

- (iv) The gap between demand (requirement) and production is met through import.

Welfare schemes for families of farmers who committed suicide

*253. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many welfare schemes are being introduced by the Government for the family members of those farmers who have committed suicide during the last two years due to their crop loss;

(b) whether Government is planning to introduce some more schemes for such families; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (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. Normally, it is the State Governments that provide relief to families that face farmer suicides. As per information available from the States, the details of relief etc. being provided are as follows:

- State Government of Maharashtra gives *Ex-gratia* relief of ₹ 1.00 lakh to the heirs of the deceased farmer as per scheme of State Government. The three norms of eligibility for *Ex-gratia* are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.
- The Punjab Government had constituted committee for providing compensation to victims' family to ₹ 3.00 lakh. The Punjab Government has also introduced "Punjab Relief of Agriculture Indebtedness Bill" which will provide relief to the farmers from debt trap.
- Government of Andhra Pradesh is providing ₹ 5.00 lakh compensation to the family members of the deceased farmers. Out of which ₹ 1.50 lakh is as one time settlement to wipe off loans/liabilities and ₹ 3.50 lakh towards rehabilitation of the family members.
- The Government of Telangana has enhanced the *Ex-gratia* from ₹ 1.00 lakh to ₹ 5.00 lakh to the family of the deceased farmer towards rehabilitation of the family and enhance loan settlement ceiling limit from ₹ 50 thousand to ₹ 1.00 lakh to the persons entitled as one time settlement and to wipe off all the liabilities on the part of deceased families of farmers.

- In Karnataka an amount of ₹ 1.00 lakh has been given to each of the deceased family from 2003-04 to 2014-15. From 01.04.2015 an amount of ₹ 5.00 lakh relief is provided to each of the deceased family and the children of the deceased will get free education up to post graduation including hostel facilities.

In so far as the Central Government is concerned, 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. Schemes that promote efficiency of natural resources and help reduce cost of cultivation are Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea (NCU), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana (PMKSY). National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), has been launched to create an efficient integrated market. Further, Government supports farmers by way of notifying MSP and undertaking procurement operations including through Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilization Fund (PSF). In case of horticultural and plantation crops, where no MSP is notified, procurement operations are undertaken under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). As regards improving productivity to realize higher production, Government has been implementing National Food Security Missions (NFSM) for various field crops, NMOOP for oilseeds and oilpalm and MIDH for Horticultural crops. In addition, Government has successfully rolled out Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to cover crop risk by way of easy insurance. Infrastructure in agriculture sector is catered to by RKVY.

There are also various other schemes/programms being implemented by the Government like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana, etc. in rural as well as urban areas and farmers and other agricultural labourers who fulfil the eligibility criteria are also eligible for assistance under these schemes.

Misuse of social media to spread hate campaign

*254. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that social media is increasingly used to hurt religious sentiments and create communal polarization in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has identified such accounts spreading the hate campaign; and