

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 17.02.2006**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**SUICIDES BY FARMERS .**

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DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT LAW & JUSTICE AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether a number of farmers have committed suicides in different parts of the country and more particularly in southern States;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some bio-tech companies are accused of unfair trade practices leading to cotton growers on the verge of suicides; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government to protect the farmers?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Cases of suicide by farmers have been mainly reported from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala. Such instances have also been reported from the States of Punjab, Gujarat and Orissa. The main causes identified by the State Governments for committing suicide by farmers, inter-alia, include indebtedness, crops failure, non-payment of loan taken from private money lenders at high rate of interest.

(c)&(d): As per available information, farmers in certain districts of Andhra Pradesh have suffered losses on account of Bt. Cotton hybrid seeds of Mahyco. A few complaints have been received in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission which is a quasi-judicial body, against Mahyco Monsanto Biotech Ltd., a biotech company involved in production and distribution of Bt cotton seeds. The authority of taking punitive action against the companies / agencies selling spurious seeds vests with the State Governments. The Central Government have, from time to time, advised the Bt. Cotton growing States to take punitive action against suppliers / vendors of spurious Bt Cotton seeds.