

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 671
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/07/2022

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

671. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of farmers committing suicides is increasing every year, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the number of farmers who committed suicide in the last three years and in the current year, year-wise and the average acreage holding by them, particularly in Punjab;
- (c) whether Government would review the scheme of providing relief to farmers in distress by making their loan and interest burden reduced by financial assistance, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, how does Government plan to deal with increasing farmers' suicides, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): 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). NCRB has published reports upto 2020 which are available on its website. As per NCRB reports, the number of farmers who committed suicide during 2018, 2019 and 2020, state-wise, is enclosed at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d): The following major initiatives have been taken by the Government of India/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for easy and hassle-free credit flow and welfare of the farmers.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued directions for Relief Measures to be provided by respective lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities which, inter alia, include, restructuring/rescheduling of existing crop loans and term loans, extending fresh loans, relaxed security and margin norms, moratorium, etc. These directions have been so designed that the moment calamity is declared by the concerned District Authorities, they are automatically set in motion without any intervention, thus saving precious time. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced from 50 to 33 crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management

Framework. Banks have also been advised not to insist for additional collateral security for restructured loans.

To enhance coverage of small and marginal farmers in the formal credit system, RBI has decided to raise the limit for collateral-free agriculture loans from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.6 lakh.

The requirement of 'no due certificate' has also been dispensed with for small loans upto Rs.50,000/- to small and marginal farmers, share croppers and the like and, instead, only a self-declaration from the borrower is required.

To bring small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, etc. into the fold of institutional credit, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been promoted by banks.

Further, Government of India is implementing Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) to provide short term agri-loans availed by farmers through KCC at concessional rate of interest. Under this scheme short term loans for agriculture and allied activities including animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries etc. upto Rs.3.00 lakh is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum. Additional 3% subvention is also given to the farmers for prompt and timely repayment of loans; thus reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% per annum. In case of short term loan availed for allied activities only, the loan amount upto Rs. 2.00 lakh is available at the rate of 7%. Additional 3% interest subvention is also available on it.

In order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the component of interest subvention is available on the restructured amount to banks for the first year and such restructured loans would attract normal rate of interest from the second year onwards as per the policy laid down by RBI.

Interest subvention and prompt repayment incentive on restructured crop loans is also given to farmers affected by severe natural calamities for a maximum period of 5 years on the basis of report of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) for grant of NDRF assistance and Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC).

Again, Government has implemented various schemes / programmes for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support. These include:

- (i) Supplementary income transfers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme,
- (ii) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) for providing old age pension,
- (iii) Crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY),
- (iv) Increase in Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops,
- (v) Spoil Health Cards for rationalizing use of fertilizers,
- (vi) 'Per drop more crop' initiative through drip/sprinkler irrigation for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity,
- (vii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for promoting organic farming,
- (viii) e-NAM initiative for transparent and competitive online trading platform,
- (ix) Agro-forestry through 'HarModh Par Ped' for additional income,
- (x) National Bamboo Mission to promote bamboo plantation on non-forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets,

- (xi) New procurement policy under Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) for ensuring remunerative prices for produce,
- (xii) Bee-keeping under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase productivity of crops through pollination and increase in honey production as an additional source of income,
- (xiii) Ensuring flow of adequate institutional agriculture credit and benefit of interest subvention,
- (xiv) Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) offering production loan to even dairy & fishery farmers besides agricultural crops,
- (xv) Better access to irrigation under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY),
- (xvi) Formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs along with necessary financial support,
- (xvii) Special attention for creation of infrastructure through Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) with a size of Rs. 100,000 crore,
- (xviii) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate.
- (xix) Focus on application of digital technology at all stages of agricultural value chain.
- (xx) Adoption of drone technologies in agriculture which has a potential to revolutionize the Indian agriculture, etc.

State/UT wise Suicides by farmers during 2018-2020

SL	State/UT	2018	2019	2020
		Farmers/ Cultivators	Farmers/ Cultivators	Farmers/ Cultivators
1	Andhra Pradesh	365	628	564
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1
3	Assam	5	26	12
4	Bihar	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	182	233	227
6	Goa	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	21	3	5
8	Haryana	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	5	12	6
10	Jharkhand	0	0	0
11	Karnataka	1365	1331	1072
12	Kerala	25	22	57
13	Madhya Pradesh	303	142	235
14	Maharashtra	2239	2680	2567
15	Manipur	2	0	1
16	Meghalaya	0	0	4
17	Mizoram	17	22	4
18	Nagaland	0	0	0
19	Odisha	0	0	0
20	Punjab	229	239	174
21	Rajasthan	2	2	0
22	Sikkim	1	0	6
23	Tamil Nadu	6	6	79
24	Telangana	900	491	466
25	Tripura	0	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	80	108	87
27	Uttarakhand	0	0	0
28	West Bengal	0	0	0
	TOTAL STATE(S)	5747	5945	5567
29	A & N Islands	4	5	6
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman&Diu @ +	7	7	6
32	Delhi UT	0	0	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir @ *	5	0	0
34	Ladakh @	-	-	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	16	12	12
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	5763	5957	5579

As per data provided by states/UTs

'+' Combined data of erstwhile D & N HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU UT during 2018 & 2019

**' Data of erstwhile JAMMU & KASHMIR State Including LADAKH during 2018 & 2019

'@' Data of newly created Union territory
