

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 17.02.2006**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**SUICIDES BY FARMERS .**

4

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT LAW & JUSTICE AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that suicides by farmers reeling under debt is on the increase across the country despite various relief packages announced by the State Governments and the Central Government; and
- (b) if so, the details in this regard, including the relief packages announced, during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

**ANSWER**

## MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b):A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) AND (b) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 4 FOR 17/02/2006 REGARDING SUICIDES BY FARMERS.

(a)&(b):Cases of suicide by farmers have been reported by the State Governments in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Gujarat and Orissa. The main causes identified by the State Governments for committing suicide by farmers, inter alia, include indebtedness, crops failure, non-payment of loan taken from private money lenders at high rate of interest.

The State Governments have taken various relief measures to alleviate the distressing condition of farmers. In addition, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karanataka, and Maharashtra have been granting ex-gratia amount of Rs. One lakh to each of the affected families. The State Government of Kerala has been extending financial assistance of Rs.50,000 to each of the affected families.

The Government of India announced a comprehensive credit policy on 18th June, 2004 for doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities. Following are the highlights of the credit policy:

(i) Credit flow to agriculture sector to increase by 30% per year.

(ii) Debt restructuring in respect of farmers in distress and farmers in arrears providing for rescheduling of outstanding loans over a period of five years including moratorium of two years, thereby making all farmers eligible for fresh credit.

(iii) Special One Time Settlement scheme for settling the old and chronic loan accounts of small and marginal farmers.

(iv) Banks were allowed to finance for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private money lenders.

(v) Commercial Banks to finance 100 farmers/branch and 50 lakh new farmers to be financed by the banks in a year.

(vi) New investments in agriculture and allied activities for 2 to 3 projects/branch.

(vii) Refinements in Kisan Credit Cards

(KCCs) and fixation of scale of finance.

During the year 2004-05 (1st April, 2004 to 31st March, 2005), against the targetted credit flow of Rs.1,05,000 crores, the achievement was Rs.1,15,242.81 crore which is a 32% growth in credit flow over the disbursement of Rs.86981 crore during the year 2003-04. During the year 2005-06 (1st April to 31st December, 2005), as per the available data, the credit flow has been Rs.119114.41 crore forming 84.48% of the annual target of Rs.141000 crore.

The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana) is being implemented in the country from Rabi 1999-2000 season.

To provide relief in the event of natural calamities two schemes are under implementation by the Ministry of Home Affairs in terms of recommendations of the Finance Commission, viz. Calamity Relief Fund and the National Calamity Contingency Fund. Besides, the Ministry of Rural Development provides foodgrains free of cost under the special component of the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana for generating relief employment for victims of natural calamities who suffer loss of employment.