

(d) whether Government has drawn up plans to address the agrarian crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) 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 5650 in 2014 to 8,007 in 2015, registering an increase of 41.7%. Suicides by agricultural labourers have however, come down from 6,710 in 2014 to 4,595 in 2015. Thus, total number of suicides in Farming Sector increased by 2% in 2015 over 2014. Further, as per this Report, 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and 'Farming Related Issues' are reported as major causes of suicides among farmers/cultivators. Other prominent causes of farmers/cultivators suicides are family problems, illness, etc.

(d) The focus of the Government is 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. Soil Health Card Scheme (SHC), Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

In addition, 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.

Further, 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).

Assessment of damage caused due to drought in Karnataka

2588. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any detailed assessment of the damage caused to the farmers due to severe drought in Karnataka, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the districts of Karnataka affected due to failure of rainfall this year; and

(c) the kind of support, other than loans, Central Government has provided to the affected farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) The State Governments are primarily responsible for taking necessary relief in the wake of natural calamities including drought and are empowered to initiate immediate relief measures to address the situation arising out of drought. Government of India supplements the efforts of state Governments with financial assistance. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Entire Central Share of SDRF amounting to ₹ 217.50 crores has been released for 2016-17.

If fund available in SDRF is insufficient to cater to relief operations, State can request additional central assistance over and above SDRF for natural calamities of severe nature, from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) by submitting a detailed relief memorandum to the Central Government. On receipt of such a Memorandum, Central Government constitutes an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) to visit the affected areas, assess the situation and submit a report on assessment of damages for recommending appropriate Central assistance to the State.

During 2016-17, State Government of Karnataka submitted memorandum seeking central assistance for drought during Kharif after declaring drought in 26 districts {Bagalkote, Ballari, Belagavi, Bengaluru (Rural), Bengaluru (Urban), Chamaraajanagar, Chikballapur, Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Dharwad, Gadag, Hassan, Haveri, Kodagu, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Mysuru, Raichur, Ramanagara, Shivamogga, Tumkur, Uttara Kannada, Vijayapura, and Yadgir}. The Government of Karnataka also declared drought in all the 30 districts in the State during Rabi 2016-17.

The Central Government constituted IMCTs which after visits to the drought affected areas in Karnataka submitted their report and recommendations. On the basis of IMCT reports, ₹ 1782.44 crores has been approved from NDRF for Kharif. However, assistance for drought during Rabi is under consideration of the Central Government.

Steps to double the income of farmers

2589. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any effective steps to double the per-capita income of farmers with small, medium and marginal land holdings by 2020;