

Suicide by farmers

3001.SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of suicide by farmers are rising in various parts of the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether farmers continue to take loans from unscrupulous moneylenders, if so, the remedial action taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the incidents of suicide by farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) documents data on suicides committed by persons in the country in its reports “Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India” annually based on data received from the States about profile of suicide victims classified according to professions. As per the reports of NCRB, the number of suicides by persons self employed in farming/ agriculture in 2011, 2012 and 2013 were 14027, 13754 and 11772 respectively, which shows a declining trend. The data relating to suicide by farmers during the current year i.e. 2014 will be published by NCRB in 2015.

(b) Farmers are indebted to both institutional and non-institutional sources of credit. However, borrowing from non-institutional sources is a matter of concern. In order to reduce the dependence of farmers on non-institutional sources of funding for their credit needs and for providing relief to the indebted farmers, Government has taken several measures to increase institutional credit flow and bringing more and more farmers including small and marginal farmers within the institutional credit fold. These measures, *inter alia*, includes fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow, provision of crop loans upto ₹3.00 lakh @4% per annum (after interest subvention @ 3%) to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, extension of benefit of interest subvention scheme to small & marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts, collateral free loan upto ₹ 1.00 lakh, scheme for financing of Joint Liability Group (JLGs) etc.

(c) Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Government of India has also taken several steps

to revitalize the agriculture sector and improve upon the condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing public investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure, 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 institutional credit flow to agriculture sector, post-harvest loan for six months to eliminate distress sale of agricultural produce by farmers, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure, etc.

Conversion of waste land into agricultural land

3002.SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the agricultural land in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the cultivable waste land in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to convert cultivable waste land into agricultural land and if so, the details thereof particularly in the States of Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) the details of the cultivable waste land converted into agricultural land during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) As per the latest available Land Use Statistics data, State-wise details of the agricultural land and cultivable/culturable waste land in the country in 2011-12 are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land and its management comes under the purview of State Governments and therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to convert cultivable waste land into agricultural land.