

**Action plan for bundelkhand**

†1614.SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in Bundelkhand are forced to commit suicide as they are unable to sow their crops due to scarcity of water and if they somehow manage to sow their crops, they are not able to get them irrigated;

(b) if so, the reasons for not formulating any special action plan, so far, for famine struck Bundelkhand; and

(c) if not, the facts behind suicide of farmers in Bundelkhand?

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) compiles and publishes data on farmer suicides in its report entitled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI)' for every calendar year (January to December). As per ADSI 2014, 6 farmers committed suicide in Uttar Pradesh due to crop failure and Bankruptcy or indebtedness. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported 0,1,0 and 0 cases of suicide by farmers in the State during the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

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.

The strategy of the Government 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 has been 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.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (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 release 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 Agriculture 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.

The reason for suicide by farmers are manifold, which *inter-alia* include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, social-economic and personal reasons.

#### **Launching of national e-market**

1615. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to launch the National e-market under the National Agriculture Market scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that as many as twenty States have expressed interest in linking their markets; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that 200 mandis will be connected by September, 2016 and another 200 mandis will be connected by March, 2017, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) Government has approved a scheme for setting up of National Agriculture Market (NAM) on 01.07.2015 with a budget of ₹ 200 crore, which is to be implemented during 2015-16 to 2017-18.

The scheme envisages implementation of the National Agriculture Market (NAM) by setting up of an appropriate common e-market platform that would be deployed in 585 regulated wholesale markets in States/Union Territories (UTs) desirous of joining the e-platform. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has been selected