

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data published annually, the number of suicides by persons self employed in farming/agriculture in 2012 and 2013 were 13754 and 11772 respectively. The data relating to suicides in 2014 has not been published by NCRB.

(b) and (c) Reasons of suicide by farmers, as recorded by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) are family problems, illness, drug abuse/addiction, unemployment, property dispute, bankruptcy or sudden change in economic status, poverty, professional/career problem, love affair, barrenness/impotency, cancellation/non-settlement of marriage, dowry dispute, fall in social reputation, causes not known, etc.

Agriculture is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore, States Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture sector and welfare of farmers including payment of compensation to the bereaved families of farmers affected by suicides. Government of India has however, 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 increase 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.

#### **Implementation of PMKSY**

1770. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Shichai Yojana (PMKSY) in the country, if so, the salient features of the Yojana; and

(b) whether Government proposes to give priority to the irrigation deficit States, such as Gujarat in PMKSY and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) Government is in the process of operationalising Pradhan Mantri Krishi Shichai Yojana (PMKSY) in the country to ensure access to water to every agriculture farm.

**Insurance of crops and income of farmers**

1771. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to insure the crops and income of farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the methodology Government proposes to adopt in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to better serve the interest of farmers, Government is desirous to develop a new crop insurance scheme to protect them against both yield and price fluctuations. At present, Government is in the process of finalization of details in consultation with various stakeholders.

**Skill development and training programmes for farmers**

1772. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes/programmes run by Government for skill development and training of farmers in the field of agricultural and allied sectors;

(b) whether Government has earmarked funds under various schemes for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details of funds earmarked and spent thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, Scheme-wise and State/UT-wise including Jharkhand and Gujarat; and

(d) the details of the success achieved under the programmes during the said period and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) to (c) A number of ongoing schemes and programmes of the Government have an inbuilt component of capacity building and training of farmers in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. An illustrative list of such schemes is given in Statement-I (*See* below). However, there is no specific scheme or programme only on skill development of farmers. While some