

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2008
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDES OF FARMERS IN UTTAR PRADESH .

795

Smt. Jaya Bachchan

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, RAILWAYS, HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION, AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are reports of drought in some parts of Uttar Pradesh with farmers committing suicide;
- (b) if so, what are the details in this regard;
- (c) whether it is a fact that relief provided so far is meagre and has not ameliorated the conditions of farmers there;
- (d) the steps Government is contemplating to provide further relief particularly in areas like Bundelkhand; and
- (e) whether there are any plans to introduce crop insurance in such areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): This year, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have reported drought in parts of the State. However, no report on suicides by farmers in the context of drought has been received from the State Government.

(c): It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. There is ready availability of funds with the State Government in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking such measures. No Memorandum has so far been received from the State Government for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) etc. for the current drought.

(d): An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the Bundelkhand areas and some tehsils in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh in the 4th week of January, 2008, to study the drought like situation in these areas with a view to assessing the ground situation and the scale of implementation of various medium-term and long-term drought mitigation programmes/schemes and to recommend strategy and various measures that are required for agriculture development suitable for the areas to ameliorate the current situation. Further action would be taken after receipt of the Team's report.

(e): National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is applicable in Uttar Pradesh, including Bundelkhand areas. However, crops/areas to be covered are notified by the State Government.