

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.08.2006
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDES IN BUNDELKHAND .

2267

KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether a large number of small and marginal farmers in the backward area of Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh are committing suicides, but no steps have been taken yet to help the farmers;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to declare any package for Bundelkhand like that of Vidarbha; and
- (c) if not, the other steps being planned to help the farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

- (a): The necessary information is being obtained and shall be laid on the Table of the House.
- (b): At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.
- (c): Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of the agriculture sector and improving the condition of farmers. The strategies formulated, inter alia, include
 - (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure;
 - (ii) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs;
 - (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system;
 - (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities;
 - (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain;
 - (vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rain fed farming system;
 - (vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and
 - (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers. The focus of agriculture credit policy is on progressive institutionalization for providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers with particular focus on small and marginal farmers to enable them to adopt modern technology and improved agricultural practices for increasing agricultural production and productivity.