

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 05.08.2011
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY FARMERS .

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Dr. Kanwar Deep Singh

Will the Minister of COAL, PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS, AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether suicides are being committed by farmers due to economic hardships in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government to improve the pathetic condition of farmers in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): Reasons for suicides being committed in some parts of the country, as reported by State Government concerned are manifold which, inter-alia, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

In order to revitalize agriculture and improve the condition of farmers on a sustainable basis, measures taken by the Government, inter-alia, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Watershed Management and Soil Health and Fertility etc.

The Minimum Support Prices of major cereals have been increased substantially during the last 5 years for benefit of farmers.

Further, the Government of India is implementing a Rehabilitation Package, which was announced in 2006 initially for 3 years, covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra to address the problem of agrarian distress. An amount of Rs.19880.11 crore has been released under this package till March 31, 2011. The period for implementation of the non-credit components of the package has been extended by 2 more years i.e. up to September 30, 2011.

The Government has also implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers in the country involving estimated amount Rs.65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.

The interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loans up to Rs.3 lakh has been enhanced from 2011-12, resulting in further lowering of the effective rate of interest for those farmers who repay their crop loan on time to 4% per annum.