

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the Eleventh Plan period, total area under micro-irrigation was targeted to cover 28.5 lakh ha. In the first four years of the Eleventh Plan period, an area of 25 lakh ha. has already been covered. During 2011-12, Rs. 1150 crore has been earmarked for micro irrigation. Cumulative achievement under micro irrigation during Eleventh Plan period would be more than the targeted area.

(e) No, Sir.

#### **Suicide by farmers**

629. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether suicides are being committed by farmers due to economic hardships in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to improve the pathetic condition of farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Reasons for suicides being committed in some parts of the country, as reported by State Government concerned are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

In order to revitalize agriculture and improve the condition of farmers on a sustainable basis, measures taken by the Government, *inter-alia*, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Watershed Management and Soil Health and Fertility etc.

The Minimum Support Prices of major cereals have been increased substantially during the last 5 years for benefit of farmers.

Further, the Government of India is implementing a Rehabilitation Package, which was announced in 2006 initially for 3 years, covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra to address the problem of agrarian distress. An amount of Rs. 19880.11 crore has been released under this package till March 31, 2011. The period for implementation of the non-credit components of the package has been extended by 2 more years *i.e.* upto September 30, 2011.

The Government has also implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers in the country involving estimated amount Rs. 65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.

The interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loans upto Rs. 3 lakh has been enhanced from 2011-12, resulting in further lowering of the effective rate of interest for those farmers who repay their crop loan on time to 4% per annum.

#### **Suicide by farmers, weavers and peasants**

†630. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers, weavers and peasants committed suicide so far since last Budget Session of Parliament due to distress from agriculture or related occupation;
- (b) the details thereof State-wise;
- (c) the measures proposed by Government to curb such unfortunate incidents; and
- (d) the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra (Vidarbha region districts covered in Rehabilitation Package) have reported 42 and 79 suicides respectively due to agrarian reasons during 2011. Government of Karnataka, which had reported 77 suicides due to agrarian reasons during 2010-11, has reported NIL suicides due to agrarian reasons during 2011-12.

(c) and (d) In order to revitalize agriculture and improve the condition of farmers on a sustainable basis, measures taken by the Government, *inter-alia*, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Watershed Management and Soil Health and Fertility etc.

The Minimum Support Prices of major cereals have been increased substantially during the last 5 years for benefit of farmers.

Government of India is implementing a Rehabilitation Package, which was announced in 2006 initially for 3 years, covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra to address the problem of agrarian distress. An amount of Rs. 19880.11 crore has been released under this package till March 31, 2011. The period for implementation of the non-credit components of the package has been extended by 2 more years *i.e.* upto September 30, 2011.

The Government has also implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers in the country involving estimated amount Rs. 65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.