the Tamil Nadu
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Input Survey 1996-97	886.93 lakh	51.65 lakh	82.48 lakh
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Input Survey 2001-02	1077.06 lakh	58.03 lakh	78.40 lakh
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