

various schemes such as National Mission on Micro Irrigation, National Watershed Development Programme in Rainfed Areas etc. to improve irrigation facilities in the States.

Rajasthan is covered under the newly introduced scheme “Rainfed Area Development Programme” (RADP). For the year 2010-11, an amount of Rs. 35 crore has been earmarked for the State. Under the National Watershed Development Programme in Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) expenditure of Rs. 3421.32 lakh has been made and an area of 24480 hectare has been covered during 2008-09 to 2010-11 in Rajasthan. Further, Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation (MI) is being implemented in the State. During the current year (2011-12) Rs. 130.95 crore has been allocated to the State to implement the MI scheme. So far, Rajasthan has covered an area of 4.62 lakh ha. with Micro Irrigation infrastructure.

Encouragement for farming

2655. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that people in rural areas are shunning farming to jobs in the towns;
- (b) if so, to what extent this is likely to have its impact on the agriculture production and the productivity;
- (c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to encourage people to stick to farming; and
- (d) the long-term strategy contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) According to the Situation Assessment Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2003, it was revealed, *inter alia*, that an estimated 27% of farmers did not like farming because it was not profitable. In all, 40 per cent felt that, given a choice, they would take up some other career.

(b) and (c) Creating job opportunities in non-farm sector to reduce population pressure on agriculture without compromising the production and productivity of agriculture sector has been one of the objectives of the planning process.

Even though proportion of employment in agriculture has come down over the years, the production and productivity of agriculture has gone up during the last ten years as can be seen from the annexed table.

(d) The Government of India is implementing the National Policy of Farmers 2007 with an objective to increase the income of farmers by enhancing the economic viability of farming in addition to increasing production and productivity. The policy provisions, *inter alia*, include asset reforms in respect of land, water, and livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; provide support

services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material; integrated pest management system; region and crop specific implements and machinery; timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments. Major Plan Schemes/Programmes being implemented are Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Bamboo Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Micro Irrigation Schemes, Watershed Development Programme, Integrated Nutrient Management and Integrated Pest Management and schemes covered under Macro Management of Agriculture.

Year	Proportion of employment in agriculture (per cent of total employment)	Agriculture production (million tonnes)	Foodgrain yield (kg/ha.)
2000-01	58.2*	196.81	1626
2010-11	49.4**	241.56^	1921^

*As per Census, 2001

**As per NSSO 64th round (2007-08)

^As per 4th Advance Estimates 2010-11

Suicide by farmers due to debt burden

2656. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and proportion of debt taken by small and marginal farmers in the country, from the public financial institutions and from private institutions including money lenders, State-wise; and

(b) the total number of farmers who have committed suicide due to reasons related to their debt burden in the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The details of institutional credit flow to farmers and share of small and marginal farmers therein during 2010-11 (provisional) are given below:—

(Rupees in crore)

Agencies	2010-11 (provisional)		
	Total loan	Out of which SF/MF	%age of SF/MF
1	2	3	4
Commercial Banks	332705.98	100867.67	30.32