

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that it is viable for farmers to grow sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to increase production of sugarcane in the country, the Central Government has fixed the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for 2011-12 sugar season at Rs. 145/- per quintal linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.5% subject to a premium of Rs. 1.53 per quintal for every 0.1 percentage point increase in recovery above 9.5%.

The farmers of Andhra Pradesh are demanding payment of cane price @ Rs. 2500/- per in metric tonnes owing to manifold increase in cost of cultivation *i.e.* labour, harvesting charges, fertilizers, transport and others.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for 2011-2012 crushing season in principle has agreed for sanction of Rs. 50.00 crores as grant to the nine (9) working cooperative sugar factories for payment of cane price @ Rs. 2,000/- per MT to the cane suppliers for their produce.

Since 2001-2002 season, the Government of Andhra Pradesh for payment of better cane price to the cane growers, is passing on the entire amount of Purchase Tax of Rs. 60/- and Rs. 22/- per metric tonnes by the sugar factories and Khandasari sugar mills respectively as an incentive.

Hon'ble Minister for major industries, Sugar, Commerce and Export Promotion of Andhra Pradesh convened a meeting with the managements of the sugar factories on 16th November, 2011 for them to consider giving payment of cane price @ Rs. 2500/- metric tonnes for 2011-2012 crushing season.

Suicide by farmers

2675. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the data of National Crime Records Bureau, 2,56,913 farmers committed suicide in between 1995 and 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 15,964 farmers committed suicide in 2010 alone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and publishes State-wise data on suicides in India including profile of suicide victims classified by various professions, of which self-

employed (farming/agriculture) is also one profession. Relevant details are available in its report 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India', which is published annually. As per latest report (2010), number of total suicides in India in 2010 was 134599, of which number of suicide victims in farming/agriculture profession is 15964.

Growth of small farm-based agriculture

2676. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small farm-based agriculture will grow to the extent the institutions of research, extension, marketing and credit are attuned to the requirement and capabilities of the small holdings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction so far in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Indian agriculture is predominantly small holder agriculture. This feature of land holding is kept in view while developing various kinds of technologies. Researchers are also sensitized about need for developing technologies that are appropriate for small and marginal farmers. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) addresses research needs of farmers, including small and marginal farmers, through All India Coordinated Research Projects conducted in its Centres spread across the country.

To promote decentralised farmer-driven and farmer-accountable extension system, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" popularly known as Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme is being implemented in 604 districts covering 31 States/UTs.

To provide better marketing infrastructure/facilities to all categories of farmers, Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization is being implemented in 26 States/UTs.

To galvanize institutional credit system to make it more responsive to needs of farmers, limit of collateral-free farm loans has been raised from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 100,000/-, interest subvention is provided for timely repayment of crop loans. Initiative has been taken to provide Kisan Credit Cards to all eligible and willing farmers in a time bound manner. Under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS), 10 per cent subsidy in premium amount is provided to small and marginal farmers.

To incentivize States to allocate more funds for agriculture and allied sector, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme has been launched.

Government also provides assistance to farmers, including small and marginal farmers, through various schemes such as National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Revised Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Mission on Micro Irrigation etc.