

Disbursement of loan to farmers through camps

†2831. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any measures to stop the suicides by farmers due to the burden of credits taken from the nationalized banks of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would contemplate to start a programme of loan disbursement through camps to resolve the problems of farmers while preparing Kisan credit cards; and

(c) whether Government would contemplate to eliminate the middlemen between the Branch Managers of nationalised banks and the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) in order to reduce the debt burden of farmers, the Government has, *inter alia*, taken the following major steps :-

- Implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 by the Government. As many as 3.73 crore farmers were benefitted from the Scheme to the extent of ₹ 52,259.86 crore.
- The Government provides interest subvention since 2006-07 to make short-term crop loans upto ₹ 3 lakh for a period of one year available to farmers at the interest rate of 7% per annum and in case of prompt repayment, the same gets reduced to 4%.
- In order to ensure that all eligible farmers are provided with hassle-free and timely credit for their agricultural operations, the Government has introduced the Kisan Credit Card Scheme, which enables them to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc. and draw cash to satisfy their consumption needs.
- The KCC Scheme has since been simplified and converted into ATM enabled debit card with, *inter alia*, facilities of one-time documentation, built-in cost escalation in the limit, any number of drawals within the limit, etc., which eliminates the need for disbursement through camps and mitigates the vulnerability of farmers to middlemen.
- To bring small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, etc. into the fold of institutional credit, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been promoted by banks. As on 31.3.2014, 6.96 lakh JLGs have been provided credit to the tune of ₹ 6,158.05 crores (provisional) by banks.