

(a) whether any assessment has been made about the amount the Government is going to spend if foodgrains are distributed @ 35 kg. per family/per month and 25 kg. per family/per month under the proposed National Food Security Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to implement the above scheme as per the figures of BPL families given by the Tendulkar Committee; and

(d) if so, the details of BPL families, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (d) The details of the proposed National Food Security Act, including the number of beneficiaries, are under consideration of an empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to consider issues concerning the proposed law on food security. Based on directions of EGoM, the draft Bill would be prepared by the Department of Food and Public Distribution in consultation with the Ministry of Law and the same would be put on the website of the Department for public scrutiny and comments.

The amount the Government is going to spend under the proposed National Food Security Act would depend on several factors which include Economic Cost, Central Issue Prices, population figures, categories of beneficiaries and scale of issue of essential commodities. However, as per the present Economic Cost and Central Issue Price of wheat and rice and taking 2011 population figures, average family size of 5.5 and 37.2% poverty estimates, the annual subsidy required for all beneficiaries, @ 35 kg per family per month and 25 kg per family per month, would be Rs. 1,07,381.40 crore and Rs. 76,717.29 crore, respectively.

Suicide by farmers

†*95. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have reported about the suicides committed by farmers during the past six months;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) State-wise details of number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons, as reported by the respective State Government, are given in Statement (See below).

The Government is implementing a Rehabilitation Package covering 31 districts in 4 States since the year 2006 to address the problem of agrarian distress. It has been decided by the Government to extend the period for implementation of the non-credit components of the Rehabilitation Package by two more years up to September 30, 2011.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government has implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers involving an estimated amount of Rs. 65,318.33 crore. The Government has also enhanced the interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loans up to Rs. 3 lacs from 1% to 2% for the year 2010-11. Thus, the effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their loans in time will be 5% per annum.

For the overall development of agriculture and allied sectors, assistance is being provided to farmers through central schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, national Horticulture Mission etc. Further, a sum of Rs. 300 crore has been earmarked to organise 60,000 "pulses and oil seed villages" in rain-fed areas during 2010-11 and to provide an integrated intervention for water harvesting, watershed management and soil health, to enhance the productivity of the dry land farming areas. The Government has also amended the Guidelines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in July, 2009 permitting provision of irrigation facility, horticultural plantation and land development works on land belonging to small marginal farmers under this Scheme. During the last 5 years, the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of major cereals have been increased substantially.

Statement

Table depicting number of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons as reported by State Governments during the year 2010

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period (Date of report)	No. of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2010 (27.07.2010)	7
2.	Karnataka	2010 (28.07.2010)	81*
3.	Maharashtra	2010 (23.07.2010)	131
4.	Kerala	2010 (23.07.2010)	Nil
5.	Tamil Nadu	2010 (27.07.2010)	Nil
6.	Punjab	2010 (23.07.2010)	5
7.	Gujarat	2010 (22.07.2010)	Nil
8.	Assam	03.05.2010	Nil
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.05.2010	Nil
10.	Bihar	22.07.2010	Nil

1	2	3	4
11.	Chhattisgarh	16.06.2010	Nil
12.	Goa	04.05.2010	Nil
13.	Haryana	29.07.2010	Nil
14.	Himachal Pradesh	10.03.2010	Nil
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	28.07.2010	Nil
16.	Jharkhand	18.06.2010	Nil
17.	Manipur	23.03.2010	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	28.07.2010	Nil
19.	Madhya Pradesh	22.03.2010	Nil
20.	Mizoram	05.02.2010	Nil
21.	Nagaland	05.05.2010	Nil
22.	Orissa	26.07.2010	8**
23.	Rajasthan	17.05.2010	Nil
24.	Sikkim	29.07.2010	Nil
25.	Tripura	26.07.2010	Nil
26.	Uttar Pradesh	03.05.2010	Nil
27.	Uttarakhand	09.03.2010	Nil
28.	West Bengal	06.05.2010	Nil
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	27.07.2010	Nil
30.	NCT of Delhi	04.03.2010	Nil
31.	Daman and Diu	05.03.2010	Nil
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22.03.2010	Nil
33.	Lakshadweep	12.03.2010	Nil
34.	Puducherry	24.03.2010	Nil
35.	Chandigarh	29.07.2010	Nil

*These cases include suicides due to agrarian and other reasons.

**8 cases of alleged suicides as per media and other reports. However, the State Governments has not so far confirmed any suicide to be due to agrarian reasons.