

### **Suicide by farmers**

2645. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incident of suicides increased amongst farmers during 2009-10, 2010-11 and current financial year despite release of debt relief package of thousand crores;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and to stop such trends, whether Government has framed any scheme or policy or nationwide programme for the welfare of farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any special scheme or programme has been launched by Government for farmers of North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Subsequent to implementation of Agricultural debt Waiver and debt Relief Scheme, 2008 and various other programmes/schemes for agricultural development and welfare of farmers, incidents of suicides amongst farmers due to agrarian reasons have not increased and there is decline in such trend, as reported by State Governments. Government of India has approved National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007, which seeks to address comprehensively various constraints faced by farmers. Provisions of NPF, 2007 are being implemented to revitalize agriculture and allied sector and ameliorate condition of farmers through various ongoing programmes and schemes of Government which, *inter-alia*, include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, Watershed Management, Soil Health and Fertility Management etc.

(d) Special schemes/programmes of Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, which are relevant for farmers of North Eastern Region, include Technology Mission on Horticulture for North Eastern Region, National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade, Central Institute of Horticulture in Nagaland and Control of Shifting Cultivation.

### **Hardship to farmers due to fall in sale price of rice**

2646. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that the sale price of rice by farmers is falling rapidly throughout the country causing great hardships to farmers who are not getting even the cost of production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in this background, Government is actively considering to raise the MSP for various agricultural produce;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Central Government extends price support to paddy through the FCI and State agencies. All the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified Centres are bought by the public procurement agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The producers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous of them.

(c) to (e) The MSPs fixed by the Government for major agricultural commodities in 2010-11 and 2011-12 are given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*Minimum Support Prices*

*Rs. per quintal)*

Commodity	Variety	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4
Paddy	Common	1000	1080
	Grade 'A'	1030	1110
Bajra		880	980
Maize		880	980
Arhar (Tur)		3000	3200
Moong		3170	3500
Cotton	Staple length (mm) of 24.5 – 25.5 and Micronaire value of 4.3 – 5.1	2500	2800
	Staple length (mm) of 29.5 – 30.5 and Micronaire value of 3.5 – 4.3	3000	3300
Groundnut in shell		2300	2700 .
Soyabean	Black	1400	1650
	Yellow	1440	1690

1	2	3	4
Wheat		1120&	1285
Gram		2100	2800
Rapeseed/Mustard		1850	2500
Jute		1575	1675

& An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal was payable over the MSP.

#### **Encouragement for cultivation of pulses**

†2647. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering any proposal to start a drive to encourage cultivation of pulses in the forthcoming Rabi season in view of the decreasing cultivable area for the pulses; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) In order to increase the production and productivity of pulses in the country, Government of India is implementing various crop production programmes viz. National Food Security Mission — Pulses (NFSM-Pulses), Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P), Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses Villages in Rainfed Areas under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Pulses crops are also covered under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) in the States which are not covered under National Food Security Mission (NFSM-Pulses). Besides, an amount of Rs. 80.00 crores as additional fund under NFSM-pulses has also been released to 12 major pulses producing States for covering 1.65 million ha additional area under pulses in the forthcoming Rabi season to encourage cultivation of pulses in view of relatively less coverage of area under pulses during Kharif, 2011.

#### **Formulation of new agriculture policy**

2648. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether keeping in view the increasing incidents of suicide among farmers, Government proposes to formulate a “New National Agricultural Policy”;
- (b) whether Government also proposes to formulate “Agricultural Produce Price Policy” to ensure that farmers are provided remunerative price for their produce which will be determined on the basis of cost incurred thereon; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.