

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 06.03.2007
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY THE FARMERS .

107

Dr. Prabha Thakur

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DEVELOPMENTFINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the main reason of committing suicide by the farmers in the country is the incapacity of repaying the debts;

(b) whether Government propose to write off the interest on loans taken by the affected farmers from banks in case of failure of crops due to famine or any other reasons in the particular area in order to save needy and indebted farmers from misery and also from committing suicide; and

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

ANSWER

FINANCE MINISTER

(SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to Parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.107 to be answered on 6th March, 2007, regarding Suicide by the farmers, tabled by Dr. Prabha Thakur.

(a) Inability of farmers to repay the debt is one of the many reasons for farmers committing suicide in the country. The other reasons are excessive borrowing from non-formal sources, social tension, continuous drought affecting farm yield and their income, emerging changes in social milieu and alienation of the individuals from family and society.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. In 31 debt stressed districts in the four states of Maharashtra (06), Andhra Pradesh (16), Karnataka (06) and Kerala (03) the relief package announced for farmers provides that the entire interest on overdue loans as on 01.07.2006 will be waived such that all farmers will have no past interest burden as on that date. This will immediately make them eligible for fresh loan from the banking system. Further, the overdue loans of the farmers as on 01.07.2006 will be rescheduled over a period of 3-5 years with a one year moratorium.