

- (b) why Government is not reviewing the compensation system;
- (c) whether Government has any plans to compensate kin of these farmers in any way though they do not have any loan registered; and
- (d) whether Government has formed any committee to look into the socio-economic causes of these suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) Agriculture is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore, State 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 suicide.

Some States provide compensation in case of farmers' suicide due to agrarian reasons. Government of Maharashtra has reported that they provide compensation of ₹ one lakh in eligible cases *i.e.* to the family of those farmers who commit suicide due to crop failure, debt and inability to repay loan. Compensation is provided to the bereaved families after scrutiny of cases by a district level committee headed by the District Collector and comprising of Chief Executive Officer of Zila Parishad, Superintendent of Police, a representative of farmers and a non-government member of social organization.

(d) Government of India has not formed any committee to look into socio-economic causes of farmers' suicides as agriculture including welfare of farmers falls within the purview of States.

Mobile soil testing laboratory

2578. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (MSTLs) in operation at present in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana under the National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility;
- (b) the number of soil samples tested by MSTLs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during last three years; and
- (c) the fresh measures taken by Government to impart related knowledge to farmers through distribution of crop related literature and exhibition of soil and crop related documentary films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) At present there

are 4 Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (MSTLs) in operation in Andhra Pradesh out of these, 3 have been sanctioned under National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility and 1 has been established by the State Government. Apart from these, 5 MSTLs have been sanctioned under Soil Health Management component in current year 2014-15. Numbers of soil samples tested by MSTLs in Andhra Pradesh during last three years are 22441, 16648 and 22807 in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively.

At present there is 1 MSTL in operation in Telangana which has been established by State Government. Apart from this 3 MSTLs have been sanctioned under Soil Health Management component in current year 2014-15. During last three years, 5232, 2376 and 4482 soil samples were tested in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively by this MSTL.

(c) State Government of Andhra Pradesh organized Janma Bhoomi Maa Vooru Programme in a campaign mode in all Gram Panchayats/Wards during 2nd October 2014 to 20th October 2014 and during Polam pilusthundi programme in Kharif 2014 and Rabi 2014-15 distributed crop related literature to farmers and also awareness training organized.

State Government of Telangana organizes Soil Testing Campaign every year during April/May in which literature on importance of soil testing and soil sampling procedure is distributed to farmers. Farmers Training Centres provide crop related literature to farmers in their regular programmes. State Government organize Rythu Chaitanya Yatra and Rythu Sadassu every year in which crop related literature is provided to farmers. Farmers Training Centres show documentary films on crop related aspects and soil testing to farmers through computer/laptops.

Introduction of new agriculture policy

2579. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to introduce a New Agriculture Policy to bring revolutionary changes in the Indian agriculture, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Government has already implemented the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007, which aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income