

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 27.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY FARMERS .

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SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV

Will the Minister of COALCOALAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of farmers who committed suicide during January, 2009 to October 2009 in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, State- wise, district-wise and month-wise;
- (b) whether cases of suicide in these States have increased due to drought situation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken by his Ministry to tackle the drought and suicide by farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): As per information made available by the concerned State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh no farmer has committed suicide due to agrarian reasons from January, 2009 to October, 2009. A statement indicating month-wise and district-wise number of suicide by farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra is at Annexures 1, 2 and 3 respectively. The statement indicates eligible cases i.e. number of suicides due to agrarian distress.

To address the problem of impact of deficit rainfall/draught, the Government of India took initiatives which inter-alia included, organizing a number of meetings at the level of State Chief Ministers, Agriculture Ministers and Relief Commissioners etc. to impress upon State Governments to take appropriate remedial actions to mitigate the impact of draught. States were requested to prepare alternate plan for unsown/germination failed areas with short duration/alternate crops, Use of Truthfully Labelled (TL) seeds, relaxation of age for seed varieties and distribution of minikits was allowed under the Government Programmes namely National food Security Mission (NFSM) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Zonal Conference and Rabi Campaign programme with the State Governments were held to enable formulation of appropriate action plan for Rabi 2009- 10. Funds were made available under the Centrally Sponsored Programmes, like RKVY, NFSM, National Horticulture Mission(NHM), Macro Management of Agriculture(MMA), etc. to enable taking up agriculture re-construction programme. Empowered Group of Ministries (EGoM) was formed to review the conditions and take appropriate decisions to counter the impact of drought.

In order to address the problem of the suicides by farmers, the Government of India approved in the year 2006 a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 suicide prone Districts spread in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. In addition to the Rehabilitation Package, the Government of India implemented a Debt waiver and Debt Relief scheme, 2008 in all districts of the country benefiting a total of 3.01 crores small and marginal farmers and 0.67 crore other farmers. The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 has also definite provisions to improve economic viability of farming.