

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 04.03.2011**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**SUICIDE BY FARMERS**

949

Smt. Kusum Rai

Will the Minister of COAL AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of farmers who committed suicide in the country during last five years;
- (b) the number of farmers who committed suicide in the country during last one year, State- wise;
- (c) whether Government is aware that during the month of December, 2010 and January, 2011, 8 farmers in Madhya Pradesh and 4 farmers in Orissa have committed suicide;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the reasons for suicide by farmers; and
- (f) the details of fresh steps taken by Government to check the rising trend of suicide by farmers?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons during last five years, as reported by the respective State Government, is given in Annexure.

(c)&(d): Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that cases of suicide by farmers were reported in Damoh district in the months of December, 2010 and January, 2011. However, none of these was on account of crop failure. As per the information available from Government of Orissa up to November 15, 2010 none of the cases of alleged suicide by farmers reported in the media during 2009-10 and 2010-11 can be attributed to agrarian reasons.

(e): Reasons for suicides by farmers are manifold which, inter-alia, include crop failure, indebtedness, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

(f): The Government of India had approved a Rehabilitation Package in 2006 covering 31 districts in 4 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra initially for a period of 3 years to address the problem of agrarian distress. The period for implementation of the non-credit components of the package was extended by 2 more years i.e. up to September 30, 2011. With the implementation of the Rehabilitation Package, the trend of suicides has declined.

The interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loans up to Rs.3 lakh was enhanced from 1% to 2% for the year 2010-11, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their crop loan on time to 5% per annum. The Union Budget 2011-12 has proposed further enhancement in interest subvention from 2% to 3%, which would lower the effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their crop loan on time to 4% per annum.

The Government has also implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefitting about 3.69 crore farmers involving an 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 various measures have been taken by the Government which, 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, Mission on Micro Irrigation, Integrated development of 60,000 pulses villages in rain-fed areas, scheme for extending Green Revolution to Eastern India, watershed management and soil health & fertility etc. The Guidelines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme were amended by the Government in July, 2009 to allow provision of irrigation facility, horticultural plantation and land development works on land belonging to small and marginal farmers under the Scheme.

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