

(b) whether 'SAFAL' a Government outlet for selling vegetables and fruits, has incurred financial losses during last several financial years;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government has conducted any study with regard to measures required to improve financial condition of 'SAFAL', make it economically viable and earn sufficient profit; and

(e) if so, the measures taken/plan prepared by Government to make SAFAL successful and fruitful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per the information received from National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), NDDB established the Fruit and Vegetable project in 1986 at Delhi for undertaking integrated marketing of horticulture produce under the brand name "SAFAL". The objective was to facilitate a direct link between fruit and vegetable growers and consumers in order to provide quality produce and services at reasonable rates besides improve the quality of life of farmers and producers through fair and optimum price realization for their produce. SAFAL is presently the business initiative of Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Private Limited, a subsidiary of NDDB. SAFAL is engaged in procurement, processing and marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables, processed and frozen products etc., with operations spread in Delhi-NCR (386 Fruit and Vegetable shops) and Bangalore (28 Fruit and Vegetable shops).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Suicide by farmers

1467. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of suicides by farmers has increased during last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government to prevent suicide by farmers?

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 Suicides in India' (ADSI). These reports on suicides upto 2014, are available at its website. The reports for the subsequent years (i.e. 2015 onwards) have not been published yet. As per ADSI reports for the year 2014, the State-wise details of suicides have been compiled and given in 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 year 2015, the data, as furnished by the State Governments in respect of farmer suicides, due to agrarian reasons, have been complied and given in Statement-II (*See* below).

Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. 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. From the current year (*i.e.* 2016), the urea that is imported would also be neem coated.
- (iii) Paramparagat 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 Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.

- (v) A new crop Insurance scheme, namely, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented from Kharif 2016 season. PMFBY has addressed all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is 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.
- (vi) The Government provides interest subvention @ 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme, 2015-16, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.

Statement-I

Number of suicides under sub-head "Self-employed Persons (Farmers)" for various reasons

Sl. No.	State/UT	Farmers	Labourers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	160	472
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	3
3.	Assam	21	38
4.	Bihar	0	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	443	312
6.	Goa	0	0
7.	Gujarat	45	555
8.	Haryana	14	105
9.	Himachal Pradesh	32	31
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	25
11.	Jharkhand	0	4
12.	Karnataka	321	447

Sl. No.	State/UT	Farmers	Labourers
13.	Kerala	107	700
14.	Madhya Pradesh	826	372
15.	Maharashtra	2568	1436
16.	Manipur	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	2
18.	Mizoram	0	5
19.	Nagaland	0	0
20.	Odisha	5	97
21.	Punjab	24	40
22.	Rajasthan	0	373
23.	Sikkim	35	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	68	827
25.	Telangana	898	449
26.	Tripura	0	32
27.	Uttar Pradesh	63	129
28.	Uttarakhand	0	0
29.	West Bengal	0	230
	TOTAL (STATES)	5642	6694
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	16
	TOTAL (UTs)	8	16
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	5650	6710
	GRAND TOTAL	12360	

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

Statement-II

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

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015	2016	Reported on
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58	NR	28-01-2016
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	14-03-2016
3.	Assam	0	NR	14-03-2016
4.	Bihar	1		13-08-2015
5.	Chhattisgarh	3		16-11-2015
6.	Goa	0	0	04-04-2016
7.	Gujarat	3	NR	17-03-2016
8.	Haryana	1	0	28-03-2016
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	10-3-2016
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NR	0	14-03-2016
11.	Jharkhand	NR	0	10-3-2016
12.	Karnataka (F/Y)	107		22-07-2015
13.	Kerala	1	0	29-02-2016
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0		03-06-2015
15.	Maharashtra	1841	57	29-02-2016
16.	Manipur	NR		
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	11-03-2016
18.	Mizoram	0	0	11-03-2016
19.	Nagaland	0		7-3-2016
20.	Odisha	#138	0	3-Oct-16
21.	Punjab	Farmers 46		
		Labourers #449	56	11-03-2016
22.	Rajasthan	3	NR	10-02-2016
23.	Sikkim	0	NR	17-02-2016
24.	Tamil Nadu	NR	NA	29-2-2016
25.	Telangana	\$342	3	14-03-2016

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015	2016	Reported on
26.	Tripura	0	0	21-03-2016
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0		23-07-2015
28.	Uttarakhand	0		5-3-2016
29.	West Bengal	0	NR	10-02-2016
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	3/3/2016
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	02-03-2016
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0		17-02-2016
33.	Daman and Diu	0		03-08-2015
34.	NCT Delhi	0	0	26-02-2016
35.	Lakshadweep	NR		
36.	Puducherry	0	0	08-03-2016

NR - Not Reported.

#- Due to various reasons.

\$ - Including 2014.

Damage to crops due to unseasonal rains

1468. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unseasonal rains in the month of March have damaged crops and orchards in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) if so, the estimated loss caused to the farmers, State-wise;

(c) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi have sought financial help from the Ministry to compensate the farmers for the losses; and

(d) if so, the details of funds released to these States till the end of December, 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per reports received, an area of 22490 hectare in Himachal Pradesh, 252519 hectare area in Uttar Pradesh and 5900 hectare area in Delhi was affected due to unseasonal rains in March, 2016.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.