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| 3 | Gujarat | Reconnaissance survey of Mangrol fishery harbour for Phase III development. |

**B Techno Economic Feasibility Reports prepared and issued in respect of:**

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| 1 | Odisha | Construction of fishing harbour at Chudamani in Bhadrak District |
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**Suicide by farmers**

1246. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the National Crime Record Bureau's latest report over 2.5 lakh cases of farmers, suicide were reported between 1995 to 2010;
- (b) if so, whether the trend of farm suicides has increased in the past 7-8 years;
- (c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to ascertain the causes of the same; and
- (d) if so, the corrective steps Government proposes to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) National Crime Records Bureau publishes information on suicides reported in the country in its annual report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI).' ADSI also analyzes profile of suicide victims classified by profession, including self employed (farming/agriculture) on annual basis. As per ADSI report for relevant years, trend of suicide in self employed (farming/agriculture) category has not increased in past 7-8 years.

(c) Causes of suicide in each professional category are not mentioned in ADSI. However, causes of all suicide, which are mentioned, include family problems, illness, drug abuse/addiction, unemployment, property dispute, bankruptcy or sudden change in economic status, poverty, professional/career problem, love affair, barrenness/impotency, cancellation/non-settlement of marriage, dowry dispute, fall in social reputation and causes not known.

- (d) Government of India implemented Rehabilitation Package, which was announced in

2006 initially for 3 years, covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra to address problem of agrarian distress. An amount of Rs. 19910.70 crore has been released under this package till June 30, 2011. Period for implementation of non-credit components of the package was extended by 2 more years i.e. up to September 30, 2011.

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

Minimum Support Price of agricultural commodities has been increased substantially during last 5 years for benefit of farmers.

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

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

Additional measures initiated for enhancing production in agriculture sector during 2011-12, *inter-alia*, include schemes for bringing 60,000 hectare under oil palm plantation, initiative on vegetable clusters, promotion of production of nutri-cereals and launching of National Mission for Protein Supplements.

#### **Excess use of chemical fertilizers**

†1247. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture land is becoming barren due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy to stop indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.