

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 119
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18TH DECEMBER, 2018

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

*119. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding the number of farmers who committed suicide post 2016;
- (b) whether the Government plans to rehabilitate the families of the farmers who committed suicide and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has incorporated the suggestions given by the Swaminathan Committee in order to reduce the farmers' stress and suicides; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 119 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2018.

(a): 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 are available upto 2015 on its website. The Reports for the year 2016 onwards have not been published yet.

(b): State Governments provide relief to families of farmers who commit suicide. As per information available, some of the states provide relief to the families of farmers who committed suicide are as follows:

- i) Provides ex-gratia relief to the heirs of the deceased farmer. The three norms of eligibility for ex-gratia are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.
- ii) One time settlement to wipe off loans/ liabilities towards rehabilitation of the family members.
- iii) Relief provided to the children of the deceased get free education up to post graduation including hostel facility.

(c) & (d): The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) headed by Dr. Swaminathan submitted its report in 2006. The major recommendations of the Commission were included in the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers' submitted by the Commission itself in 2006. Based on the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers', the Government approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007, which aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income of farmers.

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An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), which was constituted for preparation of Plan of Action, identified 201 Action Points from NPF, 2007, where necessary action had to be taken. Of the 201 number of action points identified, 192 numbers have already been implemented as of date. Many of the schemes implemented by Government is as per the NPF, 2007.

Further, the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) had recommended that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production. However, this recommendation was not included by the Government then in the National Policy for Farmers finalized in 2007. Government now, based on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all notified Kharif and Rabi crops and other commercial crops for 2018-19 Season with a return of at least 50% over cost of production. This decision of the Government was a historic one as it redeemed the promise of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 50 percent return over the cost of production as announced in the Union Budget 2018-19.

The Government has been reorienting the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness which goes beyond achieving merely the targeted production. The income approach focuses on achieving high productivity, reduced cost of cultivation and remunerative price on the produce, with a view to earn higher profits from farming.

Several initiatives have already been taken among each of the above mention strategies which inter-alia include:

- (i) Initiating market reforms through the State Governments by amending the agriculture marketing regime.

- (ii) Encouraging contract farming through the State Governments by promulgating of Model Contract Farming Act.
- (iii) 22,000 Gramin Haats are to be upgraded to work as centers of aggregation and for direct purchase of agricultural commodities from the farmers.
- (iv) Launch of eNAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.
- (v) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be optimized. In the 1st cycle 1073.89 lakh Soil Health Cards were distributed & in the on-going 2nd cycle 673.96 lakh of Soil Health Cards have been distributed.
- (vi) “Per drop more crop” initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water.
- (vii) “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)” under which organic farming is being promoted. North East is being developed as organic hub.
- (viii) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, Government has launched a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances. 2,69,69,404 farmers benefited by way of payment of claims Rs.10,482.86 crore during Kharif 2016, 36,52,284 farmers benefited by way of payment of claims Rs.5,796.39 crore during Rabi 2016-17 and 1,39,83,661 farmers benefited by way of payment of claims Rs.16,967.92 crore during Kharif 2017 under PMFBY.

- (ix) Under “Har Medh Par Ped”, agro forestry is being promoted. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1947 Bamboo grown outside forest area has been removed from the definition of trees and a mission have been launched to promote bamboo plantation.
- (x) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives of the Government and in keeping with its commitment and dedication for the Annadata, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan’ (PM-AASHA). The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers’ income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- (xi) Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified by the Government for certain crops. Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Government has approved the increase in the MSPs for all Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (xii) During the period from 2014-15 to 2018-19, a quantity of 93.97 lakh MT of pulses and oilseeds valuing Rs. 44,142.50 crore were procured at MSP by various agencies of Government of India.
- (xiii) Bee keeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production as an additional source of income of farmers.

- (xiv) Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been implemented to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines and to make milk production more remunerative to the farmers.
- (xv) National Livestock Mission has been implemented to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock.
- (xvi) Foreseeing high potential in fisheries sector, a Blue Revolution with multi dimensional activities mainly focusing on fisheries production, both inland and marine is being implemented.
