

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 13.02.2009
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY FARMERS .

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SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION FINANCE AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the exact reasons have been identified for the spate of suicide by farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the view of experts/NGOs in identifying the exact cause of suicide by farmers have been taken note of;
- (d) if so, whether any new study would be conducted to ascertain the exact cause of spate of suicide by farmers in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (e): The suicides by farmers have been reported from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat only in 2008-09. The State Governments have broadly reported crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurities as causes for suicides by farmers, as also identified in various study reports in this context e.g. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, National Institutes for Rural Development (NIRD), National Institute of Agricultural Extension & Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad and Veeresh Committee etc. Further, the Veeresh Committee in context of farmers' suicides in Karnataka has stated that connecting the incidents of suicides directly to any single cause would be erroneous, since it is a personal decision of the victim and the post suicide search for causes gives only circumstantial evidence.