

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 19.08.2011
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY FARMERS .

2044

Shri Nandi Yellaiah

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

- (a) whether 17,368 farmers among majority of States committed suicides in 2009, according to data of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB);
- (b) if so, the reasons for such suicides among farmers; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to reduce farmers' suicides?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): As per all-India profile of suicide victims classified according to profession published by National Crime Records Bureau in its report Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India-2009, the number of suicidal deaths in farming/agriculture is 17368.

(b): Reasons for suicides by farmers, as reported by State Governments concerned, are manifold which, inter-alia, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

(c): 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.

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, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, 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.