

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

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 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 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.

Dependence on imported pulses

505. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is dependent on imported pulses, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to reduce dependence on imported pulses; and

(b) whether Government has received any request for Geographical Indication (GI) status for Gulbarga toor dal, if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The production, export and import scenario of pulses in India during last five years is as under:-

| (Quantity in lakh tonnes) | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
| Production | 147.00 | 182.40 | 172.10 | 183.40 | 197.80 |
| Export | 1.29 | 2.06 | 1.75 | 2.01 | 3.43 |
| Import | 37.64 | 27.80 | 34.96 | 38.39 | 36.54 |
| TOTAL AVAILABILITY | 183.35 | 208.14 | 205.31 | 219.78 | 230.91 |