

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 05.08.2011**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**SPURT IN SUICIDE BY FARMERS .**

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Smt. Kusum Rai

Will the Minister of COAL, PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether seven months of the current year has witnessed a spurt in farmers' suicide in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons for spurt in suicide by farmers in recent months;
- (d) whether 519 farmers have committed suicide in Bundelkhand since January to May 2011;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken during 2010 and 2011 so far to check their suicide and measures proposed to be taken in future?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): As per reports from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra (Vidarbha region districts included in the Rehabilitation Package)-the States, which together have accounted for major proportion of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons during preceding years, there is no spurt in farmers' suicide due to agrarian reasons in the seven months of the current year.

(d) & (e): Government of Uttar Pradesh and Government of Madhya Pradesh have not reported incidents of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons in the respective States.

(f): Government of India is implementing a Rehabilitation Package, which was announced in 2006 initially for 3 years, covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra to address the problem of agrarian distress. An amount of Rs.19880.11 crore has been released under this package till March 31, 2011. The period for implementation of the non-credit components of the package has been extended by 2 more years i.e. up to September 30, 2011.

Under the Bundelkhand Package, Rs.313.28 crore was released during 2010-11 by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under its different programmes/schemes.

The Government has also implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers in the country involving estimated amount of Rs.65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.

In order to revitalize agriculture and improve the condition of farmers on a sustainable basis, other measures taken by the Government, inter-alia, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Watershed Management and Soil Health & Fertility etc.

The Minimum Support Prices of major cereals have been increased substantially during the last 5 years for benefit of farmers.

The interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loans up to Rs.3 lakh has been enhanced from 2011-12, resulting in further lowering of the effective rate of interest for those farmers who repay their crop loan on time to 4% per annum.