

- (c) if so, the details thereof in percentage, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government would take fresh measures to check rising trend of suicide by farmers in view of failure of earlier measures taken by Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) So far, only the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have reported 29, 33 and 473 cases of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons during 2012. The number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons during 2012 has not risen in comparison to previous years. No State Government has so far reported any case of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons during 2013.

(d) to (f) Government continues to take several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve 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. Various programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of Government is primarily on expansion 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. Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, etc.

#### **Direct cash transfers to beneficiaries of Schemes**

\*68. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Schemes under the Ministry for which direct cash transfers are being given to the beneficiaries;
- (b) the number of such direct cash transfers that have taken place during last three years, Scheme-wise;
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry has done the direct cash transfers to

those beneficiaries who are yet to enrol themselves for Aadhaar Card number and those who are yet to open bank account;

(d) whether the Ministry has got any feedback on the usefulness of direct cash transfers to students, who are beneficiaries under the Schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has two Departments, *viz.*, Department of School Education and Literacy and Department of Higher Education. The Department-wise schemes under MHRD for which Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) are being given to the beneficiaries are as under:—

**Department of School Education and Literacy**

- (i) National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)
- (ii) National Scheme of incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE)

**Department of Higher Education**

- (i) Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students
  - (ii) Fellowship Schemes of University Grants Commission (UGC)
  - (iii) Fellowship Schemes of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
- (b) The scheme-wise details are as follows:—

**Department of School Education and Literacy**

The scheme-wise details of beneficiaries and funds sanctioned for disbursement of scholarships under NMMSS and payments under NSIGSE during last three years *i.e.* financial years 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (upto 22.2.2013) are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Total number of scholarships/ beneficiaries	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme	286080	171.65

1	2	3	4
2.	National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education	200688	60.41

### **Department of Higher Education**

The Department of Higher Education has transferred 33,403 scholarships under 'Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students' and 4971 fellowships under 'Fellowship Schemes of UGC' directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries, during last three years *i.e.* financial years 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (upto 28.02.2013).

#### **(c) Department of School Education and Literacy**

As per scheme guidelines of NMMSS, all the beneficiary students are required to open bank accounts. Scholarship amount is directly credited into their accounts by State Bank of India by Bank transfer or by National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT). Payments under NSIGSE in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 upto 31st December, 2012 were made through Fixed Deposit Certificates or Bank drafts. However, since 1.1.2013, payments have been made by direct benefit transfer through bank accounts only. No payment has been stopped for want of Aadhaar number till date under both the schemes.

### **Department of Higher Education**

All the beneficiaries of the schemes have their bank accounts and Scholarship/Fellowship amounts are being transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts through NEFT and web portal of Canara Bank.

#### **(d) and (e) Department of School Education and Literacy**

The National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has been requested on 5th February, 2013 to submit a proposal to conduct a study to assess the impact of the NMMSS on beneficiary students.

### **Department of Higher Education**

This Department has not received any feedback from the beneficiaries.