

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 24.11.2006
ANSWERED ON
CONTROLLING SUICIDES .

51

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether suicides by farmers are still going on in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the large scale suicides of farmers; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken by the Central Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d):A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 51 FOR 24/11/2006 REGARDING CONTROLLING SUICIDES.

(a) & (b):The details regarding suicide by farmers, as reported by the State Governments, because of agriculture-related reasons since the year 2003, are given in the statement at Annexure-I.

(c):The major reasons indicated by the State Governments for suicide by farmers are crop failure, indebtedness, drought conditions, and social and economic insecurity.

(d):The Government of India has taken several initiatives in this regard. A comprehensive credit policy was announced by the Government on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to farmers. To reduce the debt burden of farmers, the Government has in the Union Budget

(2006-07) decided to ensure that the farmer receives short term credit at 7%, with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakh on the principal amount. The banks have been advised to waive margin/security requirements for agricultural loans up to Rs.50,000/-. An Expert Group has been constituted to look into the problems of agricultural indebtedness in its totality and suggest measures to provide relief to farmers across the country. Measures are underway for revamping the Cooperative Credit Structure. The Government has already approved the package for revival of the Short-term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure involving financial assistance of Rs.13,596 crore. To provide a safety net to the farmers, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) –

(Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojna) is under implementation from Rabi 1999-2000 season.

In addition, the Government recently approved a rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala involving a total amount of Rs.16978.69 crore consisting of Rs.10579.43 crore as subsidy/grant and Rs.6399.26 crore as loan. The package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries, etc.

ANNXURE-I

STATEMENT SHOWING CASES OF SUICIDE BY FARMERS

S.No. Name of the State Period No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.

1. Andhra Pradesh 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06 2006-07(upto 31.5.2006)

393 1126 300 11

2. Karnataka 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06 2006-07 (upto 31.5.2006
708 271 152 7

3. Maharashtra 2003 2004 2005 2006 (upto June 30)
170 620 572 746

4. Punjab 2003 2004 2005
13 11 6

5. Kerala 2003 2004 2005 2006 (upto June)
74 120 52

6. Gujaraj 2003 2004 2005 2006 (up to May)
3 7 7 1

Note: Uttar Pradesh Government has reported that there have been six cases of suicide by farmers in the Bundelkhand area of the State, but none of these cases are found related to the recovery of agricultural loans or to any coercive methods.