

substitute for loans to be provided to the target group *i.e.* small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, share croppers, etc. It builds mutual trust and confidence between the bank and the target group and minimizes the risks in the loan portfolio for the banks through group dynamics, cluster approach, peer education and credit discipline. The objective of the JLG mode of financing is to provide food security to vulnerable section by enhanced agriculture production, productivity and livelihood promotion.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'. It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Schedule 1 of the MGNREGA, envisages at least 60% of the works to be taken up in a district in terms of cost, for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.

#### **Suicide by farmers in Andhra Pradesh**

\*255. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recently released report by NABARD, farmers are in deep distress in Andhra Pradesh due to loans, not getting MSP, etc., which resulted in their committing suicides;

(b) if so, the findings of report thereof; and

(c) the Ministry's view on the pathetic condition of farmers in Andhra Pradesh and how it is going to extend a helping hand to them?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

(a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that there is no information to furnish in this regard.

(c) Agriculture is a State subject and State Governments are primarily responsible for development of the agriculture sector. However, Government of India, supplements the efforts of the States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

The Government of India is targeting to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022. To achieve this, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and

Farmers' Welfare has taken a number of measures. The Government aims to reorient the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness in addition to pure production centeredness approach. The Department is, therefore, implementing various schemes to meet this objective, viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), Interest subvention schemes and Kisan Credit Card Schemes. The Government is also 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) for enhancing production and productivity and development of the sector as a whole.

All these steps are implemented to reduce agrarian distress and increase the farmers' income including Andhra Pradesh.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

### Procurement of crops under MSP

2561. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study or has any statistics about the quantity of his produce a farmer is selling on MSP and how much through middlemen and through distress sale;

(b) the manner in which Government is planning to avoid middlemen and implement schemes/programmes to buy produce from farmers directly;

(c) whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog has recommended to procure farm produce directly from farmers;

(d) if so, the action Government has taken on the above recommendation; and

(e) whether any consultations have been held with States in this regard, and if so, the outcome of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Agriculture Marketing is a State subject and concerned States/Union Territories regulate and