

Title: Need to take suitable measures to safeguard the interests of farmers in Andhra Pradesh.- Laid.

DR. JAGANNATH MANDA (NAGARKURNOOL) : In the month of May, 2004, hundreds of farmers in Andhra Pradesh have committed suicide due to debts incurred for agricultural purpose. It is strange that suicides should increase exponentially after a financial package was announced for families of farmers who have died.

I request the Prime Minister to come out with a national policy to prevent such disasters and send some experts to visit Andhra Pradesh immediately and study the problems of farmers. The Union Government should ask the State Government to go in for long term solutions like crop pattern changes as free power does not mean that a farmer could cultivate his fields. The issue of rural indebtedness in general and how it affected the farmers should also be examined.

I, therefore, once again request the hon'ble Prime Minister's intervention in the matter to prevent farmers' suicides especially in Andhra Pradesh.