

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

15
Minister

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT:

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Farmer suicides not due to govt. policies, says Minister

B.C. Patil attributes suicides to 'weakness of mind'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Minister for Agriculture
B.C. Patil sought to delink
farmers suicide from gov-
ernment policies claim-
ing the two were unrelat-
ed, while attributing
suicides to "weakness of
mind".

Speaking to media per-
sons here on Tuesday,
Mr. Patil said suicides
were not confined to the
farming community and
officials, industrialists
and others too have end-
ed lives when in dis-
traught. It is during this
spell of momentary
weakness that suicides
are committed and the
government was conceiv-
ing policies and pro-
grammes to address this
issue, said Mr. Patil.

The Minister said the
'One District One Pro-
duct' (ODOP) project was
a step in that direction
through value addition to
agricultural and horticul-
tural produce under the
Pradhan Mantri Formali-
sation of Micro Food Pro-
cessing Enterprises
Scheme.

"Merely visiting the



Minister for Agriculture
B.C. Patil at a press
conference in Mysuru on
Tuesday. ■ M.A. SRIRAM

bereaved family mem-
bers of farmers and offer-
ing sympathies will not
help the community. But
such programmes will
help shore up their in-
come and prevent sui-
cides," he said.

ODOP implementation
Karnataka was on the fo-
refront in implementing
ODOP for food process-
ing and value addition,
according to Mr. Patil,
who refuted suggestions
that it could promote mo-
no culture. The pro-
gramme identified a sui-
table crop for which there
was scope for value addi-

tion through processing
locally and does not
mean that all farmers will
be encouraged to shift to
one crop. The agricultu-
ral policy gives thrust to
integrated farming pro-
moting crop diversity,
the Minister said.

He said the govern-
ment had reached an un-
derstanding with the
Central Food Technologi-
cal Research Institute in
Mysuru to train nearly
500 farmers from across
the State on various as-
pects of technology
transfer for value addi-
tion besides marketing.
The exercise will go on
till March 31, he said.

On the ongoing farm-
ers protest against the
farm laws, Mr. Patil said it
was devoid of logic as the
laws were favourable to
the farmers and had
opened up the market
under 'one nation one
market' concept.

The amendments to
the various farm laws in-
troduced by the govern-
ment would benefit the
farmers and free them
from the clutches of mid-
dlemen, he added.