

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 30.11.2000
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY COTTON FARMERS .

1141

MISS MABEL REBELLO

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS, AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of cotton Farmers that committed suicide in the country during the last three years and till October, 2000, year-wise, State-wise;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted to go into reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the findings and the action taken to help cotton farmers overcome their financial and other problems?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a):As per reports received from the State Governments, details of suicide committed by the farmers is indicated below:

Andhra Pradesh:

1997-98 & 1998-99	358
1999-2000	5
2000-01	22

Karnataka:

1998	60
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Maharashtra:

1998	32
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Punjab:

1997	41
1998	3

The main reasons for suicides in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra were crop failure and indebtedness. In Punjab, the reasons include family discord, alcohol & illicit drug use, indebtedness, loss of status and crop failure. No other State has reported suicide by farmers.

No separate details of suicide of cotton farmers is maintained.

(b): It is the responsibility of the State Government concerned to take necessary action. This Department has not conducted any such study. The Government of Punjab had, however, got conducted such a study.

(c): Assistance is provided to the States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme for transfer of technology through field demonstration on production, Integrated Pest Management as well as training of extension workers/farmers. Assistance is also given for supply of critical inputs like certified seeds, sprayers, drip/ sprinkler irrigation system, pheromone traps, bio agents as well as setting up of seed delinking machines, bio-agent units, etc.