

Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management Scheme of Agriculture (MMA), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture in the Context of Climate Change etc. In addition, the Government has taken several initiatives on Micro Irrigation, Agricultural Credit, Seeds, fertilizers, Agricultural Insurance, Agricultural Marketing Reforms, Minimum Support Prices (MSP), Extension Reforms, Construction of Rural Godowns, Promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Organic Farming, Rehabilitation Package for Distressed Farmers.

Suicide by farmers in Orissa

*443. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a poor farmer of Dubakona village in Dashrathpur block of Jajpur district, Orissa has committed suicide for not being able to pay the loan which he had taken for cultivation;
- (b) if so, how many farmers in Orissa have committed suicide till now and the amount of compensation paid to the bereaved families by Government; and
- (c) the preventive steps taken by Government to check such unfortunate incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per information made available by Government of Orissa, one farmer did commit suicide in Dubakona village of Jajpur district. The inquiry into the death has revealed that the suicide was not due to pressure of loan.

(b) Though, the number of alleged suicide cases by farmers has been 44 in 2009-10 and 13 in 2010-11, none of these cases can be attributed to agrarian reasons. No compensation has been paid to bereaved families by Government of Orissa.

(c) The measures taken by Government of Orissa, *inter alia*, include compensation against crop loss, improving irrigation facilities, provision of subsidy on seeds, farm mechanisation, improving soil fertility, plant protection, credit facilities and setting up of State Farmers' Commission to review the status of agriculture in Orissa.

Various steps taken by Government of India to ameliorate the condition of farmers and for development of agriculture sector to make it economically attractive for farmers, inter alia, include formulation of National Policy for Farmers 2007, implementation of agriculture debt waiver and debt relief scheme 2008, reduction of interest rate on loans given to farmers, assistance to states and farmers under flagship schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission & National Horticulture Mission, amendment in guidelines of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in July, 2009, significant increase in Minimum Support Prices of major cereals during last five years, extension of green revolution in eastern region including Orissa, launching of scheme for 60,000 pulses and oilseed villages in rainfed area, etc.

Bungling in railway procurement

†*444. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has been informed by a railway officer of the bungling of Rs.10 thousand crores by mechanical department every year in railway procurement;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government so far to ascertain the truth thereof;
- (c) the names of the officials bribed by an American company to get the contract of Brake Block in the year 2008 and the action taken against them so far; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Railways have received a letter from an Officer regarding saving precious Railway revenue and some structural changes. Railways sometime receive information from various sources. In this case, on receipt of information regarding allegations on certain decisions taken during the period from 2003 to 2008, Railways have immediately ordered for Vigilance investigations. Such investigations are already on and those found guilty will be severely dealt with.

(c) and (d) Allegations have already been taken up for Vigilance investigations which are still on. Since involvement of non-railway persons is also suspected, Ministry of Railways has decided to hand over all the cases mentioned in parts (a) and (c) above to CBI.