

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Sikander Kumar: Shri Pabitra Margherita (Assam), Shri Baburam Nishad (Uttar Pradesh), Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Ms. Kavita Patidar (Madhya Pradesh), Dr. Kalpana Saini (Uttarakhand), Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Brij Lal (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Ajay Pratap Singh (Madhya Pradesh), Shrimati Darshana Singh (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Sakaldeep Rajbhar (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Naresh Bansal (Uttarakhand), Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak (Nagaland), Shri Ram Chander Jangra (Haryana) and Lt. Gen. (Dr.) D.P. Vats (Retd.) (Haryana).

Now, Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar; Concern over suicides by farmers in the country including those from the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

Suicides by farmers in the country including those from the State of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I wish to raise a pertinent issue which is having a direct bearing on the lives of crores and crores of people, particularly the people of the State of Andhra Pradesh. The contribution of agriculture sector in GDP is decreasing gradually. At the time of Independence, the contribution of agricultural sector in GDP was above 45 per cent. Now, it is below 20 per cent, which is a matter of grave concern.

Now, I come to the issue of suicides by farmers. Sir, as per the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau, farmers' suicides in Andhra Pradesh had increased by over 19 per cent in 2021 compared to the previous year. The State stood at third place in farmers' suicides in the country, third time in a row. According to the data provided by the NCRB, a total of 1,065 people working in the farm sector, farmers, tenant farmers and workers, ended their lives in Andhra Pradesh in 2021, while the number was only 889 in 2020 - an increase of 19 per cent. The report noted that Andhra Pradesh with 1,065 suicides occupied the third place in farmers' suicides in 2021, behind Maharashtra and Karnataka. Suicides in Andhra Pradesh increased by 14.5 per cent in 2021 as compared to 2020. In the month of August this year, on a single day, on 19th, four farmers committed suicide in erstwhile Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh. Ananthapuram, Guntur and Kurnool Districts are the most affected places where the number of suicides by farmers and farm labourers is reported high.

..(Time bell rings).. Sir, in view of the farmers suicides, the State Government did not ..(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Dr. Amar Patnaik, associated himself with the matter raised by Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar.

12.00 Noon

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question Hour.

**Q. No. 196 [The questioner was absent.]*

Impact of indoor air pollution on health of children

*196. DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that indoor air pollution has been identified as one of the major contributors of pneumonia, which has been pegged as one of the major causes of child mortality in the country at 17.1 per cent in the year 2021 and accounts for 45 per cent pneumonia deaths in children below the age of five;
- (b) whether proper mechanisms have been put in place by the Ministry to monitor the level of indoor air pollution; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) No. Report published by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not establish any correlation between indoor air pollution and the 17.1% of child mortalities caused by pneumonia.