

(b) whether with the current production of pulses stagnating at around 17 million tonnes against a total projected demand of 23.00 million tonnes, Government would enhance the pulse acreage to more irrigated lands with the availability of quicker maturing and high-yielding varieties, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Government is promoting pulses production through National Food Security Mission (NFSM). More than 50 per cent fund under NFSM is allocated for pulses. Financial assistance is provided to farmers for various interventions like demonstration of improved package of practices, distribution of quality seeds of new varieties, micro-nutrients, plant protection chemicals, soil amendments, farm machinery and implements, water saving devices and capacity building of farmers.

Under NFSM, various initiatives like planting of pigeon pea on rice bunds, pulses as intercrop with oilseeds, cereals, commercial crops, cultivation of pulses in summer season and cropping based approach to cultivate pulses as a second crop after rice etc. are being promoted to increase acreage of pulses in irrigated areas.

#### **Suicide by farmers**

†989. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in the country are resorting to suicide as farming is turning unprofitable, farmers are indebted and they are left with no other option but to commit suicide;

(b) if so, the initiatives taken by Government in this direction, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for which farmers in States like Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat, are committing suicide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Agriculture sector had registered an average growth rate of 4.1 % during Eleventh Plan period as compared to 2.5% and 2.4% during 9th and 10th Plan respectively. A target of 4% growth in Agriculture and allied sector has been envisaged during Twelfth Plan Period. In order to achieve this growth rate farmers need assistance for better planning, cultivation and marketing of agricultural produce as well as, for mobilizing finances for agricultural purposes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicide compiled on an annual basis, upto the year 2014 are available at its website. These Reports for the subsequent years (*i.e.* 2015 onwards) have yet not been published. As per ADSI Reports for the years, 2013 and 2014, the State-wise details of suicides have been given in the Statement-I (*See* below). As may be seen from this Statement, during the year 2014, it was for the first time that the suicides of farmers were delineated, as that of farmers and agricultural labourers. In so far as the data for the year 2015, the data as furnished by the State Governments in respect of farmer suicides, due to agrarian reasons, have been compiled and given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

Although, Agriculture is a State subject and the State Governments take up several schemes and programmes in accordance with the agro-climatic conditions, needs of the State concerned and for development of Agriculture and increasing the income of farmers. Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Some of these schemes and policy measures are:

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers. The balanced use of fertiliser will also enhance productivity and ensure higher returns to the farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated.
- (iii) Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.
- (iv) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- (v) Government has also recently approved a new crop Insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to replace National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS (MNAIS) from Kharif 2016 season.

PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and would be available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. Some salient features are:

- (a) Farmers have to pay the lowest ever premium rate.
  - (b) There will be a uniform premium rate for farmers for entire country - 2% maximum for Kharif food and Oilseed crops, 1.5% maximum for Rabi food and Oilseed crops and 5% maximum for Annual Horticultural/Annual Commercial crops.
  - (c) The remaining financial burden will be borne by the Government.
  - (d) Farmers will get full insurance cover - there will be no "capping" of the Sum Insured and consequently, claim amount will not be cut or reduced.
  - (e) For the first time, inundation has been included under localized risk cover, in addition to hailstorm and landslide. Individual farm level assessment of crop loss will be done for this.
  - (f) For the first time, post harvest losses arising out of cyclones and unseasonal rains throughout the country have been covered.
  - (g) For the first time, emphasis has been given to mobile and Satellite Technology to facilitate accurate assessment and quick settlement of claims.
  - (h) Crop Insurance Portal has been launched. This will be used extensively for better administration, co-ordination, dissemination of information and transparency.
  - (i) Coverage of areas to be increased from 23%, at present to 50% in 2 to 3 years.
- (vi) The Government also undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'. In addition, Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Minimum Price Support Scheme on the request of State/UT Government, in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

This Department has also taken measures to tackle the crisis that has arisen in the

country due to second consecutive year of drought. The Government is committed to stand by the farmers in this crisis situation. During Kharif 2015, Government of India under the NDRF has approved higher assistance to the States than in the previous years.

Further, the norms under NDRF have also been revised comprehensively with relief in the form of Input Subsidy which is now admissible for 33% or more crop loss, as against 50% loss earlier; financial assistance admissible up to 2 hectare against earlier limit of 1 hectare; in assured irrigated areas, the financial assistance has been increased from ₹ 9,000 per hectare to ₹ 13,500 per hectare. In case of perennial crops, the quantum of input subsidy has been increased from ₹ 12,000/- to ₹ 18,000/- per hectare.

(c) Reasons of suicide by farmers as reported by State Governments, are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include crop failure, indebtedness, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

***Statement-I***

*Details of number of suicides under subhead "Self-employed Persons"  
(Farmers) for various reasons*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2013	2014	
		Farmers & Labourers	Farmers	Labourers
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh		160	472
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2014	0	3
3.	Assam	37	21	38
4.	Bihar	305	0	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	127	443	312
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	1	45	555
8.	Haryana	582	14	105
9.	Himachal Pradesh	374	32	31
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	33	12	25

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Jharkhand	18	0	4
12.	Karnataka	142	321	447
13.	Kerala	1403	107	700
14.	Madhya Pradesh	978	826	372
15.	Maharashtra	1090	2568	1436
16.	Manipur	3146	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	1	0	2
18.	Mizoram	5	0	5
19.	Nagaland	6	0	0
20.	Odisha	2	5	97
21.	Punjab	150	24	40
22.	Rajasthan	83	0	373
23.	Sikkim	292	35	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	35	68	827
25.	Telangana	105	898	449
26.	Tripura	Na	0	32
27.	Uttar Pradesh	56	63	129
28.	Uttarakhand	750	0	0
29.	West Bengal	15	0	230
TOTAL (STATES)		0	5642	6694
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	11744	8	0
31.	Chandigarh	5	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	15	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
34.	Delhi (UT)	0	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	8	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0	16
TOTAL (UTs)		0	8	16
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)		28	5650	6710
		11772	12360	

*Source:* Report on 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' for relevant years, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

***Statement-II***

*Details of Number of Suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons as reported by State Governments*

Sl. No.	State/ UT	2015
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	0
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	3
6.	Goa	0
7.	Gujarat	3
8.	Haryana	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NR
11.	Jharkhand	NR
12.	Karnataka (F/Y)	107
13.	Kerala	1

Sl. No.	State/ UT	2015
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0
15.	Maharashtra	1841
16.	Punjab #	449
17.	Telangana *	342

NR - Not reported.

# includes suicides of farmers and also labourers, due to various reasons.

\* includes suicides during the year 2014.

### Horticulture production outpacing production of foodgrains

990. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's horticulture output has outpaced the production of foodgrains third year in a row in 2014-15, despite deficit monsoon, unseasonal rains and hailstorms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that besides horticulture production has shown continuous increase in the foodgrains output has reported a decline in 2014-15 as compared to 2013-14; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to the continued support extended by Government of Tamil Nadu, the State has become the top flower producing State in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Despite the deficit monsoon, unseasonal rains and hailstorm in the major part of the country, the production of horticulture crops have outpaced the production of foodgrains since 2012-13 as may be seen in the table below:

Year	Production (In Million Tonnes)	
	Total Horticulture*	Total Foodgrains**
2012-13	268.85	257.13
2013-14	277.35	265.04
2014-15	280.99	252.02

Source: \* Horticulture Statistics Division, DAC&FW.

\*\* Directorate of Economics and Statistics.