

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:310

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

Chaudhury Shri Jitendra;Hegde Shri Anant Kumar Dattatreya;Khan Shri Md. Badariddoza;Mahajan Smt. Poonam ;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan;Singh Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan;Sundaram Shri P.R.;Yellaiah Shri Nandi

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a number of cases of suicide by farmers have recently been reported across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has formulated an action plan, policy measures to tackle the problem of farmers' suicides and to provide adequate compensation to the family of aggrieved farmers and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government has issued any directive to the State Government of Maharashtra considering that the State has witnessed a large number of farmers' suicides over the years and if so, the details thereof and the response of the State thereto; and
- (e) whether the current budgetary allocation is sufficient for the development of agriculture sector, and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Recent incidents of suicide by farmers due to agrarian distress during the year 2014 have been mainly reported by the State Governments of Maharashtra (204-upto April, 2014), Telangana (69- upto October, 2014), Karnataka (19 in 2014-15 so far), Gujarat (03-Upto October, 2014), Kerala (03- upto October, 2014) and Andhra Pradesh (03- upto June, 2014)

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

Government of India 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.

(e): The current budgetary allocation of Rs.22309 crore for Agriculture & Cooperation has been finalized based on requirements of various schemes/programmes in consultation of planning Commission.