

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 17.10.2008
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDES COMMITTED BY FARMERS .

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SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) the State-wise number of suicides committed by farmers on the basis of the agricultural products they grew, like cotton, rice, wheat, etc., in the year 2007-08; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): statement indicating the number of suicides committed by farmers during the year 2007-08, as reported by the State Governments is annexed. No report regarding the number of suicides committed by farmers on the basis of the agricultural products grown by them has been received from the State Governments. As the farmers grow more than one crop in a season and the cropping sequence changes season-wise, it may not be possible to categorize farmers on the basis of the agricultural products.

(b):To address the problem of suicides by farmers, the Government of India in September, 2006, approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala reporting comparatively higher number of suicides by farmers. The package includes both immediate and medium term measures. The rehabilitation 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 and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. An amount of Rs.11463.49 crore (about 67.51% of total package cost) has been released by Central/State Governments and Banks under the package up to 30.06.2008.

In addition, for revitalization of agriculture sector, Government approved the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 which, inter-alia, aims to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of the farmers. The Policy provisions inter alia, include, asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies for improving productivity in a sustainable manner; agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material; improvement of soil health; integrated nutrient and pest management system and improvement in marketing infrastructure etc.

Besides, Government has launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector. An Agricultural debt waiver and debt relief scheme was also announced in the Union Budget 2008-09 to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers across the country.

ANNEXURE

Statement showing cases of suicide by farmers as per reports received from State Govts.s

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

1. Andhra Pradesh	2007 (upto 30.09.2007)	142
2. Karnataka	2007-08	342
3. Maharashtra	2007	1985

			2008 (upto 31.01.2008)	110
4. Punjab	2007-08	18		
5. Kerala	2007 (upto 31.10.2007)	64		
6. Gujarat	2007	103		
			2008(upto March, 2008)	10
7. Tamil Nadu	2000-2007(up to March 2007)	26		

NB: Other States and all Union Territories have reported 'nil' information relating to suicide by farmers.