

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 24.10.2008

ANSWERED ON

PERMISSION SOUGHT BY FARMERS FROM PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR SUICIDES

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MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that several farmers have sought permission of President of India to end their lives;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to protect the lives of these farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has not received any communication in this regard so far.

(c): In order to address the problem of suicides by farmers, the Government of India approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 districts in four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala reporting comparatively higher number of suicides by farmers. The package includes both immediate and medium term measures. The rehabilitation package 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 and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. In addition, a debt waiver and debt relief scheme for farmers was announced in the Union Budget 2008-09 in order to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers. Government of India has also launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana aiming to incentivise the states to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector so as to achieve 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the XI Plan.