

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the House wants to give him an extension.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 381. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Package for farmers of Vidarbha

*381. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had promised a package of ₹ 110 billion to help the distressed farmers of Vidarbha;

(b) if so, the details of funds disbursed to farmers to prevent them from committing suicide;

(c) the number of farmers who committed suicide in Vidarbha during the last three years; and

(d) the efforts Government is making to bring the farming community out of distress?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) In 2006, the Prime Minister announced a rehabilitation package comprising both immediate and medium-term measures to be implemented over a period of three years with financial outlay of Rs. 3873.26 crore, to mitigate the distress of farmers in six identified districts in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. The period for implementation of non-credit components of the rehabilitation package was extended upto September 30, 2011.

The rehabilitation package comprised *ex-gratia* assistance from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, debt relief, institutional credit coverage, interest waiver, assured irrigation facilities, seed replacement programme, watershed development, horticulture development, extension services, and subsidiary income opportunities through livestock, dairying, fisheries, etc. A sum of Rs. 4425.87 crore has been released for implementation of the package.

Government of Maharashtra has informed that during last three years, the number of farmers who committed suicide due to agrarian reasons in the six identified districts in Vidarbha region covered under the rehabilitation package, is 273 (2009), 277 (2010) and 346 (2011).

Efforts of Government are directed at revitalizing agriculture sector and improving condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing etc. under various programmes/schemes. Government is focusing on enhancement of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No papers, please. *...(Interruptions)...* No papers, please. *...(Interruptions)...* Please don't show any newspapers. *...(Interruptions)...* No; no. *...(Interruptions)...* No newspapers. *...(Interruptions)...* No banners; no newspapers. *...(Interruptions)...* Q. No. 381. *...(Interruptions)...* Do you wish to ask any supplementaries, Mr. Raut? *...(Interruptions)...* No supplementaries. *...(Interruptions)...* Shall we go to Question No. 382? *...(Interruptions)...*

The House is adjourned till 1200 hours.

The House then adjourned at four minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Use of cell phones with same IMEI number

*382. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 18,000 cell phones were found to be using the same International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number;

(b) the manner in which Government would ensure that only those phones which are certified by the authorised bodies for GSM and CDMA are used; and

(c) the other steps taken by Government to prevent the anti-social elements from using unauthorised sets, which leads to their being untraceable?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Two cases have come to notice wherein same IMEIs has been used in more than 18000 cell phones.

(b) i. Directions were issued on 27th April, 2009 that calls from mobile handsets without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) or with all zeroes as IMEI are not processed and rejected with effect from