

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:397

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015

Suicide by Farmers

Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan;Chaudhury Shri Jitendra;Datta Shri Sankar Prasad;Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Gutha Shri Sukender Reddy;Innocent Shri ;Kharge Shri Mallikarjun ;Kothapalli Smt. Geetha;Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Mani Shri Jose K.;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Patil Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao;Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao;Puttaraju Shri C.S.;Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy;Ranjan (Pappu Yadav) Shri Rajesh;Reddy Shri A.P. Jithender;Reddy Shri J.C. Divakar;Reddy,Kotha Prabhakar;Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of farmers and agricultural workers in the country have committed suicide due to crop failure on account of drought situation, inability to payback their loans/look after their family and inadequate subsidy/incentive for cultivation of crops during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether funding to the States for the development of agriculture sector under various agricultural schemes/programmes is ineffective to address the problems of farmers and agricultural workers in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the problem of agrarian crisis and prevent the farmers from committing suicide?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

श्री मोहनभाई कुन्दरिया (श्री)

(a) & (b): As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for the years 2012 and 2013, the total number of suicides under the profession 'Self employment - Farming/Agriculture' is as under:

Year No. of suicides

2012 13754

2013 11772

For the year 2014, the NCRB delineated for the first time the number of suicides under two sub-categories, namely, farmers and agricultural labourers. The number of suicides with respect to these categories due to various causes is as under:

Farmers 5650

Agricultural labourers 6710

According to NCRB Report of 2014, the major causes of suicides by farmers are as under:

- i) Bankruptcy or indebtedness
- ii) Farming related issues e.g. Failure of crops, Distress due to natural calamities, inability to sell produce.
- iii) Poverty
- iv) Family problems
- v) Illness
- vi) Other causes

The NCRB Report for the year 2015 has not been published.

(c) & (d): The Department has been designing and adopting various schemes and programmes based on 'National Policy on Farmers 2007'. In accordance with the Guidelines of these schemes and programmes and the applicable pattern of fund sharing between Centre and the States, proposals received from the various State Governments are reviewed and allocations and releases made by the Department. The details of allocations made to the States during the last 3 years and the current financial year (2015-16) are at Annexure.

Contd. 3/-

With the acceptance and adoption of the recommendations of the 14th Finance commission, the financial devolution to the States has risen from 32 percent to 42 percent of the central tax revenue. With this the sharing pattern of the funds under the various schemes has also changed and the States are expected to share the funding by a larger margin during the year 2015-16, relative to the pre-devolution period. The ratio of funding the schemes is largely 60:40 between Centre and States. However, in case of North Eastern and Himalayan States, the sharing ratio is 90:10.

The Department undertakes review and monitoring of the schemes/programmes through reports, meetings and field visits to ensure that the States adhere to the guidelines, meet expected standards and achieve the targeted outcomes.

(e): The State Governments are primarily responsible for the development of the agriculture sector. The Government of India considers agriculture and allied sectors as highly critical for the welfare of the farmers and supplements the efforts of the States through appropriate policy support, schemes/programmes and budgetary support. The Govt. of India has taken several steps to revitalize the agriculture sector and improve the conditions of farming community on a sustained basis by increasing public investment, improving farm practices and focusing on rural infrastructure development, extension, marketing support, etc. Various programmes/ schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with a flexibility to the State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of the Central Government is primarily to reduce the cost of cultivation, ensure remunerative returns to the farmers, facilitate access to enhanced credit and improve productivity of rainfed agriculture, which covers a vast area in the country. In this context, some specific schemes and initiatives rolled out are i) Soil Health Card to every farmer once in a cycle of 3 years; ii) Promotion of neem coated area; iii) Promotion of organic farming under 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY); and iv) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PKSY) to bring more arable land under irrigation and improve water use efficiency.

While the above interventions will improve production environment by reducing cost of cultivation and achieving higher productivity, the Department is implementing 'National Agriculture Market' (NAM) to create an integrated market which will improve marketing efficiency in the country and enable farmers to realize higher remunerative prices on their produce.

Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) 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.