

">

Make the most  
of where you live !



Publication: Times Of India Mumbai; Date:2006 May 06; Section:Times City; Page  
Number 8



## Increase relief for farmers, says HC

Mumbai: The Bombay high court has asked the state government to constitute district-level committees to investigate the causes of suicide by farmers and disburse relief within 15 days from the incident. The court has also ordered the state to reopen 414 cases from January 2001 in which compensation was denied to surviving family members.

A **Tata Institute of Social Sciences** (TISS) report said compensation had been denied by the state in many cases as the farmers had taken loans from private sources and not cooperative banks, which is a criterion for the government.

The court has asked the state to relax the norms for compensation, increase the compensation limit beyond Rs 1 lakh, and also suggested that it consider crop insurance. The package which the state has promised to implement includes credit loans for farmers at lower interest rates. Incidentally, this plan was announced in 2006 by the CM following growing criticism about the rise in suicide incidents in Vidarbha.

“(The fundamental right to life and liberty) under Article 21 of the constitution is eroded by the deaths (of farmers) on such a systemic scale,” said the judges. They expressed concern about the lack of safety nets and buffers in the development policy to absorb the shocks of natural calamities and the failure of the **social** and economic development model which led to the suicides. The judges also cited Nobel laureate Amartya Sen’s work while speaking on the need for rural **social** security and noted, “Civil and political rights can flourish in a society which is free of undeserved want and poverty.”TNN