

registers pesticides after considering the data on different parameters such as chemistry, bio-efficacy, toxicity, packaging and processing to ensure efficacy and safety to human beings and animals. If pesticides are used as per approved label claims they do not cause any hazard to human beings, live stocks and matters related therewith. In addition, to sensitize farmers about indiscriminate use of pesticides, the Government is implementing “Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India” through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) of Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage established across the country with an aim to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. CIPMCs *inter alia*, produce biological agents for release in the fields, conserve natural bio-control agents, promote bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides and advocate judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a last resort. These activities are implemented through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs), 2 days and 5 days training programmes and season long training program for State Agriculture Extension Officers and NGOs/Private Bodies. A ‘Grow Safe Food’ campaign has been initiated to carry the message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 87 crops have been revised to include techniques to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures. Further, the State Agriculture authorities are sensitized on judicious use of pesticide and enforce regulatory provisions with regard to pesticides in the Zonal and National Conferences.

The Pesticides Management Bill, 2008 is pending in the Parliament with a view to substitute the Insecticides Act, 1968. The Bill, *inter alia*, has proposed time bound safe disposal of pesticides and more stringent punishment for import, manufacture, sale etc. of spurious/misbranded/sub-standard pesticides.

Decline in production of foodgrains due to drought

191. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains production has come down during the last two years due to drought conditions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of reported farmer's suicides during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) On account of deficit/deficient rainfall during monsoon season, unseasonal rains/hailstorms and adverse temperature conditions etc., the production of foodgrain during 2014-15 and 2015-16 declined to

252.02 million tonnes and 252.22 million tonnes respectively as compared to record foodgrains production of 265.04 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14.

(b) As per latest Report on 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, the details of State-wise number of reported farmers/cultivators suicides during 2014 and 2015 are given in the Statement.

Statement

*State/UT-wise number of reported farmers/cultivators suicides
during 2014 and 2015*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of reported suicides	
		2014	2015
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	160	516
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	7
3.	Assam	21	84
4.	Chhattisgarh	443	854
5.	Gujarat	45	57
6.	Haryana	14	28
7.	Himachal Pradesh	32	0
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	0
9.	Karnataka	321	1197
10.	Kerala	107	3
11.	Madhya Pradesh	826	581
12.	Maharashtra	2568	3030
13.	Manipur	0	1
14.	Meghalaya	0	2
15.	Odisha	5	23
16.	Punjab	24	100
17.	Rajasthan	0	3
18.	Sikkim	35	15
19.	Tamil Nadu	68	2
20.	Telangana	898	1358

1	2	3	4
21.	Tripura	0	1
22.	Uttar Pradesh	63	145
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	0
TOTAL		5650	8007

Source: Report on 'Accidental Deaths and Sucides in India' of National Crime Records Bureau, M/o Home Affairs.

Providing market intelligence to farmers

192. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments have submitted a Memorandum to Central Government to provide market intelligence to farmers to help them to get remunerative prices for the agricultural produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the status of the proposal; and

(c) whether a demand has also been made for setting up an Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) unit in the region to study and solve the problems of farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from any State Government. However, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing Marketing Research and Information Network (MRIN) Scheme since March, 2000 under which daily price and arrival data from Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) is being captured on the Agmarknet portal. This scheme has the coverage of 3288 markets spread all over the country and more than 2700 markets are reported in December, 2016. Efforts are made to provide latest and live mandi prices to farmers and other stakeholders to take appropriate marketing decisions. The price data is disseminated through Kisan Call Centres, Kisan Suvidha and Agrimarket mobile Apps. The latest mandi prices are displayed on the DD Kisan portal on scrolling mode. Agmarknet data is hosted on open data platform and intended users are obtaining live mandi prices from the portal (data.gov.in). Spot and Future prices are provided through Price Ticker Boards in the major APMC Markets.

(c) There is no proposal to set up additional units of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). The Social Science Network Project on Market Intelligence is currently being implemented in 14 State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes