

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 258
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30TH NOVEMBER, 2021

FARMERS SUICIDES

258. DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

- (a) the number of farmers suicides reported during the last three years and the current year in the State of Maharashtra and the reasons for their suicide;
- (b) whether the Government has carried out any study to assess the causes of suicides by farmers, if so, the details of the findings, if any;
- (c) the details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred on various schemes in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year for the welfare of the farmers and to mitigate the crisis of farmers' suicides;
- (d) whether the Government has noticed reports that the several farmers have committed suicide due to unavailability of fertilizers in the country especially in Madhya Pradesh;
- (e) if so, the details of number of farmers committed suicide so far, State-wise;
- (f) whether the Government has any plan to give compensation to the family of the victims; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to avoid/ prevent farmers distress/ suicides in various States of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (g): 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). NCRB has published reports upto 2020 which are available on its website. The State-wise number of suicide committed by farmers including the State of Maharashtra, as per NCRB Report 2018 to 2020, is at **Annexure-I**.

In the ADSI Report 2020, the separate reasons for farmers' suicide have not been given. However, the causes of suicides by persons (including farmers) are 'Family Problems', 'Illness', 'Drug Abuse/ Addiction', 'Marriage Related Issues', 'Love Affairs', 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness', 'Failure in Examination', 'Unemployment', 'Professional/Career Problem' and 'Property Dispute'.

Taking cognizance of the problem, 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:

- (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 fund allocated and released scheme-wise during the last three years is **Annexure-II**.

No such report on farmers committing suicide due to unavailability of fertilizer in the country especially in Madhya Pradesh has been received by the Government.

Agriculture being a State Subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support and various schemes/ programmes. The various schemes/ programmes of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support to farmers. A list of various initiatives taken by the Government are at **Annexure-III**. All these steps of the Government of India are for the welfare of the farmers of the country.

The Government has adopted several developmental programmes, schemes, reforms and policies that focus on higher incomes for the farmers. All these policies & programmes are being supported by higher budgetary allocations, non-budgetary financial resources by way of creating Corpus Funds, and supplementary income transfers under PM-KISAN. The latest major intervention includes the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat – Agriculture package' which includes comprehensive market reforms and creation of 'Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF)' worth Rs. 1 lakh crore.

The State Governments provides relief to families of farmers who commit suicide. 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.

State-wise details of Farmers' suicide for the year 2018 to 2020

Sl. No.	State/UT	2018	2019	2020
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	365	628	564
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0	1
3	ASSAM	5	26	12
4	BIHAR	0	0	0
5	CHHATTISGARH	182	233	227
6	GOA	0	0	0
7	GUJARAT	21	3	5
8	HARYANA	0	0	0
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	5	12	6
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	5	0	*
11	JHARKHAND	0	0	0
12	KARNATAKA	1365	1331	1072
13	KERALA	25	22	57
14	MADHYA PRADESH	303	142	235
15	MAHARASHTRA	2239	2680	2567
16	MANIPUR	2	0	1
17	MEGHALAYA	0	0	4
18	MIZORAM	17	22	4
19	NAGALAND	0	0	0
20	ODISHA	0	0	0
21	PUNJAB	229	239	174
22	RAJASTHAN	2	2	0
23	SIKKIM	1	0	6
24	TAMIL NADU	6	6	79
25	TELANGANA	900	491	466
26	TRIPURA	0	0	0
27	UTTAR PRADESH	80	108	87
28	UTTARAKHAND	0	0	0
29	WEST BENGAL	0	0	0
30	A & N ISLANDS	4	5	6
31	CHANDIGARH		0	0
32	D & N HAVELI	7	7	*
33	DAMAN & DIU	0	0	*
34	DELHI (UT)	0	0	0
35	LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0
36	PUDUCHERRY	0	0	0
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	5763	5957	5579

*Data on farmers suicides in the year 2020

1	JAMMU & KASHMIR			0
2	D & N HAVELI and DAMAN & DIU			0
3	Ladakh			0

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

Annexure-II

(Rs. In Crore)

