

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1842
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009
PROBLEMS OF FARMERS
Ganeshamurthi Shri A.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the loan waiver scheme has not succeeded in addressing the problems of farmers in the country and farmers continue to commit suicide;
- (b) if so, the details thereof State-wise; and
- (c) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): No, Madam. Since the introduction of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 and implementation of Rehabilitation Package, 2006, number of suicides by farmers have been declining in most States. In order to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers and to enhance the economic viability of farming a Debt waiver and Debt Relief scheme, 2008 has been implemented in all districts of the country. As per provisional figures, a total of 3.01 crore 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 delogged due to clearing off of their principal and interest liabilities. State-wise details of number of suicides due to agrarian reasons and progress of Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme are given at Annexure I and II respectively.

Besides this, in order to address the problem of suicide by farmers, reported mainly from 31 Districts spread over the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka,

Maharashtra and Kerala, the Government approved a rehabilitation package of Rs.16978.69 crore in the year 2006. 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. 30th September, 2011. 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 30th September, 2009. In addition, for revitalization of agriculture sector a number of plan schemes and programmes viz. 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. are being implemented across the country. The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 has also definite provisions to improve economic viability of farming.