

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;