

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 05.03.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**SUICIDES BY FARMERS IN ORISSA .**

126

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY

Will the Minister of COAL, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the reports of tragic suicides by farmers in Orissa also have started coming to the Central Government now;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government has given any advice to the State Government on this sensitive issue;
- (d) if so, the State Government's reaction thereto; and
- (e) the effective steps proposed to be taken by Government in this serious matter and by when?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 126 FOR 05/03/2010 REGARDING SUICIDES BY FARMERS IN ORISSA.

(a) to (e) : The State Government has informed that forty one cases of alleged suicides by farmers due to crop loss, debt burden etc. have been reported in the media recently till 31.01.10. The Government of Orissa has been requested to elaborate upon reasons for these alleged suicides. The State Government has informed that Unnatural Death (UD) cases registered for many cases of alleged suicides are under investigation by the State Police.

Though confirmed reports of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons have not been received from the Government of Orissa, the State Governments have been generally vested with powers under various schemes launched by the Government of India to take effective steps to address all the issues pertaining to the agriculture sector and to ameliorate condition of farmers. Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), decision making power has been decentralized to the State Governments in formulation and implementation of the Schemes/Programmes, so that initiatives can be taken by the States keeping in view the locally prevalent conditions and situations. Similarly, other schemes of the Government of India also envisage participation of the States in planning and implementation. In the wake of the drought that has affected Kharif 2009, the State Governments have been advised to utilize the existing provisions under the ongoing schemes in order to address the problems faced by farmers. Moreover, funds available under the Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund can also be used for drought mitigation efforts. The Government of Orissa has reported that for improving financial conditions of farmers to increase profitability of agriculture sector, a number of initiatives have been taken which inter-alia include constitution of State Farmers' Commission to work out a comprehensive strategy for achieving sustainable and equitable agricultural development in the State, distribution of certified seeds at subsidised rates, providing 50% subsidy for lift irrigation projects under 'Jalanidhi' Scheme, coverage of about 32000 ha. of land under horticulture crops, coverage of about 64000 ha. of land under watershed development programme and disbursement of crop loan of Rs. 1407.82 crore in Kharif 2009 @ 5% interest to 8.62 lakh farmers.