

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Policy to control farmer's suicides**

3997. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:

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

(a) whether suicide cases of farmers are increasing in an alarming way in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has suggested the Government to bring out a concrete national policy to tackle farmers' suicides and evolve reasons for their suicides and for proper protection of their crops from natural calamities and holistic approach for their well-being, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

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). As per ADSI Report of 2015, the number of suicides by farmers/cultivators has gone up from 5,650 in 2014 to 8,007 in 2015. Suicides by agricultural labourers have however, come down from 6,710 in 2014 to 4,595 in 2015. Thus, total number of suicides in the farming sector has increased by 2% in 2015 over 2014.

(b) and (c) During the recent hearing held on 27.03.2017 in respect of Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s) 29910/2014 titled 'Citizen's Resource and Action Initiative (CRANTI) vs. State of Gujarat and others' concerning farmers' suicides, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has granted four week's time to the Central Government to place before the Court the line of action which the Central Government proposes for adoption by the State Governments for dealing with the serious consequences of farmers suicide. The next date of hearing in the case is 01.05.2017.

Decline in cultivation of sugarcane

†3998. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to improve the declining cultivation of sugarcane growers, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.