

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2244
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5/8/2022

ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES OF FARMERS WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE

2244. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) the number of farmers' suicides during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether any aid has been provided to the families of farmers who committed suicide;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has taken any steps such as loan waiver, providing crop insurance etc., to support the farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken to improve the financial state of farmers during the last five years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (h): 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. As per NCRB reports, the number of farmers who committed suicide during 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, state-wise, is enclosed at **Annexure-I**. Agriculture being a State Subject, the prime responsibility of taking care is with them. However, Central Government implements various schemes / programmes for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support. These include:

- (i) Supplementary income transfers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme,
- (ii) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) for providing old age pension,

- (iii) Crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY),
- (iv) Increase in Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops,
- (v) Soil Health Cards for rationalizing use of fertilizers,
- (vi) 'Per drop more crop' initiative through drip/sprinkler irrigation for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity,
- (vii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) for promoting organic farming,
- (viii) e-NAM initiative for transparent and competitive online trading platform,
- (ix) Agro-forestry through 'Har Medh Par Ped' for additional income,
- (x) National Bamboo Mission to promote bamboo plantation on non-forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets,
- (xi) New procurement policy under Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) for ensuring remunerative prices for produce,
- (xii) Bee-keeping under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase productivity of crops through pollination and increase in honey production as an additional source of income,
- (xiii) Ensuring flow of adequate institutional agriculture credit and benefit of interest subvention,
- (xiv) Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) offering production loan to even dairy & fishery farmers besides agricultural crops,
- (xv) Better access to irrigation under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY),
- (xvi) Formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs along with necessary financial support,
- (xvii) Special attention for creation of infrastructure through Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) with a size of Rs. 100,000 crore,
- (xviii) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate.
- (xix) Focus on application of digital technology at all stages of agricultural value chain.
- (xx) Adoption of drone technologies in agriculture which has a potential to revolutionize the Indian agriculture, etc.

Due to effective implementation of these schemes / programmes, during the lockdown, the agriculture sector had functioned smoothly. Government ensured all necessary measures so as to continue smooth operation of agriculture related activities. Farming and allied activities were exempted from the lockdown. Measures undertaken by the Government to assist farmers during the lockdown are given in the **Annexure-II**.

State/UT wise Suicides by farmers during 2016-2020

| SL | State/UT | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Farmers/ Cultivators | Farmers/ Cultivators | Farmers/ Cultivators | Farmers/ Cultivators | Farmers/ Cultivators |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 239 | 375 | 365 | 628 | 564 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | Assam | 6 | 3 | 5 | 26 | 12 |
| 4 | Bihar | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 585 | 285 | 182 | 233 | 227 |
| 6 | Goa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Gujarat | 30 | 4 | 21 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | Haryana | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 6 |
| 10 | Jharkhand | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Karnataka | 1212 | 1157 | 1365 | 1331 | 1072 |
| 12 | Kerala | 23 | 42 | 25 | 22 | 57 |
| 13 | Madhya Pradesh | 599 | 429 | 303 | 142 | 235 |
| 14 | Maharashtra | 2550 | 2426 | 2239 | 2680 | 2567 |
| 15 | Manipur | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 16 | Meghalaya | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 17 | Mizoram | 0 | 0 | 17 | 22 | 4 |
| 18 | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Odisha | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Punjab | 232 | 243 | 229 | 239 | 174 |
| 21 | Rajasthan | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 22 | Sikkim | 12 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| 23 | Tamil Nadu | 36 | 19 | 6 | 6 | 79 |
| 24 | Telangana | 632 | 846 | 900 | 491 | 466 |
| 25 | Tripura | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | Uttar Pradesh | 69 | 110 | 80 | 108 | 87 |
| 27 | Uttarakhand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | West Bengal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | A & N Islands | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 30 | Chandigarh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu @ + | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| 32 | Delhi UT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | Jammu & Kashmir @ * | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 34 | Ladakh @ | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| 35 | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 36 | Puducherry | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | TOTAL (ALL INDIA) | 6270 | 5955 | 5763 | 5957 | 5579 |

As per data provided by states/UTs

‘+’ Combined data of erstwhile D & N HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU UT during 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019

‘**’ Data of erstwhile JAMMU & KASHMIR State Including LADAKH during 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019

‘@’ Data of newly created Union territory

Initiatives of Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare during Covid lockdown

❖ EXEMPTION TO AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES FROM LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

- The Department ensured continuity in farm operations. The activities related to agriculture such as movement of labour, farm machinery, etc. Were exempted from the lockdown and agriculture related activities carried on as usual.

❖ PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI (PM-KISAN)

- Release of the financial benefit under PM-KISAN scheme.
- About 10.52 crore farmer families benefitted & Rs.84,600 crore released.

❖ AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

- All wholesale mandis were closed on 25.03.2020. However, more than 2,067 markets were made functional to facilitate the farmers during Covid.
- Direct Marketing was facilitated; FPOs supplied vegetables in nearby cities and towns.
- “KISAN RATH APP” was launched in April, 2020 to facilitate farmers & traders in searching for transport vehicles for movement of agriculture & horticulture produce.
- 415 e-NAM mandis were made operational during the Covid period to take the total e-NAM mandis in the country to 1000.

❖ HORTICULTURE

- Indian Railways started Special Parcel Trains since 31.03.2020 which carried perishable products, agro-products & dairy products across the country.
- India's first Kisan Rail started on 7.08.2020 from Devlali to Danapur & second Kisan Rail from Anantpur to Adarsh Nagar on 09.09.2020.

❖ INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

- Authorization to fertilizer wholesalers / retailers extended by 3 months (whose validity expired during Covid time).
- Fertilizer movement to States was monitored to ensure smooth delivery of fertilizers.

❖ SEEDS

- Ensured availability of 153 lakh quintals seed among the farmers against the requirement of 150 lakh quintals for Kharif 2020.
- Movement of more than 1 crore packets of cotton seed in different parts of India was ensured.
- More than 20,000 quintals of seed was transported from Hyderabad to the Northern & Eastern regions of India.
- Validity of Seed Dealers license that expired during the lockdown extended till Sept, 2020.

❖ **AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION & TECHNOLOGY**

- "Farm Machinery Mobile App" developed.
- More than 49,029 Custom Hiring Centers were available and more than 1,45,839 agricultural machinery was registered for rent on this App.
- Module of Uberisation of logistics aggregators launched on e-NAM platform. More than 11.37 lakh trucks & 2.3 lakh transporters were linked to this module.

❖ **EXTENSION**

- Circulated SOP related to crop harvesting & threshing during Kharif 2020 to States.
- Short video film on Social Distancing during agricultural activities was launched.
- All India Agri Transport Call Centre launched in April, 2020 for coordination between States for inter-state movement of perishables.
- 454 KCC seats at 21 locations operated between 6 AM to 10 PM. Call flow was about 15,000 to 20,000 per day.

❖ **AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN (ABA)**

Government of India launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (ABA) on May 12, 2020 to strengthen Infrastructure, Logistics, Capacity Building, Governance and Administrative Reforms for Agriculture. The components of the ABA for DA&FW are as follows

(i) Agriculture Infrastructure Fund - Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under Agri Infrastructure Fund. This scheme is operational from the year 2020-21 to 2029-30. The aim is creation of infrastructure at the farm gate.

(ii) The National Bee And Honey Mission (NBHM) - Rs.500 crore from 2020-2021 to 2022-2023 is allocated for the sector.

(iii) Kisan Credit Card – KCC saturation drive started in February, 2020. 260.59 lakh new KCC applications have been sanctioned so far.
