

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 252
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5TH FEBRUARY, 2019

NATIONAL POLICY ON FARMERS SUICIDES

252. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court of India has suggested the Government to bring out a national policy over the farmers suicides and to evolve the reasons for their suicides and need for proper protection of their crops from natural calamities and holistic approach for their well-being;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b): In the Case of Citizen's Resource and Action Initiative (CRANTI) Vs. State of Gujarat & Ors., the Supreme Court in its order dated 6th July, 2017 has stated "that an issue like this cannot be dealt with overnight, and it is justified for the learned Attorney General to seek time to work out the schemes appropriately. Further, Supreme Court has stated that it will be for the Union Government to determine whether and if so what, course should be adopted for this purpose".

(c): Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments undertake 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 Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare has taken a number of measures for welfare of farmers including agricultural labourers.

The Government of India is targeting to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022. To achieve this, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare has taken a number of measures. The Government aims to reorient the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness in addition to pure production centeredness approach.

With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation on account of natural calamities and other factors, the Government has launched a Crop Insurance Scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Khariff 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all the stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.

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Giving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all Kharif and Rabi Crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production.

In addition, the Government is implementing various schemes, viz. Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM) and Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), Interest subvention schemes and Kisan Credit Card Schemes. The Government is also implementing several centrally sponsored Schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for enhancing production and productivity and development of the sector as a whole. All these steps are implemented to reduce agrarian distress and for the well-being of the farmers.
