

Government has initiated several other measures for mitigation of agrarian distress in the country including Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. These measures, inter-alia, include expansion of institutional credit to farmers, bringing down the rate of interest on farm loans to make it more affordable, implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver & Debt Relief (ADWDR) Scheme, 2008 etc. Besides, number of Plan Schemes/Programmes viz. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, National Horticulture Mission, Micro Irrigation, Watershed Development Programme, Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management etc. are being implemented for improving the agriculture sector and for addressing problems of farmers.

The Government of Maharashtra has reported decline in number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons in the last three years (i.e. 2008-2010) in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

Research work in business schools and IIMs

*235. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that Indian Business Schools, including IIMs, are lagging behind in research;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the quality of research work has not been very encouraging;
- (c) the details of research works published in nationally and internationally acclaimed journals;
- (d) whether Government has assessed the reasons for the low quality research work; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken for improving the standards of research?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) In the absence of centralized data regarding research in the discipline of management in universities and institutions in India, it is not possible to say whether our institutions lag behind their counterparts abroad in terms of numbers or quality.

(c) According to available information Indian Institutes of Management, which are the leading institutions of business management in the country, have published 327 papers in national

and international journals, contributed to 55 book chapters and authored 39 books/monographs.

(d) and (e) Yes sir, Government has appointed a committee on Faculty & Research of the IIMs under Shri Ajit Balakrishnan, Chairman, IIM, Calcutta. The report has since been received and is under examination.

Delay in completion of rail line

*236. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to connect Rupsa-Bangriposi rail line to Badampohad *via* Talbandh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey had been initiated for connecting the rail line from Bangriposi to Badampohad during 8th to 10th Five Year Plan period;

(d) whether steps have been taken to connect Badampohad to Keonjhar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A survey for new line from Bangriposi - Gorumahisani (42 km) was completed. The proposed new line was not taken up and alternate proposal connecting Buramara (On Rupsa-Bangriposi line) with Chakulia (50 km) (On Tatanagar-Kharagpur line) has already been taken up which provides a link between Tatanagar-Kharagpur line and Rupsa-Bangriposi line.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Survey for a new line from Badampahar to Keonjhar (70 km) is under progress. Further course of action would be decided once the survey report is available and examined in the Ministry.

Impact on fertilizer units due to strife in Egypt and Tunisia

*237. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: