

variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50 percent on cost may distort market. A mechanical linkage between MSP and cost of production may be counterproductive in some cases.

Suicides by farmers in Odisha

†1122. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that honourable Minister of Agriculture while responding to a Starred Question in Rajya Sabha on 5th March, 2010 had said “Farmers in Odisha are committing suicides but it surprises why State Government is not ready to admit it”;

(b) if so, whether Central Government held any discussions/dialogue with State Government on this serious issues during past two years and whether any effective steps have been taken to check the suicide by farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) In reply to Starred Question No. 126 on March 05, 2010, it was mentioned, *inter-alia*, that number of alleged suicides by farmers in Odisha due to crop loss, debt burden etc., which was reported in media, was not confirmed by Government of Odisha.

(b) and (c) Central Government advises State Government from time to time on various occasions to take necessary action under various on-going schemes in agriculture and allied sectors to mitigate agrarian distress and address problems of farmers in State.

In order to revitalize agriculture sector, improve condition of farmers on sustainable basis and prevent suicides among them, steps 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 and Fertility management etc. Other steps taken in this regard include following:

- (i) Implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, which benefitted about 3.69 crore farmers, involving debt waiver/relief of Rs. 65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.
- (ii) Increasing credit flow to agriculture sector to Rs. 468291.28 crore, as of March, 2011. Target of credit flow for 2011-12 has been raised to Rs. 475000 crore, against which achievement as of November 2011 is Rs. 294023 crore.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iii) Providing Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to all eligible and willing farmers in time bound manner to facilitate flow of credit to farmers and increase financial inclusion. Up to October 2011, 10.78 crore KCC have been issued.
- (iv) Providing interest rate subvention for timely repayment of crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh, whereby effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their crop loan on time has come down to 4% per annum.
- (v) This benefit of pre-harvest interest rate subvention is now available also to small and marginal farmers having KCC for further period of up to six months post-harvest on same rate as for crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouse.
- (vi) Announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for identified agricultural commodities every year to ensure remunerative price and increase farmers' income. MSP of major agricultural commodities has been stepped up significantly *e.g.*, during 2004-05 to 2011-12, range of increase in MSP is from 80% in case of Groundnut to 148% for pulses (Moong).

Floriculture industry in Tamil Nadu

1123. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether floriculture industry in Hosur of Tamil Nadu is affected due to lack of infrastructure facilities;
- (b) whether small flower growers are forced to sell their produce to middlemen at throw away price as the region did not have any common cold storage facility; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to set up a common cold storage facility in that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) since the year 2005-06 for the holistic development of horticulture in the country under which assistance is being extended for taking up cultivation of horticultural crops including flowers along with creation of supporting infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing. Cold storage facilities are available at the State run Ulaver Sandhaiya (Farmers' market) at Hosur for use by the farmers. Moreover, Tanflora, a Public Private Partnership firm of a State public sector under taking Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation, has also set up world class cold storage facilities at Amudhagundapalli, which is only a few kilometers from Hosur.