

Suicide by farmers and Arthiyas

1475. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicides committed by farmers in the country, including Punjab in the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether suicides by six Arthiyas/middlemen through whom Government procures wheat and paddy from farmers have come to the notice of Government, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the causes of stress of farmers and Arthiyas and the action taken by Government to reduce their debt burden; and

(d) the schemes announced by Government for their welfare and the impact of those schemes on the farmers, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) 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 given in the Statement-I [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No. 1467 part (a) to (c)]. 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 Computed and given in Statement-II [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No.1467 part (a) to (c)].

(b) and (c) The State/UT Governments have been requested to furnish the required information, which would be laid on the table of House.

(d) 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 Sinchai 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.

Losses to animal husbandry and dairy sectors due to drought

1476. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of losses suffered by Animal Husbandry and Dairy sectors due to drought, especially in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of measures taken by Government to protect these sectors from drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The State Government is primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. Government of India supplements efforts of State Government with financial assistance and logistic support. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of sever nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from State Government in accordance with established procedure.

During the year 2015-16, Government of Karantaka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odhisa, Telegana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan had declared drought in several parts of these states.

The Government of Maharashtra has declared drought in 21 districts covering 15,747 villages and submitted memorandum to Government of India seeking financial assistance under the National Disaster Relief Funds (NDRF). Government of India, considering the recommendation, approved ₹ 3049.36 crores from NDRF including ₹ 23.00 crores for fodder.

Further, Department of Agriculture Co-operation and Farmers Welfare ois implementing Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) to mitigate the adverse impacts of drought in drought affected States from 2014-15 which is continuing during the current year 2016-17 with a budgetary allocation of ₹ 100 crores.