

- (iii) To determine the needed growth rate to double the income of farmers/ agricultural labourers by the year 2021-22.
- (iv) To consider and recommend various strategies to be adopted to accomplish (iii) above.
- (v) To recommend an institutional mechanism to review and monitor implementation to realise the goal.
- (vi) To examine any other related issue.

(b) to (d) The Government has drafted a new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017, which was released on 24.04.2017 for adoption by the States through legislation of their respective Acts. The Act provides the options of alternate markets beyond the existing APMC regulated market yards to the farmers. The provisions also includes setting up of private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity markets, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storages or such structures as market sub yards and Market Yards of National Importance (MNI) so as to reduce the number of intermediaries between producer and buyer and increase the share of the farmer in consumer's rupee.

Suicides by farmers

†655. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of suicides by farmers so far, this year;
- (b) whether information has been received with regard to the reasons of suicides;
- (c) whether the main reason of farmers' suicides is that the farmers do not even get the cost price of their crops; and
- (d) whether Government will ensure that farmers get the cost price for their crops so as to prevent suicides by them?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. The Report for the year 2016 onwards have not been published yet. As per Report of 2015 '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, 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 scheme viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil palm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Norms for organising Kisan Melas

656. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is sponsoring Kisan Melas in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the framework/norms for organising such Melas and the success achieved thereunder in addressing the issues of farmers;

(c) the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the last three years in the country, including in Jharkhand and Gujarat;