

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 20.08.2010
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY FARMERS IN ORISSA .

2892

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether incidents of suicide among farmers have also started in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) total number of farmers committed suicide in the State, so far;
- (d) whether Government has made any discussion with State Government in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c):The Government of Orissa has informed that reports on alleged suicide by persons engaged in farming/agriculture activities were reported in the media. Forty four alleged suicide cases have been reported in 2009-10 and six cases have been reported during 2010-11 (till 15.08.2010). The State Government further stated that none of these suicides can be attributed to agrarian reasons.

(d) & (e):The State Governments are generally vested with power under various Government of India schemes to take effective steps to address important issues pertaining to agriculture sector and to ameliorate the condition of farmers. Accordingly, Government of Orissa has been advised to take appropriate remedial measures to address agrarian distress, if any.

Orissa had declared 18 districts in the State as drought affected due to deficit rainfall during Kharif 2009. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visited the State for assessment of drought situation and held discussion with State Government. The Report of IMCT has been considered by the Inter Ministerial Group. A sum of Rs.151.92 crore has been approved under NCCF to the State Government subject to adjustment of balance amount available with the State Government under Calamity Relief Fund, as determined by the Ministry of Home Affairs. In addition, an amount of Rs.15.00 crore was approved from the special component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme.