

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.687
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18/09/2020

SUICIDE BY PERSONS INVOLVED IN FARM SECTOR

687. Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry 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 India as per the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report 2019 by the National Crime Records Bureau;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted into the factors behind the same;
- (c) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI) 2019, the total number of farmers/ farm labourer who committed suicide was 10,281 accounting for 7.4% of the total suicides committed (1,39,123) during the year 2019.

(b) to (d): Government conducted a study titled 'Farmer Suicides: An All India Study' during 2016-17 to ascertain various reasons for the growing number of farmers suicide in the country. This Pan-India study was carried out in 13 major suicide prone states namely: Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka covering 46 districts, 138 talukas, 388 villages and 528 sample victim households. The reference year of the study was decided as the agriculture year 2015-16 (June, 2015 – May, 2016). The main objectives of the study were as follows:

- i) to analyze the incidence and spread of farmer suicides in selected states and to map the hotspots of suicide.

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- ii) to study the socio-economic profile, cropping pattern and profitability in the victim's households,
- iii) to study the causes leading to suicides.
- iv) to recommend suitable policies to avert farmer suicide.

The study was assigned to Agro-Economic Research (AER) Unit Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC) at Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) Bengaluru which is a part of Agro-Economic Research (AER) Scheme being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to conduct research studies on Agro-Economic problems. It is 100% funded through Grant-in-Aid by the Government and no study specific funds are provided to AER Centres/ Units. The study found that various reasons for farmers suicide are drug/ alcoholic addiction, illness, family issues, gambling, expectation of non-institutional credit, lack of access to expected credit, failure of rain, cyclone, drought, non realization of higher output/ prices, crop failure etc.
