

(b) Government has taken several steps like introduction of (a) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to provide comprehensive risk coverage of entire crop cycle from pre-sowing to post harvested risks at lowest premium rate payable for farmers; (b) Effective policy decisions for sugarcane farmers to reduce arrears from ₹ 21000 crores to ₹ 2500 crores, increase in Import duty, hike of Ethanol blending percentage from 5% to 10%; (c) Change in Natural disaster relief criteria through which compensation has been raised by one and a half times, eligibility criteria reduced from 50% to 33%, Relaxation in standards for procurement under MSP, Relaxation in timeline for loan repayment, subsidy in diesel along with increase in Seed subsidy by 50%; to enhance accessibility to credit for farmers, agricultural loan limit has been increased to ₹ 8.5 lakh crores for the year 2015-16 and 9 lakh crores for 2016-17; (d) in World Trade Organization long term interests of farmers have been protected; (e) introduction of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana; (f) Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana for creation of a separate feeder for supply of power for agriculture and villages (g) issuance of Soil Health Card (SHC); (h) Neem coated urea for increasing the efficacy of fertilizers and inhibit its use in other sectors; (i) New fertilizer policy to increase fertilizer production to avoid any shortage of fertilizer and ensuring full availability; (j) Development of National Agricultural Market in association with States - to establish an e-platform and Kisan TV -Launch of 24 X 7 channel to help farmers to get information on weather, mandis and other information etc. to provide impetus to agriculture and incentives to farmers in the country etc.

#### **Suicide by farmers**

†1003. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have committed suicide in various States of the country from June, 2013 to December 2015, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the names of programmes started for the welfare of farmers, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of farmers who have benefited so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) 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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicide compiled on an annual basis, upto the year 2014 are available at its website. The 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. [Refer to the Statement-I appended to the Answer to USQ No. 989, part (a) & (b)]. 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 [Refer to the Statement-II appended to the Answer to USQ No. 989, part (a) and (b)]

Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State, including payment of compensation to the bereaved families of suicide victims. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Some major schemes being implemented for the welfare of farmers are as follows:

- (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.

#### **Farmers suicide**

1004. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the steps taken to boost agricultural productivity and income of farmers to prevent farmers' suicide epidemic in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): The Government has taken several new initiatives to promote agricultural activities. The strategy is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. Farm viability is possible, when cost of cultivation is reduced, yields per unit of farm are increased and farmers get remunerative prices on their produce. The Department is implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz.

- (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.