

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

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI

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state :-

(a)whether cause of farmers` suicides has been analysed by the Committee appointed by the Prime Minister;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to sanction special packages to affected families and to others burdened with loans, district-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 65 FOR 02/03/2007 REGARDING SUICIDES BY FARMERS.

(a) & (b): At the behest of the Prime Minister, a fact finding team was constituted by Planning Commission to study, inter alia, the issue of rural distress and disparities in regional development in Maharashtra especially with particular emphasis on Vidarbha region. The report of the team has indicated that broadly the following are the causes for perception of acute distress among the farmers:

- ? Lack of credit availability
- ? Lack of irrigation facilities
- ? High cost of production and low yield
- ? High cost of seeds and their poor quality
- ? Inadequate marketing support
- ? Ineffective agricultural extension services.

In pursuance to the instructions of the Prime Minister's Office, another Planning

Commission team had also visited Wayanad district of Kerala to study the agrarian crisis.

However, no Committee had been appointed by the Prime Minister exclusively to probe the causes of suicide by farmers.

(c): The reports given by the teams were taken into consideration for framing the Rehabilitation Package which was launched by Government of India for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala. The package is being implemented over a period of 3 years and includes both immediate and medium term measures. It aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional

credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. For alleviating the hardship faced by debt stressed families of farmers, ex-gratia assistance from Prime Minister`s National Relief Fund is being provided @Rs.50 lakh per district. The Package involves a total amount of Rs.16978.69 crore consisting of Rs.10579.43 crore as subsidy/grants and Rs.6399.26 crore as loan. District wise break-up of the package is not maintained at the central level. However, the state wise break-up is as under:

Andhra Pradesh	Rs.9650.55 crore
Karnataka	Rs.2689.64 crore
Kerala	Rs. 765.24 crore
Maharashtra	Rs.3873.26 crore