

(c) The major issues discussed were food security *vis-a-vis* organic farming, biodiversity conservation for organic farming, water quality requirement for organic production farming, soil fertility management in organic system, nutrient management strategies for organic package and practices, organic production and certification process including participatory guarantee system, organic produce value chains for small farm holders etc.

(d) Views of experts are summarized below:

- (i) Based on the deliberations, the State can target organic cultivation in about 6.16 lakh hectares.
- (ii) Synergistic role of crop and livestock needs to be exploited.
- (iii) Capacity building of farmers as well as extension functionaries on various issues of organic agriculture is required.
- (iv) Participatory Guarantee System should be encouraged for promotion of organic farming.

#### **Suicide by farmers**

1402. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the tragic cases of farmers suicides in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh due to indebtedness;

(b) whether it is a fact that 519 cases of suicides of farmers occurred in just five months in seven districts of Banda, Hamirpur, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Mahoba and Jalaun, in comparison to 568 cases in 12 months of 2009;

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in solving the problems of farmers like water shortage, bad crop and outstanding bank loans to save farmers lives; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) and (b) Government of Uttar Pradesh has not reported incidents of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons in Bundelkhand region.

(c) and (d) The Bundelkhand Special Package for drought mitigation is being implemented over a period of three years starting 2009-10 in thirteen districts of Bundelkhand region, including seven districts of Uttar Pradesh. The total approved budgetary outlay for the Package is Rs.7266.00 crore, including Rs.3506.00 crore for Uttar Pradesh. A multi-sectoral approach focussing on water management and livelihood improvement has been adopted. Convergence of various flagship schemes is also envisaged.

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;