

Title: Regarding suicide being committed by farmers in Kerala.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT): Sir, the issue that I would like to raise in the House right now is a very very sensitive issue. In Kerala, hundreds of farmers are committing suicide, but unfortunately in a written answer dated 5 July the hon. Minister had replied that no reports have come up at all from Kerala regarding farmers committing suicide. This is yesterday's newspaper. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N. N. Krishnadas, do not show any newspapers in the House. You can only refer to it.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, the newspaper had reported that three farmers have committed suicide day before yesterday in Kerala. So far, 77 farmers in Wayanad district and 21 farmers in my own constituency in Palghat have committed suicide. The total number of farmers in Kerala who have committed suicide has gone up to more than 300. So, I urge and request the Government to immediately send a study team, and if possible I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture himself to pay a visit to Kerala and look into all that is happening in Kerala. I again urge upon the Government to immediately send a team to Kerala to look into this very sensitive issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, we request a response from the Union Government, as this is a very serious and sensitive issue. Many newspapers have been criticising the Members of Parliament from Kerala that they are not raising the matter in the Parliament. The newspapers report that the Members are not taking up the matter with the concerned persons and at the appropriate level, with the result that the Government is not taking a serious note of this issue that is prevalent in Kerala. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government should respond and the Government should send a study team to Kerala to have a first hand look at this very very sensitive issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri M. P. Veerendra Kumar.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Mr. Speaker Sir, kindly allow me to say something on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You kindly associate yourself.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, I associate myself.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. This is all the cooperation we need in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): Sir, I should also be allowed to raise my points. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You kindly associate yourself, and you will be supporting him.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Sir, I would also like to associate myself.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (CALICUT): Sir, Shri N. N. Krishnadas has already mentioned all the points that I wished to raise here. Hence, I just associate myself with all the points raised by Shri N. N. Krishnadas.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, we want a response from the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You kindly wait. Shri P. C. Thomas -- not present. Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I fully support the views expressed by Shri N. N. Krishnadas. The answer given in the Kerala Assembly by the Chief Minister states that about 800 people have committed suicide in the last one year itself. But no mention about that was made in the reply. It was not a lapse on the part of the Government, but it was really a very cruel thing to do with the people of Kerala because the Central Government has to assist the States.

Everyday, there are reports of farmers committing suicide. In my own constituency, as I pointed out in the Question Hour, there are six persons who have committed suicide in the last six months. Shri N. N. Krishnadas has pointed out that several persons have committed suicide in Wayanad ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are all aware that I have already admitted a Short Notice Question on this issue and it will be discussed.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister has taken a note of the points raised here and I hope that they all will be answered.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, through you I would like to state that the Central Government should take stern action, otherwise the only option before the farmers of Kerala would be to better to die than to live. That has become the position nowadays, and that is the reason why we are taking up this issue so seriously.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : We request a response from the Government, as it is a very sensitive issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, some response from the Government is necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. I am requesting them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure when we discuss the matter next week, it will be fully dealt with.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Why is the Government not responding on this issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, do you wish to say something on this issue right now?

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सूर्यकान्ता पाटील) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अगले हफ्ते जो डिस्कशन हो रहा है, उसमें सरकार अपनी बात रखेगी।

MR. SPEAKER: It should not be mere talk, but some action should also be taken.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am supporting your cause also.