

**Suicide by farmers**

2253. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers in the country are forced to commit suicide when unable to come out of the debt plights;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the action plan of the Government to prevent farmers from committing suicide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) 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 years 2012, 2013 and 2014, the State/ UT wise details of suicides have been compiled and are 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 farmers and labourers. Further, in respect of farmers alone the suicides due to crop loan and farm equipment loan during the year 2014 are given in Statement-II (*See* below). Prior to 2014, no separate data in this regard was published by NCRB.

(c) 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 is implementing various schemes to meet this objective, *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC), Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY). In addition, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET); Unified National Agricultural Markets (NAM); and Rashtriya

Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Further the Government 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. The MIS is implemented 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.

The erstwhile crop insurance schemes namely the National Crop Insurance Programme (NOP) with component schemes of Modified National Agricultural Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) have recently been reviewed in consultation with various stakeholders including States/UTs. As a result of the review, a new scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has been approved for implementation from Kharif 2016 along with pilot Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) and restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). Under the PMFBY, WBCIS and crop insurance component of UPIS, a uniform maximum premium of only 2% will be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. However, for annual commercial and horticultural crops, the maximum premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5% of sum insured.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued Standing Guidelines for Relief Measures to be provided by respective lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities which, *inter alia*, include identification of beneficiaries, extending fresh loans and restructuring of existing loans, relaxed security and margin norms, moratorium etc. The moment calamity is declared by the concerned District Authorities, these guidelines have been so designed that they are automatically set in motion without any intervention and this saves precious time. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework. 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% is continuously available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

Banks have been advised to allow maximum period of repayment of upto 2 years (including the moratorium period of 1 year) if the crop loss is between 33% and 50%. If the crop loss is 50% or more, the restructured period for repayment is extended to a maximum of 5 years (including the moratorium period of 1 year). The Banks have further been advised that all short-term loans eligible for restructuring are converted into term loan. In all cases of restructuring, moratorium period of at least one year is granted. The existing term loan installments are rescheduled.

**Statement-I**

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

Sl. No.	State/UT	2012	2013	2014	
		Farmers/ Labourers	Farmers/ Labourers	Farmers	Labourers
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2572	2014	160	472
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	37	0	3
3.	Assam	344	305	21	38
4.	Bihar	68	127	0	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	0	443	312
6.	Goa	1	1	0	0
7.	Gujarat	564	582	45	555
8.	Haryana	276	374	14	105
9.	Himachal Pradesh	29	33	32	31
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	18	12	25
11.	Jharkhand	119	142	0	4
12.	Karnataka	1875	1403	321	447
13.	Kerala	1081	972	107	700
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1172	1090	826	372
15.	Maharashtra	3786	3146	2568	1436
16.	Manipur	0	1	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	10	5	0	2
18.	Mizoram	10	6	0	5
19.	Nagaland	9	2	0	0
20.	Odisha	146	150	5	97
21.	Punjab	75	83	24	40
22.	Rajasthan	270	292	0	373
23.	Sikkim	19	35	35	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	499	105	68	827
25.	Telangana	NA	NA	898	449
26.	Tripura	18	56	0	32
27.	Uttar Pradesh	745	750	63	129
28.	Uttarakhand	14	15	0	0
29.	West Bengal	NR	0	0	230
Total (States)		13727	11744	5642	6694
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	5	8	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	15	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	21	8	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0	0	16
TOTAL (UTs)		27	28	8	16
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)				5650	6710
		13754	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 under sub-head “ Self-employed Persons (Farmers)” for indebtedness

Sl. No.	State/UT	2014	
		Due to crop loan	Due to Farm Eqp. Loan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0
8.	Haryana	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0
12.	Karnataka	28	5
13.	Kerala	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	765	16
16.	Manipur	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0
20.	Odisha	1	0
21.	Punjab	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	0	0
23.	Sikkim	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0
25.	Telangana	146	0
26.	Tripura	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0
28.	Uttarakhand	0	0
29.	West Bengal	0	0
TOTAL (States)		965	22
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0

1	2	3	4
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0
	TOTAL (UTs)	0	0
	TOTAL (All India)	965	22
987			

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

#### National policy on feed and fodder

2254. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to come out with a national policy on feed and fodder and has decided to expand the network of fodder research station to eastern India;

(b) the main reasons for shortage of fodder and how it is proposed to overcome the shortage; and

(c) whether this policy will help in increasing milk production and productivity and also for making dairying economically attractive, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (c) No Sir. Question does not arise.

(b) The main reasons for shortage of fodder are our limitation in further increasing the area under fodder crops, lack of quality seeds of improved varieties/hybrids, etc. Besides, low priority accorded to fodder production, lack of post-harvest management for surplus fodder, poor management of grazing/pasture lands.

Government of India has already taken necessary steps to increase feed and fodder production in various parts of the country by providing financial assistance to the States and UTs under Centrally Sponsored National Livestock Mission of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) with a Sub-Mission on Feed and Fodder Development for the following components.