

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Agriculture & Cooperation Department – Farmers Suicides- Enhancement of financial assistance of Rs.7 Lakhs for suicidal deaths of farmers due to Agrarian reasons –Operational Guidelines- Orders - Issued.

AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION (AGRI.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.102.

Dated: 14.10.2019.

Read the following:

1. G.O.Ms.No. 421, Revenue (DA.II) Dept., dt:01.06.2004.
2. G.O.Ms.No. 62, Revenue (CMRF) Dept., dt:19.02.2015.
3. G.O.Ms.No. 282, Revenue (CMRF) Dept., dt:25.07.2015.
4. From the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, Lr.No.Ext/04/2019, dated: 28.08.2019.

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ORDER:

In the G.O. 1st read above Government have issued orders providing an ex gratia of Rs.1.00 lakh to the family of the deceased farmer as an economic support and Rs.50,000/- as loan settlement.

2. In the G.O 2nd read above, Government have enhanced exgratia from Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs.3.50 lakh and loan settlement from Rs. 0.50 lakh to Rs.1.50 lakh.

3. The Government have looked into the tragic incidents of suicides by the farmers in various parts of the State. The reasons for committing such suicides may be due to various reasons like Failure of Bore wells, Raising of Commercial crops with high cost of cultivation, Non-Remunerative Prices, Oral tenancy and ineligibility to avail Bank Loans, Private lending with higher interest rates, Adverse seasonal conditions, Heavy expenditure incurred towards Children education, ill health and marriages.

4. The Government have decided to take the following Preventive Measures to stop the farmers from committing suicide:

- I. A point of contact at the Collector's office of the rank of Superintendent shall be designated as in-charge for farmer suicide cases and assistance to victim families.

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II. The Helpline at the Collectorate shall be operated proactively. Any farmer or a friend, relative, family member or well-wisher may bring to the notice of the Collector, any situation of extreme distress of a farmer or the livelihood of such extreme act by making use of the help line. Such information shall be flashed from the Collectorate to Division Office and Mandal office immediately and the RDO and his staff will get in touch with that family immediately and organize an appropriate counseling at District level and work out a package to insulate them from the pressures of money lenders.

5. The Government after careful examination have decided to provide financial assistance of Rs. 7.00 lakhs to the family members of the deceased farmers/tenant farmers, who commit suicide due to agrarian reasons as a **rehabilitation** package to support the families of the farmers.

6. The Special Commissioner of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur has furnished the Operational Guidelines on "Farmers Suicides" vide letter 4th read above.

7. Accordingly, the Government hereby approve the following Operational Guidelines furnished by the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur on "Farmers Suicides":-

Operational Guidelines:

1. The term "farmer" shall include every person who derives substantial livelihood from farming, not limited to those with title to land, but including tenant farmers and women farmers.

2. Verification Process:

For the purpose of identification and scrutinization of farmer suicide deaths the following Mandal Level and Divisional Level Committees shall be formed:

I . The Mandal Level Committee shall comprise of the following:

- Tahsildar : Chairman.
- Agricultural Officer: Convener.
- Sub-Inspector of Police: Member.

II. The Division-level Three Member Committee comprise of the following:

- R.D.O./Sub Collector: Chairman.
- Asst. Director of Agriculture (concerned): Convener.
- Deputy Superintendent of Police (concerned): Member.

The verification process shall be time-bound with the following timeline, starting from the date of the suicide.

- Visit by Village Revenue Officer to the farmer suicide victim family on the same day of the suicide incident.
- Mandal-level Committee shall visit the place of occurrence of farmer suicide, conduct enquiry and furnish their **preliminary** report to the Divisional Level Committee within 24 hours **positively**.
- The Divisional level Three Member Committee shall complete the verification process and furnish final recommendations for sanction of Exgratia within 7 days.
- **The Mandal-Level and Divisional Level Committees shall take all steps and shall be cautious to prevent wrong claims.**

Besides the above, the report should consist of

- Inquest report prepared by Joint Collector or Joint Director, Agrl.
- what is the record of indebtedness
- who is the banker, whether any application is made for any concession or deferment for repayment?
- Who is the next of Kith and Kin, etc.

The above Committees shall adhere to the timeline for completion of the verification process and rehabilitation activities.

The above Committees having the official jurisdiction of the place of the farmer who has committed suicide, shall verify each case, and will establish the relationship between the farmer suicide and any of the factors related to farm income such as losses in farm related operations, indebtedness and economic distress, etc.

If the suicide is committed by a tenant farmer, the tenant farmer should be identified with the documentary evidence of the lease such as Revenue records, or Crop Cultivators Rights Card(CCRC) or by establishing proof of tenancy by the Revenue.

3. The financial Assistance of Rs. 7.00 Lakhs will be released directly to the family members of the deceased farmer for rehabilitation by the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture immediately after receipt of proposals from the District Collectors.

The fund flow mechanism is as follows.

- a. The District Collector shall visit the place of occurrence along with Agriculture and Revenue department officials to extend the moral support and initiating further necessary action.
- b. The Collector and District Magistrate shall furnish his proposal with specific recommendations for payment of financial assistance to the legal heirs of the deceased farmers who committed suicide, along with the following required documents for further processing of the case.
 - Ex -gratia proposals with the recommendations of the District Collector (Letter to be addressed to the Special Commissioner of Agriculture by the District Collector)
 - Mandal Level and Divisional Level three member committee reports.
 - Aadhar card
 - Ration card
 - Death panchanama
 - Post Mortem Report
 - Death certificate
 - FIR copy
 - Xerox copies of the Promissory notes
 - Details of the legal Heir along with Bank Details duly certified by the Tahsildar for Direct Benefit Transfer.
- c. The Commissioner and Director of Agriculture shall thoroughly examine the report submitted by the Collector and District Magistrate and release financial assistance to the legal heirs directly or to the District Collector for reimbursement incase of direct release by the District Collector.
- d. In the process of Rehabilitation, benefits of **other** Government schemes should be provided **on priority basis** to the family members of the deceased farmer as per the eligibility.

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A Special Grievance Day shall be held at the Collectorate once a month for farmers to cover all issues of farmers including farmer suicide, distress, Government schemes and land issues.

8. The Special Commissioner of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur shall take immediate necessary action in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

POONAM MALAKONDAIAH
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.

Copy to:-

All the District Collectors in A.P.

The Revenue (CMRF) Department.

The P.S. to Addl. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The P.S. to Chief Secretary to Government.

The P.S. to Hon'ble Minister (Agri.).

The P.S. to Special Chief Secretary to Government (Agri.).

The Law (A) Department.

SF/SCs.

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER