

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:68

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005

SUICIDE BY FARMERS

Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Sujatha Smt. C.S.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a large number of farmers across the country have committed suicide during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future and rehabilitate the debt ridden farmers;
- (d) whether a conclave of Chief Ministers was held recently in Chandigarh to evolve a strategy to prevent such cases of suicides; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and decision taken thereon?

**Answer**

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

(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. 68 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 2005.

(a)&(b): The incidents of suicide by farmers have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat and Orissa. The State-wise and year-wise details of suicide by farmers as reported by the State Governments are as under: -

Name of the State	Year	No. of cases	Remarks
	of suicide by farmers		
Andhra Pradesh	2002-03	80	-
	2003-04	258	
	2004-05	972	
Karnataka	2002-03	2340#	
	2003-04	708	
	2004-05	271	# These figures are based on

the records of the State  
Crime Record Bureau.

Maharashtra	2002	131
	2003	180
	2004	524
Kerala	2002	44
	2003	40
	2004	96

Punjab	2002-03	Nil
	2003-04	2
	2004-05	Nil

Orissa	2002-03	1	This case is on account of
	2003-04	Nil	non-payment of remunerative
	2004-05	Nil	prices.

Gujarat	2002	6	These cases are on account of
	2003	4	indebtedness and financial problems.

(c): In order to provide relief to the affected families of the deceased farmers, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra have been granting ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1 lakh. In addition to ex-gratia, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is also granting an amount of Rs. 50,000 towards debt liquidation of the deceased farmer. The Government of Kerala has extended financial assistance of Rs. 50,000 to each of the affected families. Other welfare measures for relief and rehabilitation have been taken by State Governments.

Considering the fact that indebtedness has been a major cause of distress to farmers, in order to enhance credit flow to agriculture, the Government of India announced a credit package on 18th June, 2004, which envisaged doubling of agriculture credit over three years. It has, inter- alia , also envisaged that

(i) Debt restructuring in respect of farmers in distress and farmers in arrears providing for rescheduling of outstanding loans over a period of five years

(ii) Special One Time Settlement Scheme for settling the old and chronic loan accounts of small and marginal farmers and

(iii) Banks allowed financing for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private money lenders.

Targets set for disbursement of agricultural credit in 2004-05 have been exceeded. The Government of India is further addressing the varied credit needs of farmers through Kisan Credit Cards. In mitigating risks of farmers the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is being operated whose coverage is proposed to be made more comprehensive. A Constitutional amendment is being brought for strengthening the functioning of cooperatives. The above intervention along with a slew of measures for augmenting agricultural production and marketing will over time reduce the distress of farmers.

(d): The Government did not call or hold any conclave of Chief Ministers in Chandigarh recently.

(e): Does not arise.