

Reasons of suicide by farmers in Vidarbha region, as reported by Government of Maharashtra, are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

(c) The Rehabilitation Package announced by Government in 2006 to mitigate distress of farmers in identified districts in the country, which has since been implemented, included six districts *viz.*, Akola, Amravati, Buldhana, Washi, Yavatmal and Wardha in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Further, the Vidarbha Intensified Irrigation Development Programme, which seeks to bring in more farming areas under protective irrigation, announced in the Budget 2012-13, is under implementation. Other measures taken by Government to prevent suicides by farmers and benefit small and marginal farmers in the country, including Vidarbha region in Maharashtra, comprise enhancement in Minimum Support Price of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, providing debt waiver, debt relief, interest subvention on crop loan, development of storage and marketing infrastructure etc., as per guidelines under the relevant scheme(s).

Incentives for small units under FPIs

2327. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives Government contemplates for small units working in the food processing sector;

(b) how many Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises/Units are operating in this sector; and

(c) the value of their output and how much employment they have generated during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Under the scheme of Technology up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries of this Ministry, financial assistance is provided to the food processing units including Small Scale Units @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and @ 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas *i.e.* North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) Areas.

(b) and (c) The Number of working enterprises, Output and Employment in Food Processing Sector for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) as per the latest available data from Fourth All India Census of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises held in 2006-07 are as under:-

Working Enterprises (in Numbers)	25,12,018
Output (Rs. crores)	1,88,848
Employment (in Numbers)	62,99,426

National Dairy Plan

2328. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the National Dairy Plan Phase-I to be implemented during the period 2011-12 to 2016-17;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far the State of Maharashtra would be benefited by this Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The Government of India has approved the National Dairy Plan Phase-I (NDP-I) for a period of six years from 2011-12 to 2016-17 on 16th March, 2012 as a Central Sector Scheme.

(b) NDP-I is being implemented with a total investment of about Rs. 2,242 crore with the following objectives:

- (i) To help increase productivity of milch animals and thereby increase milk production to meet the rapidly growing demand for milk.
- (ii) To help provide rural milk producers with greater access to the organised milk processing sector.

The key components of NDP-I are Productivity enhancement, Village based milk procurement system and monitoring, learning and evaluation.

NDP I is focusing on 14 major milk producing States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The scheme is implemented