

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Reasons of suicide by farmers, as reported by State Governments and mentioned in various studies, are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons. Views of the Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, National Institute of Rural Development etc., regarding causes of farmers' suicide have been taken note of by Government. The Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness pointed out, *inter-alia*, that suicide is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon, the risk factors can be either neurobiological or socio-economic and root cause is not indebtedness alone, which is just a symptom.

Agricultural land under organic farming

484. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any study to assess the extent of agricultural land under organic farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) As per information collected by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) area under certified organic farming is 5.5 million hectare in the year 2011-12, which includes both cultivable as well as wild harvest collection.

Losses to co-operative sector due to disbursement of loans to farmers

†485. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether co-operative credit structure is suffering losses due to disbursement of short-term loan on concessional rates to farmers as per the announcement of Government;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government intends to reimburse the losses incurred in disbursing the short-term loan to farmers on concessional rates from short-term cooperative credit structure; and

(d) if so, the amount thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in loan waiver scheme

486. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been instances of irregularities in the farmers' loan waiver scheme;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to address the issue to ensure that farmers get the benefit; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Progeny Testing Centres and Strengthening of Semen Stations

487. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Progeny Testing Centres and Strengthening of Semen Stations have been set up in Maharashtra under central funding for dairy development in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to increase the number of such Centres and Stations in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?