

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 521
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/02/2021

SUICIDE BY WOMEN FARMERS

521 Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:
Dr. Amee Yajnik:
Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the “Housewife” category of suicides recorded in the country includes the suicides of women farmers, as per the definition of farmer given in National Policy for Farmers, 2007;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to correctly identify suicides by persons engaged in agriculture; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides in its publication titled ‘Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India’ (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2019 are available on its website. As per NCRB report for year 2019, the suicide committed by Housewife does not include women farmers. The total number of Housewives who committed suicide is 21,359 while the suicides committed by persons engaged in farming sector is as under:

Male farmers :	9,312
Female farmers:	<u>969</u>
Total	10,281

Government conducted a study titled ‘Farmer Suicides: An All India Study’ during 2016-17 to ascertain various reasons for the growing number of farmers suicide in the country. This Pan-India study was carried out in 13 major suicide prone states namely: Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka covering 46 districts, 138 talukas, 388 villages and 528 sample victim households. The reference year of the study was decided as the agriculture year 2015-16 (June, 2015 – May, 2016). The main objectives of the study were as follows:

- i) to analyze the incidence and spread of farmer suicides in selected states and to map the hotspots of suicide.
- ii) to study the socio-economic profile, cropping pattern and profitability in the victim’s households,
- iii) to study the causes leading to suicides.
- iv) to recommend suitable policies to avert farmer suicide.