

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 25.02.1999

ANSWERED ON

SUICIDE BY COTTON FARMERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH .

332

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS LABOUR COMMERCE FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether mass suicide by cotton farmers in Andhra Pradesh is on account of alleged biological warfare launched by the USA; and

(b) if so, the action taken to stop such malpractice?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL)

(a) & (b)-: The suicide by farmers in Andhra Pradesh was due to damage to crops, mainly cotton, due to pest attack and indebtedness of the farmers. The pest attack was further aggravated by excessive and indiscriminate use of sub-quality chemicals and faulty spray equipments.