

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 25.08.2006**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**NCF REPORT ON FARMERS SUICIDE .**

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Prof. P.J. Kurien

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers has brought out a report on the farmers' suicides in the country;

(b) if so, the salient findings thereof;

(c) whether any suggestions were also made to stem the tide of rising number of farmers' suicides in the country; and

(d) the details of such suggestions made by the Commission and the action taken by Government thereon?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d):The National Commission on Farmers has in its Third Report indicated, on the basis of field visit to the Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra, inter-alia, the following factors for suicides being committed by farmers:-

- Damage caused by unseasonal rain;
- High cost of inputs and unremunerative output prices;
- Lack of sufficient irrigation facilities and lowering of water table due to unsustainable exploitation of the aquifer;
- Spurious inputs including seeds of Bt. cotton;
- Usurious interest rate of loans charged by moneylenders;
- Low productivity factor due to poor soil health; and
- Lack of farmer friendly insurance scheme.

In its Second Report, the Commission recommended various measures relating to credit and insurance, irrigation and cropping pattern, inputs, agriculture marketing and prices in order to avoid the tragedy of farmers` suicides.

The Government has identified 31 Districts in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala where the incidence of farmers` suicide has been very high and has decided to launch a special rehabilitation package to mitigate the distress of farmers. The package, inter alia, provides for debt relief to farmers, enhanced credit flow, interest waiver, assured irrigation facilities, watershed development, horticulture development, micro-irrigation, extension services and subsidiary income opportunities. The Rehabilitation Package for Maharashtra was announced on 01 July, 2006.