

- (i) Popularization of Integrated Pest Management approach among farming community;
- (ii) Conducting regular pest surveillance and monitoring to assess pest/ disease situation;
- (iii) Rearing biological control agents for their use and conservation of naturally occurring bio-agents;
- (iv) Promotion of Bio-pesticides and neem based pesticides as alternative to chemical pesticides;
- (v) To play a catalytic role in spread of innovative IPM skills to extension workers, land farmers equally to resource-poor and resource- rich states;
- (vi) Human Resource Development in IPM by imparting training to master trainers, extension workers and farmers through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs), in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendras / State Agriculture Universities/Indian Council of Agriculture Research Institutes;
- (vii) Organization of Season Long Training (SLT) Programmes on major agricultural/ Horticultural crops for Extension workers of the States Govts;
- (viii) Short duration courses for pesticides dealers/ NGOs/ entrepreneurs/ students.

Suicide by farmers

†3128. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite the rehabilitation package, there is sharp rise in suicide cases committed by farmers in different parts of the country and some new States have also been added in this list:
- (b) if so, the details of information received by Government during the last three years. State-wise and Year-wise:
- (c) whether Government is contemplating to take some special initiative in the interest of farmers in order to dissuade them to take such extreme step: and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) No, Sir. Since implementation of Rehabilitation Package in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

identified districts in 2006 coupled with various other measures taken by Government to revitalize agriculture sector and improve condition of farmers on sustainable basis, there is decline in number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons in the country, as reported by State Governments. Implementation period of Rehabilitation Package ended on September 30, 2011.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Policy initiative is to *inter-alia* expand farm income, create non-farm income opportunities, improve productivity of rain fed agriculture and develop appropriate linkage with industry. Vidarbha Intensified Irrigation Development Programme is a special initiative to bring in more farming areas under protective irrigation, for which allocation of Rs.300 crore under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has been announced in Union Budget 2012-2013.

Outbreak of disease amongst livestock

3129. SHRI N. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports of outbreak of deadly disease amongst the livestock in various parts of the country during last one year;

(b) if so, the details of number of such animals/birds killed due to this;

(c) whether Government is able to prevent the spread of such a disease; and

(d) the plan envisaged for development of livestock during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) No such outbreaks have been reported in the country amongst the livestock during last one year. However, the outbreaks of bird flu have been reported in poultry in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Meghalaya and Tripura during last one year. A total of 1.63 lakh birds were culled during the control and containment operations. An amount of Rs. 68.43 lakh has been paid as compensation till the last occurrence as given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The Government has an action plan for prevention, control and containment of bird flu. In the aforesaid outbreaks of bird flu, the control and containment measures were carried out promptly and the disease was stopped at the source in all the outbreaks preventing the further spread.

(d) The 12th Five Year Plan is yet to be finalized by the Planning Commission.