

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 31.08.2007

ANSWERED ON

ASSESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF PACKAGE FOR SUICIDE VICTIMS .

2003

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI

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JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENTAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted a Task Force under the chairmanship of Shri R. Radhakrishnan to assess the implementation of a scheme formulated for providing economic package of Rs.17,000 crores to farmers declared by the Prime Minister as a result of suicide by the farmers;

(b) if so, when this Task Force was constituted;

(c)whether this Task Force has submitted its report to Government; and

(d)if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(d): No, Sir. However, the Government vide Order dated 10th August, 2006 constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) to look into the problems of agricultural indebtedness in totality and suggest measures to provide relief to farmers across the country. The Expert Group has submitted its report. The report focuses on institutions and instruments that would strengthen the credit delivery mechanism for the farm community in particular and for rural India in general. Policy interventions and institutional reforms essential for resolving the farm crisis, which go beyond the credit delivery system, also form part of this Report. The Report recommends as under:-

1. Immediate Credit Measures include:

Implementation of the Prime Minister`s Relief Package: The needs of individual households should be taken into account with necessary flexibility. Rescheduling of loan of farmers affected by natural calamities. Credit for Rainfed Areas; Formalisation of informal credit; Inclusion of financially excluded; Project-Based Lending;

2. Financial Architecture include:

Agency and Mobile Banking; System of Bharat Kisan Credit Card; Reforming Lead Bank Scheme; Credit Counseling for Farmers; Simplifying the Procedure for Mortgages; Simplifying procedure to Reduce Transaction Costs; Computerization of Records; Integration of Micro Finance Institutions with the Mainstream banking; Improved Deployment of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

3. Institutional Architecture include:

Federation of Farmers – Self Help Groups (SHGs).

4. Risk Mitigation Measures include:

Crop Insurance, Weather Insurance, Price Risk Mitigation; Variable Tariff; Crop Surveillance; Mitigating Risks from Spurious Inputs; Strengthening of Research and Extension Services.

5. Other Measures include:

Expanding Livelihood Base and Rural Health Facilities.