

1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	2.42	2.84
Uttarakhand	2.21	2.64
West Bengal	1.62	1.87
Arunachal Pradesh	0.32	0.46
Manipur	0.34	0.50
Meghalaya	0.19	0.29
Mizoram	0.31	0.48
Nagaland	0.42	0.50
Sikkim	0.36	0.53
Tripura	1.04	1.32
ALL INDIA AVERAGE	1.73	2.02

#### **Roadmap to address the problems of farmers in Maharashtra**

2888. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that consistent droughts and unseasonal rains have rendered the farmers of Maharashtra distressed and debt ridden which is the main reason for them to commit suicides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to put in place a roadmap to effectively address the problems of farmers of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) 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). These Reports on

suicides upto 2016 are available on its website. The Reports for the year 2017 onwards have not been published. As per ADSI Report of the year 2015, the major causes of farmers' suicides are bankruptcy or indebtedness, farming related issues, family problems and illness etc.

(c) and (d) Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertake implementation of programmes/schemes for the development of the sector. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various schemes/programmes. The various schemes/ programmes of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production and remunerative returns to farmers. A list of various interventions by the Government is given in the Statement (*See below*). All these steps of the Government of India are for the welfare of the farmers of the country.

The Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee in 2016 to recommend a strategy for Doubling of Farmers' Income (DFI) by the year 2022. The DFI Committee submitted its report and thereafter the Government constituted an Empowered Body on 23.01.2019 for monitoring the implementation of the recommendation of the DFI Strategy.

#### ***Statement***

##### *Details of various interventions by the Government for the welfare of farmers*

The strategy of the Government is to focus on farmers' welfare by making farming viable. The schemes of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare focus on directly benefitting farmers through various interventions and schemes and include:-

- (i) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized.
- (ii) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- (iii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" for promoting organic farming.
- (iv) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic transparent and competitive online trading platform.

- (v) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers.
- (vi) Under "Har Medh Par Ped", agro forestry is being promoted for additional income. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bamboo has been removed from the definition of trees. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets.
- (vii) Giving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif and Rabi crops for 2018- 19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (viii) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PMAASHA)'. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Government of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- (ix) Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.
- (x) Extending the reach of institutional credit to more and more farmers is priority area of the Government and to achieve this goal, 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.
- (xi) Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The current year's agriculture credit flow target has been set at ₹ 13.50 lakh crore.

- (xii) Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2018-19, 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. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.
- (xiii) The Government has approved for giving the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities and has also decided to extend the Interest Subvention Facilities to such categories of farmers.
- (xiv) With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The scheme aims to provide a payment of ₹ 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of ₹ 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups.
- (xv) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of ₹ 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years.

**Introduction of new scheme for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**

2889. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is contemplating to set up a fund to nurture the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs);