

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1471
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/12/2021

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

1471. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that at least 10,281 persons involved in the farm sector ended their lives in 2019, accounting for 7.4 per cent of the total number of suicides in the Country as per the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report 2019 of the National Crime Records Bureau;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted into the factors behind the same;
- (c) if so, findings thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). NCRB has published reports upto 2020 which are available on its website. A total number of 10,281 suicides were reported in the country in the farming sector during 2019, which includes 5957 farmers/ cultivators.

Government had undertaken a study "Farmers Suicide in India: Causes and Policy Prescription" as an all India coordinated study in the work plan 2016-17 through the Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru. The study covered 13 states of the country which included Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The study concluded that frequent crop failure due to vagaries of monsoon, absence of assured water resources and attack of pest and diseases are the most important causes of farmers' distress. The study had made inter-alia following suggestions to address the above problems:

- i) Bringing individual farmers under the ambit of crop insurance;
- ii) Judicious use of available water is required;
- iii) Government intervention through MSP covering cost of production plus reasonable profit margin;
- iv) Risk hedging through crop and enterprise diversification should be encouraged to reduce farmers' distress aiming at sustainable income; and
- v) Regulate informal credit market.
