

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 496
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23/07/2021

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

496. SMT. JHARNA DAS BAIDYA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of suicides by farmers has increased during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken by Government to prevent suicide by farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): 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 2019 which are available on its website. The State-wise details of suicide committed by farmers, as per NCRB Report 2018 and 2019, are at **Annexure-I**.

Agriculture, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support and various schemes/ programmes. The various schemes/ programmes of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support to farmers. A list of various initiatives taken by the Government are at **Annexure-II**. All these steps of the Government of India are for the welfare of the farmers of the country.

State-wise details of Farmers' suicide for the year 2018 and 2019

Sl. No.	State/UT	2018	2019
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	365	628
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0
3	ASSAM	5	26
4	BIHAR	0	0
5	CHHATTISGARH	182	233
6	GOA	0	0
7	GUJARAT	21	3
8	HARYANA	0	0
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	5	12
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	5	0
11	JHARKHAND	0	0
12	KARNATAKA	1365	1331
13	KERALA	25	22
14	MADHYA PRADESH	303	142
15	MAHARASHTRA	2239	2680
16	MANIPUR	2	0
17	MEGHALAYA	0	0
18	MIZORAM	17	22
19	NAGALAND	0	0
20	ODISHA	0	0
21	PUNJAB	229	239
22	RAJASTHAN	2	2
23	SIKKIM	1	0
24	TAMIL NADU	6	6
25	TELANGANA	900	491
26	TRIPURA	0	0
27	UTTAR PRADESH	80	108
28	UTTARAKHAND	0	0
29	WEST BENGAL	0	0
30	A & N ISLANDS	4	5
31	CHANDIGARH		0
32	D & N HAVELI	7	7
33	DAMAN & DIU	0	0
34	DELHI (UT)	0	0
35	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0
36	PUDUCHERRY	0	0
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	5763	5957

Source : Report on 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India' for relevant years, National Crime Records Bureau,

List of various interventions and schemes launched for the benefit of farmers.

- (i) With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The scheme aims to provide a payment of Rs. 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of Rs. 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups.
- (ii) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme i.e. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of Rs. 3000/- is provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years.
- (iii) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers.
- (iv) Giving a major boost for the farmer's income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif& Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (v) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized.
- (vi) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is promoted for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- (vii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" for promoting organic farming.
- (viii) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers with transparent and competitive online trading platform.
- (ix) Under "Har Medh Par Ped", agro forestry is promoted for additional income. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bamboo has been removed from the definition of trees. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets.
- (x) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PMAASHA)'. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.
- (xi) Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.

- (xii) To ensure flow of adequate credit, Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target.
- (xiii) Extending the reach of institutional credit to more and more farmers is priority area of the Government and to achieve this goal, the Government provides interest subvention of 2% on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.
- (xiv) Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2018-19, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention is available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.
- (xv) The Government has extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities. All processing fee, inspection, ledger folio charges and all other services charges have been waived off for fresh renewal of KCC. Collateral free loan limit for short term agri-credit has been raised from Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs.1.60 lakh.
- (xvi) Several market reforms have been rolled out. These include
- a. Model APLMC (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017
 - b. Agri-Export Policy, that targets to double agri-exports by 2022
 - c. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Act., 2020
 - d. The Farmers (Empowerment & Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act., 2020
 - e. Amendments to Essential Commodities Act, 1955, that deregulates various agri-commodities
- (xvii) Creation of Corpus Funds
- a. Micro Irrigation Fund – Rs. 10,000 crore
 - b. Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to build agri-logistics (backward & forward linkages) – Rs. 100,000 crore including Rs 500 crores for Bee-keeping
- (xviii) Formation and promotion of 10,000 Farmers' Producers Organizations (FPOs).
