

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5620  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015  
REPORT ON SUICIDE BY FARMERS  
Chautala Shri Dushyant;Ninama Shri Manshankar

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

- (a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has asked the Government to submit report on the farmers` suicide in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether any efforts are being made in coordination with the Ministry of Finance to address the issue of suicide by farmers in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): Government of India has taken several steps to revitalize the agriculture sector and improve condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing, etc. The focus of Government is primarily on increase of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages. For this, various programmes/ schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to the State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement of minimum support price of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure, etc. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines, inter alia, containing directions to banks to ensure that the meetings of District Consultative Committees or State Level Bankers' Committees are convened at the earliest to evolve a co-ordinated action plan for implementation of the relief programme in collaboration with the State/ District authorities. Banks have been advised to consider moratorium period of at least one year in all cases of restructuring. Banks may also grant consumption loans upto Rs 10000/- to existing borrowers without any collateral. The limit, however, may be enhanced beyond Rs. 10000/- at the discretion of the bank.

In the event of natural calamity, to provide relief to farmers whose crops have been damaged, refinance is extended by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks for conversion of short term agriculture loans into medium term loans thereby enabling them to become eligible for fresh loans for the ensuing season. The conversion/ rephasing/ rescheduling of current short term loans (crops loans) is based on the intensity of calamity and extent of crop loss. Generally, conversion is allowed for a period of 5 years for small and marginal farmers and 3 years for other farmers.