Scheme Wise fund allocation and Release of Maharashtra									
S. No	Name of Schemes	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
		ALO.	REL.	ALO.	REL.	ALO.	REL.	ALO.	REL.
1	Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE)- ATMA	41.14	31.03	35.79	38.26	50.24	43.81	50.00	0.00
2	Mission of Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)	158.00	107.00	158.00	82.35	130.00	63.50	91.00	0.00
3	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Per Drop More Crop (PMKSY- PDMC)	480.00	360.00	325.00	325.00	400.00	300.00	400.00	
4	Paramparagat Krishi VikasYojana (PKVY)	16.92	0.00	13.00	34.11	7.07	0.20	0.00	0.00
5	Soil Health Card (SHC)	31.20	46.64	8.55	6.41	5.69	3.36	0.00	0.00
6	Soil Health Management (SHM)	15.68	1.16	0.00	3.49	0.46	0.34	0.00	0.00
7	Sub Mission on Agro-Forestry (SMAF)	4.00	2.00	1.50	0.75	2.00	1.60	2.00	0.00
8	Sub- Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP)	22.05	35.73	32.30	30.02	23.00	13.00	-	0.99
9	National Food Security Mission (Oil Seed & Oil Palm)	48.56	39.58	32.32	24.12	39.38	19.59	42.57	5.59
10	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	155.90	112.56	142.04	107.94	153.36	128.56	139.33	33.72
11	Rainfed Area Development (RAD)	25.00	25.00	26.00	16.50	19.00	4.75	16.00	0.00
12	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY-RAFTAAR)	247.78	245.11	261.76	253.57	290.88	199.62	249.23	0.00
13	National Bamboo Mission (NBM)	19.88	11.93	10.84	10.84	8.00	4.00	6.50	0.00

List of various interventions and schemes launched for the benefit of farmers

- (i) With a view to provide income support to all farmers' families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The scheme aims to provide a payment of Rs. 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly instalments of Rs. 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income groups.
- (ii) Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme i.e. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years.
- (iii) With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized.
- (vi) "Per drop more crop" initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- (vii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" for promoting organic farming.

- (viii) Launch of e-NAM initiative to provide farmers with transparent and competitive online trading platform.
- (ix) Under “Har Medh Pard Ped”, agro forestry is being promoted for additional income. With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bamboo has been removed from the definition of trees. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets.
- (x) Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PMAASHA)’. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for the 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) Increase in procurement under PSS:- The procurement of Pulses, oilseeds and copra at MSP under Price Support Scheme (PSS) has increased upto to 167.05 LMT during 2014- 15 to 2021-22(upto 22.07.2021). Moreover, 16.83 LMT of oilseeds had also been procured under Price Deficiency payment Scheme (PDPS) in 2018-19. In addition to this around 15.53 LMT of Pulses has also been procured at MSP under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) under administrative control of Department of Consumer Affair.
- (xii) 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.
- (xiii) To ensure flow of adequate credit, Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The agriculture credit flow target has been set at Rs. 13.50 lakh crore for the F.Y. 2019-20, Rs. 15.00 lakh crore for F.Y. 2020-21and Rs. 16.50 lakh crore for FY 2021-22.
- (xiv) Extending the reach of institutional credit to more and more farmers is priority area of the Government and to achieve this goal, the Government provides interest subvention of 2% on short-term crop loans up to Rs. 3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.

- (xv) Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2018-19, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against negotiable receipts, the benefit of interest subvention will be available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan.
- (xvi) The Government has extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities. All processing fee, inspection, ledger folio charges and all other services charges have been waived off for fresh renewal of KCC. Collateral fee loan limit for short term agri-credit has been raised from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 1.60 lakh. KCC will be issued within 14 days from the receipt of completed application.
- (xvii) Several market reforms related programmes and policies have been rolled out to facilitate farmers and producers with remunerative price for their produce.
- (xviii) Creating of Corpus Fund
 - a. Micro Irrigation Fund – Rs. 10,000 crore
 - b. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs. One Lakh Crore -
- (xix) Formation and Promotion of Farmers' Producer Companies (FPOs) to form and promote 10,000 FPOs.
