

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 02.03.2007
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDES BY FARMERS OF A.P. .

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH

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(a) whether it is a fact that more than 110 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Prime Minister's special relief for the farmers to the tune of Rs.37,500 crores have not been utilized and distributed to the debt-hit farmers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government to take remedial steps in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 79 FOR 02/03/2007 REGARDING SUICIDES BY FARMERS OF A.P.

(a) & (b): As per the information furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, 46 farmers have committed suicide during the period October 2006 to January 2007. Broadly, the following are the causes for suicide by farmers:

- Crop failure
- Indebtedness due to high rate of interest on loans
- Drought
- Social and economic insecurity

(c) & (d): The Government of India has sanctioned a rehabilitation package of Rs.9650.55 crore for sixteen districts of Andhra Pradesh. This includes both subsidy/ grant and loan component. Various items of assistance covered by this amount are ex-gratia assistance from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), interest waiver, assured irrigation, seed replacement, watershed development, micro irrigation, horticulture development, extension services, and subsidiary income services. A sum of Rs.3255 crore has been released so far for implementation of the package. The State Government has been requested to expedite the implementation of the package.