

(b) and (c) No Sir. DMS does not provide refrigerator to the stalls/ depots. However, 11 stalls located in the government buildings are provided refrigerators.

(d) Refrigerators at stalls/depots are installed by the depot/stall holders themselves. There is no proposal to provide the refrigerators to stalls/depots in the near future.

(e) and (f) The rate of discount on milk has been raised (from 70 paise per litre to 90 paise per litre) with effect from 12.04.2012 to depot concessionaires.

Suicide by farmers

3117. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether suicide by farmers continue unabated in the country and Maharashtra being at the top;

(b) if so, the total number of suicides in the country from 1995 to 2010;

(c) whether Government has studied the causes behind increase in suicide by farmers;

(d) whether Government has devised action plan to control this situation; and

(e) the action plan to financially help the bereaved families of such farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) Since implementation of Rehabilitation Package in identified districts in 2006 coupled with various other measures taken by Government to revitalize agriculture sector and improve condition of farmers on sustainable basis, number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons in the country, as reported by State Governments concerned, including Maharashtra, has progressively declined.

National Crime Records Bureau compiles and publishes information on suicides reported in the country in its annual report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADS I).' As per ADSI reports for relevant years, total number of suicides in the country from 1995 to 2010 is 1782042.

(c) to (e) Causes of suicide by farmers, as reported by State Governments, are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socioeconomic and personal.

In 2006, Government of India approved Rehabilitation Package of ₹ 16978.69 crore for 31 identified districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, which included both immediate and medium-term measures to be implemented over a period of 3 years and aimed at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and

livelihood support system. Time limit for implementation of non-credit components of package was extended by 2 years *i.e.* up to 30.09.2011. Implementation period of the package has ended on 30.09.2011.

Other actions taken by Government for benefit of farmers include substantial enhancement in Minimum Support Price of agricultural commodities in recent years, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, providing debt waiver, debt relief, interest subvention for pre-harvest and post-harvest loan, etc.

Long-term plan measures aimed at revitalizing agriculture sector, *inter-alia*, include launching of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation etc., which will lead to increased investment, productivity and production in agriculture & allied sectors and benefit farmers.

For alleviating hardship faced by bereaved families of farmers committing suicide, Rehabilitation Package includes provision of ex-gratia assistance from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund @ ₹ 50 lakh per district.

Changes in agriculture production sector

†3118. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the changes being brought in the agricultural production sector in the name of its development have resulted in an increase in the cost of agricultural production as well as decrease in its nutritional value;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that use of traditional ways and means in agriculture in a country like India is proving to be more productive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) No, Sir. Improved production technologies adopted in agricultural production sector have resulted in higher net economic return to the farmers as well as improvement in nutritional quality of agricultural products. The increase in cost of agricultural production has been due to cost inflation of inputs being used by the farmers.

(b) and (c) The Government is popularizing improved production technologies in conjunction with some traditional technology for enhancing the productivity and sustainability of agriculture.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.