

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:170

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015

Suicide by Farmers

Ahmed Shri Sultan ;Chandrappa Shri B.N.;Chaudhury Shri Jitendra;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Kothapalli Smt. Geetha;Lakhanpal Shri Raghav;Nimmala Shri Kristappa;Roy Prof. Saugata;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Singh Shri Rama Kishore;Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda;Tripathi Shri Sharad;Vichare Shri Rajan Baburao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of farmers' suicide including sugarcane and cotton growers have risen in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of financial assistance and compensation provided to the families of deceased farmers during the said period, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has launched several schemes to empower and encourage the farmers to adopt modern farming techniques to get more agricultural produces and remunerative prices therefrom, if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated and utilised thereunder during the said period; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the farmers from committing suicide?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

???? ??????? ???? ????? ?????? (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data published annually, the number of suicides by persons self employed in farming / agriculture in 2012, 2013 and 2014 were 13754, 11772 and 5650 respectively. The data relating to suicides in 2015 has not been published by NCRB.

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(c): Agriculture is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore, State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture sector and welfare of farmers including payment of compensation to the bereaved families of farmers affected by suicides.

(d): For promotion of Agricultural Mechanization in the country, Government is implementing a Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) w.e.f. 2014-15 under the aegis of National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology with the following objectives:

- (i) Increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low;
- (ii) Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centres' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership;
- (iii) Creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments;
- (iv) Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities;
- (v) Ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.

The funds allocated/ released under this Sub-Mission State-wise is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(e): State Governments are primarily responsible for development of the agriculture sector. Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. It has taken several steps to revitalize the agriculture sector and improve upon the condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing public investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure, 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 institutional credit flow to agriculture sector, post-harvest loan for six months to eliminate distress sale of agricultural produce by farmers, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure, etc.