

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3442

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016

Farmer Suicides

Bhaleram Shri Dharambir; Chandumajra Shri Prem Singh; Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan; Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy; Ering Shri Ninong; Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai; Kharge Shri Mallikarjun; Patil Shri Kapil Moreshwar; Rajendran Shri S.; Rajoria Dr. Manoj; Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

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

- (a) whether there has been a spurt in the cases of farmer suicide in certain parts of the country during the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether ultra-dependency on private money lenders is one of the main reasons for farmer suicides in the country and if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether there has been increase in the debt burden on farmers in the country as a result of generous/more institutionalized loan disbursement to them by the banks and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has launched any scheme and announced any special packages for districts/States where cases of farmer suicides are reportedly higher and if so, the details thereof along with the funds/relief provided to the families of deceased farmers in the country during the said period, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce debt burden of farmers and prevent them from committing suicide?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

श्री अशोक कुमार शर्मा ( श्री पारशोत्तम रुपाला )

(a): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicide compiled on an annual basis, upto the year 2014 are available at its website. The Reports for the subsequent years (i.e. 2015 onwards) have yet not been published. As per ADSI Reports for the years 2013 and 2014, the State-wise details of suicides have been compiled in the Statement at Annexure I. As may be seen from this Statement, during the year 2014, it was for the first time that the suicides of farmers were delineated, as that of farmers and agricultural labourers.

As per NCRB Report 2014, the reasons for suicide by farmers are manifold, which inter-alia include, indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

As per reports received from State Governments, the number of suicides due to agrarian reasons in the year 2015 and 2016 is at Annexure-II.

(b) & (c): Farmers are indebted to both institutional and non-institutional sources of credit. Borrowing from non-institutional sources is the major reason for debt-related farmers' distress. However, no information is available with regard to loans taken from moneylenders.

(d): Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State, including payment of compensation to the bereaved families of suicide victims. However, the Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department has therefore been implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), the National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM), the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) etc.

As per information available from the States, the details of relief etc. being provided is as follows:

Contd. 3/-

â€¢ State Government of Maharashtra gives Ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1.00 lakh to the heirs of the deceased farmer as per scheme of State Government. The three norms of eligibility for ex-gratia are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.

â€¢ Recently the Punjab Government had constituted committee for providing compensation to victims' family to Rs. 3.00 lakh. The Punjab Govt. also introduced "Punjab relief of Agriculture Indebtedness bill" which will provide relief to the farmers from debt trap.

â€¢ Government of Andhra Pradesh is providing Rs. 5.00 lakh compensation to the family members of the deceased farmers. Out of which Rs. 1.50 lakh is as one time settlement to wipe off loans/ liabilities and Rs. 3.50 lakh towards rehabilitation of the family members.

â€¢ The Government of Telangana has enhanced the Ex-gratia from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 5.00 lakh to the family of the deceased farmer towards rehabilitation of the family and enhance loan settlement ceiling limit from Rs. 50 thousand to Rs. 1.00 lakh to the persons entitled as one time settlement and to wipe off all the liabilities on the part of deceased families of farmers.

â€¢ In Karnataka an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh has been given to each of the deceased family from 2003-04 to 2014-15. From 01.04.2015 an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakh relief is provided to each of the deceased family and the children of the deceased will get free education up to post graduation including hostel facilities.

(e): Measures taken by Government to minimize indebtedness from non-institutional sources of lending, include fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow, provision of crop loans upto Rs.3.00 lakh @4% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, extension of benefit of interest subvention scheme to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card, for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts, collateral free loan upto Rs.1.00 lakh, scheme for financing of Joint Liability Group (JLGs) etc.