

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1921
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD MARCH, 2020

ASSESSMENT OR SURVEY REGARDING FARMERS' SUICIDES

1921. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any assessment or survey to study and understand the farmers' suicides in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to provide assistance to distressed farmers;
- (d) the total amount disbursed as compensation to the families of victims from the financial years 2015 to 2020;
- (e) whether the Government is aware that the process of claiming compensation for the victims' families is challenging; and
- (f) the steps taken to facilitate the process of giving compensation to the families of the victims?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Taking cognizance of the problem of Agrarian distress and consequent farmers suicide in the country, Government had undertaken a study "Farmers Suicide in India: Causes and Policy Prescription" as an all India coordinated study in the work plan 2016-17 through the Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru. The study covered 13 states of the country which included Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The study concluded that frequent crop failure due to vagaries of monsoon, absence of assured water resources and attack of pest and diseases are the most important causes of farmers' distress. The study had made inter-alia following suggestions to address the above problems:

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- (a) Bringing individual farmers under the ambit of crop insurance;
- (b) Judicious use of available water is required;
- (c) Government intervention through MSP covering cost of production plus reasonable profit margin;
- (d) Risk hedging through crop and enterprise diversification should be encouraged to reduce farmers' distress aiming at sustainable income; and
- (e) Regulate informal credit market.

The Government has launched various schemes with respect to above suggested recommendations namely; Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY), Increase in Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi Crops, Har Med Par Ped, Bee-Keeping, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Blue Revolution, Interest Subvention Scheme, Kisan Credit Card (KCC), etc.

(c) to (f): A few State Governments provide relief to families of farmers who commit suicide and as per the information available, relief measures 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.
