

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 17.07.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**

**SUICIDE PACT BY FARMERS OF PALAMU DISTRICT .**

1498

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE/AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware that farmers of drought prone Palamu district in Jharkhand have signed a suicide pact;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the failure of monsoon and burden of debt are the main factors forcing farmers to take a decision to commit suicide;
- (d) if so, whether Union Government proposes to take any effective step to help the farmers who are under severe burden of debt; 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):No, Sir. Government of India is not aware of any such pact. However, when such a report was published in a newspaper, the Government of Jharkhand got the matter enquired into, through the Deputy Commissioner, Palamu. While the people were disturbed due to successive failures of 3 monsoons, there was no such suicide pact despite instigation by an individual.

(d) & (e):In order to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers, a scheme of Debt Waiver and Debt Relief for Farmers has been implemented in all districts of the country. As per provisional figures, a total of 3.01 crores small and marginal farmers and 0.67 crores other farmers have benefited from the scheme involving debt waiver and debt relief of Rs.65,318.33 crores. Under the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, farmers with more than 2 hectares of land holding, can now pay 75% of their overdues by 31.12.2009 instead of 30.06.2009. Besides this, in the Union Budget 2009-10, there is a proposal to set up a Task Force to look into the issue of loans taken by the farmers from private money lenders.