

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 04.06.1998**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**SUICIDE BY FARMERS .**

910

SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government are aware of the large number of suicides committed by farmers in different States;
- (b) if so, the States from where such incidents have come to the notice of Government;
- (c) the reasons why the farmers in those States have committed suicides ; and
- (d) the Steps taken to help the farmers in those States which are facing same kind of problems?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL)

(a) to (d) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have reported total such suicidal deaths as 236,29 and 51, respectively, mainly as a result of damage to crops due to natural calamities.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities from their annual allocation under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) . Additional assistance, if any , is provided from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the event of calamities of rare severity. An additional assistance of Rs. 12.00 crore was released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98 , from the NFCR in the wake of damage to crops, mainly cotton, due to pest attack. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned ex-gratia of Rs. 1.00 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased while the Government of Karnataka has sanctioned ex-gratia of Rs.1.00 lakhs each in 13 suicidal cases which has some relation to crop loss and the Government of Maharashtra has paid Rs. 1.00 lakh per family in 12 suicide cases having direct linkage with crop loss/indebtedness and Rs. 50,000/- per family in 7 cases having some linkage with crop loss. In addition, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced several package measures of relief to the affected farming families and the Government of Karnataka has released Rs. 4.00 crores as onetime assistance in the form of input subsidy to the affected small and marginal farmers.