

Government of India has implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers in the country involving estimated amount of Rs.65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures. In Uttar Pradesh, 54.16 lakh farmers have been covered under ADWDRS, 2008 with eligible waiver/relief amounting to Rs.9095.11 crore, as per provisional figures.

Suicide by farmers

1403. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are still committing suicides, especially in Maharashtra region;

(b) if so, the details thereof during last two years and the current year;

(c) whether Government has failed in providing succour to the depressed farmers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) and (b) As reported by Government of Maharashtra, the number of farmers who committed suicide during 2009, 2010 and 2011 (till June) in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra covered under the Rehabilitation Package, is 263, 275 and 79 respectively.

(c) and (d) Government of India is, *inter alia*, implementing a Rehabilitation Package, which was announced in 2006 initially for 3 years, covering 31 districts in four States including Maharashtra to address the problem of agrarian distress. An amount of Rs.4388.88 crore has been released for Maharashtra 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. As a result of the implementation of this package, farmers have benefitted by way of interest waiver, assured irrigation, micro-irrigation, check dams, watershed development, water harvesting, availability of improved seed and milch animals.

MSP for crops

1404. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of Agricultural States have sought upto 70 per cent increase in MSP of Rabi winter-sown crop to cover growing input cost of farmers;

(b) whether these States are disappointed with 8 per cent increase in MSP of Kharif crop announced by Government recently even though CACP had recommended 16 per cent hike;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether farm organisations argued that the methodology for deriving support price of crops should reflect inflation as measured by Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index; and

(e) if so, details thereof and steps taken by Government to put in place policies that would encourage farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) While recommending Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities including Rabi crops, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) holds consultations with different stake holders, including state governments. The state governments give their suggestions as to the level of MSPs for different crops in relation to their input costs.

(b) and (d) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various Kharif crops have been raised between 6.7 per cent and 19.1 per cent.

The MSP of common variety of paddy for 2011-12 has been raised by Rs. 80 per quintal as per the recommendations of the CACP. In addition, CACP had recommended that if exports remain banned and levy is not reduced, Government should give a bonus of Rs. 80 per quintal on top of the recommended MSP.

The levy on rice is declared by the State Governments according to requirements under various welfare schemes. The Government has recently allowed export of one million tonne of non-basmati rice.

(d) Representations have been received from farmers' organizations regarding the methodology for estimating the cost of production. The methodology is reviewed from time to time. In 2009, the methodology has been modified in the light of the recommendations of an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh.

(e) While recommending MSP, the CACP takes into account, *inter alia*, various factors which include cost of production, changes in input prices, demand and supply situation, intercrop price parity, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

The Government is implementing a number of schemes to encourage farmers which includes, *inter alia*, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Maize and Oilpalm (ISOPOM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Maize and Oilpalm (ISOPOM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals etc. with a view to increasing agricultural productivity and production.