

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 24.08.2000
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY FARMERS .

3291

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to cash crops the farmers fall into a debt - trap and are often compelled to commit suicide in the event of failure of crops;
- (b) if so, the details of the farmers committing suicide during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to give such farmers a remunerative price of cash crops?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b)As per reports received from the State Governments, State-wise details of suicide committed by the farmers is indicated below:

Andhra Pradesh:

1997-98 & 1998-99	358
1999-2000	5

Karnataka :

60

Maharashtra:

32

Punjab:

349
418
3

The main reasons for suicides in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra were crop failure and indebtedness. In Punjab, the reasons include family discord, alcohol and illicit drug use, indebtedness, loss of status and crop failure. No other State has reported suicide by farmers.

(c) In order to safeguard the interest of the farmers from distress sale of their produce and to ensure remunerative prices, Government fixes Minimum

Support Prices for major agricultural commodities every year based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. For the Horticulture crops, Market Intervention Scheme is implemented to give remunerative prices to the farmers on the proposal of the concerned State Government.