

Upward trend in suicide by farmers

503. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the recent Government report submitted on December 19, 2014, there has been an upward trend in cases of farmers' suicide in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, for last three months, till date;

(c) whether hundreds of farmers have committed suicide alone in States like Maharashtra, Telangana and Punjab during last couple of months, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government would take to redress the upward trend of farmers' suicide in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) The incidents of suicide by farmers due to agrarian distress in the country, during the last three months, have been reported by the State Governments of Maharashtra (337) and Andhra Pradesh(02).

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 no known, etc.

(d) Agriculture is a State subject under the Constitution. Therefore, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture sector including welfare of farmers. Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Government of India has taken several steps to revitalize the 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. For this, 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 on 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 of minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure, etc.

Suicide by farmers

504. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN:

SHRI PANKAJ BORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers committed suicide in the last one year, State-wise;
- (b) the State in which maximum number of farmers committed suicide;
- (c) whether Government has been able to find out the main reasons of suicides; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps to stop the incidence of suicides and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) Incidents of suicide by farmers due to agrarian distress during the year 2014 have been mainly reported by the State Governments of Maharashtra (986), Telangana (84), Karnataka (29 in 2014-15 upto December 2014), Gujarat (04-up to October, 2014), Kerala (03) and Andhra Pradesh (13).

(b) Government of Maharashtra has reported 986 case of farmers' suicide in 2014 where *ex-gratia* to the families of suicides victims has been paid.

(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.

(d) Government has taken several steps to revitalize the agriculture sector and