

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 24.11.2006

ANSWERED ON

SUICIDES VIS VIS LOANS FROM PRIVATE MONEY LENDERS .

245

SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government are aware of the reports of continuous farmers' suicides from various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the loan with exorbitant interest rates taken from the private money lenders is one of the major causes for the distress of farmers;
- (d) if so, whether Government have taken any measure to protect the farmers who are indebted to the money lenders;
- (e) whether Government would declare the debts taken from the money lenders as illegal; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b):The details of suicides by farmers because of agriculture – related reasons as reported by the State Governments since the year 2003, are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) & (d):Indebtedness due to high rate of interest loans is one of the main reasons attributed by the State Governments for the distress of farmers. 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 the farmers. This, inter alia allowed banks to finance for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private money lenders. In the Union Budget for the year 2006-07, it was announced that effective from Kharif 2006-07, farmers would receive crop loans upto a principal amount of Rs.3 lakh at 7% rate of interest.

(e) & (f):No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

STATEMENT

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)
74 135 120 52

6. Gujarat 2003 2004 2005 2006 (upto 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.