

1	2	3	4
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	.00317
33.	West Bengal	On-farm trials and demonstrations (Number)	9785
		Farmers and extension personnel trained (Number)	56132
		Production of seed (in tonnes)	3102
		Production of planting material (in lakh)	7.41
		Live-stock strains and fingerlings (in lakh)	36.11

Suicide by farmers

†1155. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the cases of suicide being on the rise Government's attention has been drawn towards the reasons which are forcing the farmers to commit suicide day after day;

(b) whether Government is carrying out any study to understand the economic burden of the farmers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, since the rising incidence of suicides by farmers is an extremely painful and complex issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (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 and 2016) have not been published yet. 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.

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.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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 therefore been implementing various Schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), the National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) etc.

(b) and (c) A study titled "Farmers Suicides: Causes and Policy Prescriptions" has been approved as an All India Coordinated Study and allotted to Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC), Bangalore as a coordinator of the study. The study is to be carried out in 18 States *i.e.* Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, Punjab and Maharashtra with their respective Agro Economic Research Centres (AERCs). The reference year of the study has been decided as the agriculture year 2015-16 (June, 2015-May, 2016). As per time line, the study is to be completed by March, 2017.

Availability of new variety of Arhar Pusa-16

1156. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new variety of Arhar Pusa-16 has been developed by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) which will be ready in 4 months in place of traditional variety which takes almost 8-10 months to be ready for harvesting, if so, the details thereof along with its main features; and

(b) the time Government is likely to take to make available the seeds of the new variety of Arhar Pusa-16 to farmers in view of huge gap between the production and demand of Arhar dal within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed early maturing Arhar genotype PADT 16 (Pusa 16) which matures in four months. Pusa 16 is of determinate habit, short statured (<100 cm), suited for close planting (30x15 cm) and amenable to mechanical spraying and combine harvesting.