

(b) to (d) Reasons of suicide by farmers as reported by State Government are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include, indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons. Numerous measures taken by Government of India to prevent suicide, improve financial condition and to overcome indebtedness of the farmers include implementation of Rehabilitation Package in 31 districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, increasing credit flow to agricultural sector, providing Kissan Credit Cards and providing interest rate subvention for timely payment on crop loans. In addition, yearly announcement of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and providing Microfinance through apex institutions are some of the other ways to help the farmers of the country.

Harmful effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on foodgrains

†1437. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grains, fruits or vegetables become injurious to the health of human beings or the life of animals, birds with the usage of chemical fertilizers or pesticides;

(b) whether the process of ripening fruits with chemical pesticides or through artificial methods contaminates such foodgrains and fruits, which are injurious to the health of human beings or any other creatures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. The pesticides used as per approved label claims under the Insecticides Act, 1968 do not pose the problem of contamination of food grains with high level of pesticide (above tolerance limit). The pesticides are registered by the Registration Committee constituted under Section - 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, after thorough evaluation of data submitted by the applicant alongwith the application for registration on various parameters such as chemistry, toxicity, bio-efficacy and packaging to ensure efficacy and safety.

(b) and (c) The Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) approved for ripening/post harvest treatments are not injurious to health, if used as per approved label claims.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.