

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:71

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

Choudhry Smt. Shruti; Das Shri Bhakta Charan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of suicide by the farmers continue to occur in the country including Maharashtra and Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent suicides by the farmers;
- (d) whether the Government has provided financial assistance/fund to the States to address the problem of farmers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 71 DUE FOR REPLY ON 24-11-2009.

(a) to (f): The incidents of suicide by farmers have been mainly reported from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala and stray cases of farmers' suicide have been reported from the State of Gujarat, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. A statement indicating state-wise number of suicides as intimated by the State Governments is enclosed at Annexure-I. As reported by the State Governments and revealed in some studies conducted earlier, the causes for suicides by farmers are manifold including personal and other reasons. However, some suicides out of the total number of suicides have been attributed to crop failure, indebtedness, drought and socio-economic reasons.

The Government of India approved in the year 2006 a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The package is being implemented over a period of 3 years and includes both immediate and medium term measures with an aim of establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc.

It has been decided by the Government to extend the period for implementation of the non credit components of the package by 2 more years i.e. 30-09-2011. Need based additional funds will be provided to the States during the extended period of 2 years. An amount of Rs.16953.04 crore (i.e. 99.8% of total package cost) has been released by Centre/State Governments and Banks in 4 States up to 30-09-2009

The state-wise break-up is given below:

	Rs. in crore)	
State	Amt. approved under	Amt. released/utilized
	Rehabilitation package	upto 30-09-2009

Maharashtra	3873.26	4197.26
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Karnataka	2689.64	3264.02
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Kerala	765.24	369.57
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Andhra Pradesh	9650.55	9122.19
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Total 16978.69 16953.04

In addition to the Rehabilitation Package being implemented in 31 districts, the Government of India implemented a Debt waiver and Debt Relief scheme, 2008 in all districts of the country. As per provisional figures, a total of 3.01 crores small and marginal farmers and 0.67 crore other farmers have benefitted from the scheme involving debt waiver and debt relief to the tune of Rs. 65,318.33 crores, as their line of credit has been declogged due to clearing off of their principal and interest liabilities. The state-wise break-up is at Annexure-II. Besides, for revitalization of agriculture sector, a number of plan schemes and programmes are under implementation across the country which include National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an objective to incentivise the States so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors in a decentralized manner, National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management and Support to Agriculture Extension Services etc. For these schemes an amount of Rs. 11307 crore has been approved for the year 2009-10 of which Rs. 5855.30 crore has already been released.

The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 has also definite provisions to improve economic viability of farming.