

and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) statistics for 2013, the total area equipped for irrigation in China is 68.8 million hectare and for India 67.0 million hectare.

(b) As per the latest available data, 47.68 per cent of the total cropped area in the country is irrigated.

(c) and (d) Irrigation is one of the important inputs along with other inputs such as use of quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery and equipments, agricultural credit etc.

Union Government supplements States' efforts to bring more cropped area under assured irrigation by extending irrigation facilities. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched by Government of India in July, 2015 with the components of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Har Khet Ko Pani, Per Drop More Crop and Watershed which aims at providing end to end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, and distribution network and farm level applications.

Further, drip and sprinkler irrigation are also encouraged to bring more area under assured irrigation.

Suicide by farmers

337. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of farmers who have committed suicide in the country in the year 2015 and 2016 so far, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has ascertained the reasons for committing suicide by the farmers, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of schemes launched by Government to curb the spate of suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (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 and 2016) have not been published yet. As per reports received from State Government, the number of suicides due to agrarian reasons is given in the Statement (*See below*).

As per NCRB Report 2014, the reasons for suicide by farmers are manifold, which *inter alia* include, indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

(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 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) National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM) was approved on 1.7.2015 with a budget allocation of ₹ 200 crore to be implemented during 2015-16 to 2017-18. The releases of grants under the scheme are made on the basis of completion of 3 reform pre-requisites *i.e.* Single Trading License, Single License Fee and Creation of e-Platform for Trading. The Scheme was launched on 14.04.2016 in 8 States *viz.* Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand covering 21 markets. As of now 250 markets have been integrated.

- (vi) 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.
- (vii) The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an 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.
- (viii) 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 and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

MSP is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of activation and recommends MSP. The Government has also declared bonus on pulses for Kharif 2016 over and above the approved MSP. Even during last year, Government offered bonus over and above the MSP in case of pulses.

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.

*Statement**State-wise details of farmers who have committed suicide in the year 2015-16*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015	2016	Reported on
1.	Andhra Pradesh	94	35	29.08.2016
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	23.08.2016
3.	Assam	0	0	02.09.2016
4.	Bihar	1	—	13.08.2015
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	—	05.01.2016
6.	Goa	0	0	24.08.2016
7.	Gujarat	3	0	02.04.2016
8.	Haryana	3	0	28.03.2016
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	10.3.2016
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	14.03.2016
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	11.8.2016
12.	Karnataka	922	81	03.8.2016
13.	Kerala	1	0	14.06.2016
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	—	03.06.2015
15.	Maharashtra	1841	57	29.02.2016
16.	Manipur	0	0	13.07.2016
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	17.08.2016
18.	Mizoram	0	0	18.08.2016
19.	Nagaland	0	0	20.04.2016
20.	Odisha	#139	6	13.05.2016
21.	Punjab	449	56	9.3.2016
22.	Rajasthan	3	0	07.10.2016
23.	Sikkim	0	NR	17.02.2016
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	NR	9.5.2016
25.	Telangana	^462	—	28.07.2016
26.	Tripura	0	0	30.08.2016
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	28.07.2016

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015	2016	Reported on
28.	Uttarakhand	0	0	4.8.2016
29.	West Bengal	0	0	6.5.2016
	TOTAL (States)	0	0	12.08.2016
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	19.08.2016
31.	Chandigarh	0		14.06.2016
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0		21.09.2016
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	26.02.2016
34.	Delhi (UT)	0	0	21.06.2016
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	08.03.2016
36.	Puducherry	0	0	30.08.2016

#: Due to various reasons, including agrarian.

^: Suicides from 2013 to 5th March, 2016.

NR: Not Reported.

Source: Reported by States Government and UTs.

Yogic farming

338. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to promote the idea of yogic farming to increase the farm production;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this will be promoted *via* Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is boosting organic farming in a big way, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Government is promoting organic farming across the country under various Central Sector Schemes viz. National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Network Project on Organic Farming under ICAR etc.