

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 28
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5TH FEBRUARY, 2019

FARMERS' SUICIDES

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

- (a) whether the Government has maintained the correct data relating to suicides by farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof including the total number of such cases reported and compensation paid during each of the last five years and the current year, gender and State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has identified the reasons behind farmers' suicides and if so, the details thereof and the action taken to redress the grievances of farmers in the country;
- (c) whether there are reports that the Government has not published the data regarding farmers' suicides in the last few years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the economic condition of farmers, implement land reforms, provide adequate quantity and quality of water, address technology fatigue and ensure access, adequacy and timelines of institutional credit and opportunities for assured and remunerative marketing; and
- (e) the other measures taken by the Government to check farmers' suicides and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 28 DUE FOR REPLY ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2019.

(a) to (c): 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. As per the ADSI Reports which were published for the years 2014 and 2015, the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country State-wise is Annexed.

As per ADSI Report of 2015 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' and 'Farming Related Issues' are reported as major causes of suicides among farmers/ cultivators. Other prominent causes of farmers/ cultivators suicides are family problems, illness, etc.

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 which inter-alia includes; ex-gratia relief to the heirs of the deceased farmer, one time settlement to wipe off loans/ liabilities towards rehabilitation of the family members; and relief provided to the children of the deceased to get free education.

(d) & (e): Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertakes development of perspective plans and ensures effective implementation of the programmes/ schemes. Also, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/ Programmes. 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.

The Government has set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve doubling of farmers' income in real terms by the year 2022. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government.

The committee has identified seven sources of income growth viz, improvement in crop productivity; improvement in livestock productivity; resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; increase in the cropping intensity; diversification towards high value crops; improvement in real prices received by farmers; and shift from farm to non-farm occupations. The committee is also looking into the investments in and for agriculture e.g. increasing public investments for agriculture-rural roads, rural electricity, irrigation; the need for policy support to enable investments by corporate sector in agriculture.

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

- (i) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be optimized.
- (ii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" under which organic farming is being promoted.
- (iii) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water.
- (iv) Launch of eNAM initiative to provide farmers an electronic online trading platform.
- (v) 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.

- (vi) The Government provides total interest subvention up to 5% (inclusive of 3% prompt repayment incentive) on short-term crop loans up to Rs. 3.00 lakh. Thus, loan is available to farmers at a reduced rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.
- (vii) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, 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.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) Rashtriya Gokul Mission to enhance milk production and productivity of bovines and to make milk production more remunerative to the farmers.
- (xii) National Livestock Mission to increase productivity and genetic improvement of livestock.
- (xiii) 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.
- (xiv) Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The current year's agriculture credit flow target has been set at Rs. 11 lakh crore.
- (xv) Initiating market reforms through the State Governments.

- (xvi) Encouraging contract farming through the State Governments by promulgating of Model Contract Farming Act.
- (xvii) Up gradation of Gramin Haats to work as centers of aggregation and for direct purchase of agricultural commodities from the farmers.

All these steps are implemented to reduce agrarian distress and increase the farmers' income.

To address the issues in the area of land leasing, NITI Aayog has developed The Model Land Lease Act, 2016 for adoption by States. The Model Act offers an appropriate template for the states and UTs to draft their own piece of legislations, in consonance with the local requirements and adopt an enabling Act.

Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 28 due for 05.02.2019 Statement in respect of Part (a) to (c) of the Question regarding 'Farmers' Suicides'

SUICIDE BY PERSONS SELF-EMPLOYED IN FARMING/AGRICULTURE

	State/UT	2014			2015		
		Farmers	Labourers	Total	Farmers	Labourers	Total
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	160	472	632	516	400	916
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	3	3	7	3	10
3	ASSAM	21	38	59	84	54	138
4	BIHAR	0	10	10	0	7	7
5	CHHATTISGARH	443	312	755	854	100	954
6	GOA	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	GUJARAT	45	555	600	57	244	301
8	HARYANA	14	105	119	28	134	162
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	32	31	63	0	46	46
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	12	25	37	0	21	21
11	JHARKHAND	0	4	4	0	21	21
12	KARNATAKA	321	447	768	1197	372	1569
13	KERALA	107	700	807	3	207	210
14	MADHYA PRADESH	826	372	1198	581	709	1290
15	MAHARASHTRA	2568	1436	4004	3030	1261	4291
16	MANIPUR	0	0	0	1	0	1
17	MEGHALAYA	0	2	2	2	1	3
18	MIZORAM	0	5	5	0	1	1
19	NAGALAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	ODISHA	5	97	102	23	27	50
21	PUNJAB	24	40	64	100	24	124
22	RAJASTHAN	0	373	373	3	73	76
23	SIKKIM	35	0	35	15	3	18
24	TAMIL NADU	68	827	895	2	604	606
25	TELANGANA	898	449	1347	1358	42	1400
26	TRIPURA	0	32	32	1	48	49
27	UTTAR PRADESH	63	129	192	145	179	324
28	UTTARAKHAND	0	0	0	0	2	2
29	WEST BENGAL	0	230	230	0	0	0
30	A & N ISLANDS	8	0	8	0	0	0
31	CHANDIGARH	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	D & N HAVELI	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	DAMAN & DIU	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	DELHI (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	PUDUCHERRY	0	16	16	0	12	12
	TOTAL (UTs)	8	16	24	0	12	12
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	5650	6710	12360	8007	4595	12602

Source: Report on 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India' for relevant years, National Crime Records Bureau.