

**Issuing biometric identity cards to fishermen**

647. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified 19,60,488 marine fishermen across the country for issuing biometric identity cards, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government has completed the process of issuing biometric identity cards to those identified fishermen, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR.SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) A total of 21,48,686 marine fishers have been proposed by the Coastal State Governments and Union Territories for issuance of Biometric Identity Cards, of which biometric enrolment has been completed in respect of 15,50,240 fishers. Till the end of November, 2015, a total of 13,67,009 Biometric Identity Cards have been generated and 13,63,638 Biometric Identity Cards have been dispatched to the Coastal State Governments and Union Territories for distribution to the marine fishers. The State/UT-wise details in this regard are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Details of data collection, production of Biometric Identity Cards (ID)  
to marine fishers till the end of November, 2015*

(figures in numbers)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Proposed Marine Fishers	Biometric Enrolment	Data finalized for Card Production	Quantity of card produced	Quantity of card dispatched
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Tamil Nadu	3,86,802	1,86,610	1,42,552	1,42,424	1,42,424
2.	Puducherry	35,578	29,959	28,096	27,991	27,991
3.	Karnataka	95,410	70,903	67,117	66,203	66,203
4.	Gujarat	1,50,015	1,41,144	1,33,885	1,33,173	1,33,173
5.	Daman and Diu	8,183	6727	5465	5400	5400
6.	West Bengal	2,88,353	1,78,805	1,71,290	1,71,290	1,70,836
7.	Kerala	2,65,957	2,01,649	1,74,158	1,74,158	1,73,886
8.	Lakshadweep	14,304	11,013	10,508	10,507	10,120
9.	Maharashtra	2,18,299	1,55,153	1,46,635	1,42,519	1,42,519

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Goa	19,676	10,131	9,286	9,280	9,182
11.	Andhra Pradesh	3,02,520	2,43,962	2,07,364	2,07,042	2,05,664
12.	Odisha	3,42,151	2,98,558	2,62,113	2,62,091	2,61,338
13.	Andaman and Nicobar	21,438	15,626	14,943	14,931	14,902
TOTAL		21,48,686	15,50,240	13,73,412	13,67,009	13,63,638

#### Suicide by farmers in Burdwan, West Bengal

648. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Burdwan district of West Bengal more than one hundred farmers have committed suicide in the last four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken to stop such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs Report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, the total number of suicides in West Bengal under the profession 'Self employment - Farming/ Agriculture' due to various causes is as under:

Year	No. of suicides
2011	807
2012	Not reported
2013	0

During the year 2014 the total number of suicides in West Bengal under the profession 'Self-employed Persons (Agriculture)' due to various causes is nil.

District-wise figures are not available in the NCRB Report.

(c) The Government believes, that farmers welfare will improve if there is increase in net income from the farms. With this end in view, the approach is to reduce cost of cultivation, enable higher yield per unit and realize remunerative prices. Some of the important new initiatives in this context are :

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the exact nutrient level available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and save money. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.