Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services

RAJYA SABHA
Unstarred Question No. 1507
Answered on Tuesday, March 15, 2022/Phalguna 24, 1943 (Saka)

DEBT RELIEF TO FARMERS

1507. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data on farmers' debt for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of debt of farmers for the last six years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether Government has waived off the loans of farmers in the last six years;

(d) if so, the details of the same for last six years, year-wise; and

(e) whether Government is considering to waive off any further, the loans of farmers considering the pandemic situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(DR. BHAGWAT KARAD)

(a) & (b): State-wise details of total number of accounts and amount outstanding in agriculture for the last six year in respect of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are provided at Annexure to this reply.

(c) to (e): No loan waiver scheme for farmers has been implemented by the Union Government during last six years.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Union Government to waiver of loans of farmers. However, to reduce the debt burden of farmers, the following major initiatives have been taken:

- With a view to ensure availability of agriculture credit at a reduced interest rate of 7% p.a. to the farmers, the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) implements an interest subvention scheme for short term crop loans up to Rs. 3.00 lakh. The scheme provides interest subvention of 2% per annum to Banks on use of their own resources. Besides, additional 3% incentive is given to the farmers for prompt repayment of the loan, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest to 4%.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued directions for Relief Measures to be provided by respective lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities which, inter alia, include, restructuring/rescheduling of existing crop loans and term loans, extending fresh loans, relaxed security and margin norms, moratorium, etc. These directions have been so designed that the moment calamity is declared by the concerned District Authorities, they are automatically set in motion without any intervention, thus saving precious time. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced from 50% to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework. Banks have also been advised not to insist for additional collateral security for restructured loans.

- To enhance coverage of small and marginal farmers in the formal credit system, RBI has decided to raise the limit for collateral-free agriculture loans from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.6 lakh.

- The requirement of 'no due' certificate has also been dispensed with for small loans upto Rs.50,000/- to small and marginal farmers, share croppers and the like and, instead, only a self-declaration from the borrower is required.

- To bring small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, etc. into the fold of institutional credit, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been promoted by banks.

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme has been implemented to provide an assured income support to all farmers, irrespective of the size of their land holdings subject to the exclusion factor. Under this scheme, direct income support @ of Rs. 6,000 per year will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal installments of Rs.2,000 each.

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of insured crops due to non-preventable natural risks, thus providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/ damage arising out of unforeseen events; stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming; and encouraging them to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.

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ANNEXURE

State/UT wise total agricultural amount outstanding for Scheduled Commercial Banks

Nos in thousand,amount in Rs.crore

S.No		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
		No of A/cs	Balance Outstanding	No of A/cs	Balance Outstanding	No of A/cs	Balance Outstanding	No of A/cs	Balance Outstanding	No of A/cs	Balance Outstanding	No of A/cs	Balance Outstanding
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	8.71	146.18	8.79	95.08	8.89	97.92	8.49	106.65	9.08	114.89	9.30	147.00
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	6577.67	85770.01	6708.80	90518.19	7394.65	102493.89	8017.94	114320.65	8108.29	121495.54	8262.02	140527.13
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	15.57	167.23	13.98	196.60	13.75	174.23	14.08	160.92	13.99	152.28	14.24	135.29
4	ASSAM	1608.47	8279.93	1569.63	9241.63	1670.21	10552.40	1862.48	11366.68	1976.88	11136.90	2085.22	11847.66
5	BIHAR	4269.34	23490.24	3441.93	24790.04	4115.42	27595.07	4918.10	29361.42	5849.79	32068.15	6193.01	37213.07
6	CHANDIGARH	14.02	3007.80	17.55	3552.43	19.86	3299.70	43.88	2562.83	58.84	3990.83	80.34	3070.44
7	CHHATTISGARH	468.31	8376.92	495.54	10514.53	611.78	11230.55	674.66	11428.14	710.18	11167.45	827.92	12922.35
8	DADRA&NAGAR HAVELI	3.41	66.37	3.19	59.33	3.31	68.47	3.19	75.99	2.56	68.87	3.55	103.98
9	DAMAN & DIU	2.22	37.11	2.35	48.10	1.65	35.11	1.40	44.60	1.38	43.86	1.86	51.34
10	DELHI	51.26	30871.04	38.40	29433.26	33.07	27990.91	28.26	34876.57	50.28	31227.78	48.02	40760.46
11	GOA	57.84	1843.26	54.83	1581.15	57.90	1708.67	52.13	957.25	56.08	988.38	72.17	1403.37
12	GUJARAT	2063.71	52767.86	2051.44	63615.21	2279.01	63732.20	2629.97	66041.58	3002.76	77653.97	3178.69	86694.51
13	HARYANA	1074.01	48177.24	1103.61	47217.98	1261.86	53208.61	1492.48	54176.22	1663.01	49268.29	1732.64	48927.39
14	HIMACHAL PRADESH	317.61	5110.55	315.91	5042.89	324.33	5729.57	328.32	5758.83	323.93	5702.10	330.93	6040.70
15	JAMMU & KASHMIR	400.76	8205.62	401.62	7362.83	404.13	8403.80	397.73	9058.48	699.21	10161.65	873.85	11470.85
16	JHARKHAND	1102.85	6674.52	1093.15	6693.56	1234.08	8089.20	1354.20	7874.82	1598.86	8240.11	1753.56	9451.60
17	KARNATAKA	4343.24	95759.61	4298.35	89759.42	5052.41	93035.60	5991.64	81839.77	6568.83	77088.17	6926.11	60729.70
18	KERALA	4124.03	54373.10	4213.01	62480.60	5155.21	66378.39	6139.64	75925.82	6175.32	78261.86	5897.82	81589.68
19	LAKSHADWEEP	1.36	15.81	1.65	6.93	0.65	4.76	1.13	6.36	1.09	7.43	1.06	7.86
20	MADHYA PRADESH	2728.33	50881.07	2906.68	58637.75	3333.58	68548.30	3819.76	79625.43	4306.41	72803.10	4673.05	74139.43
21	MAHARASHTRA	5510.29	255116.27	5758.67	282365.94	5907.71	333960.05	7053.76	431306.64	7030.29	474241.44	7601.24	552264.28
22	MANIPUR	38.85	382.49	39.90	1087.23	37.88	425.82	35.23	729.12	37.47	392.48	36.12	402.84
23	MEGHALAYA	74.20	467.10	69.59	577.07	65.68	641.98	63.73	601.47	58.03	434.58	55.49	448.66
24	MIZORAM	20.22	142.42	17.65	135.94	16.67	140.21	15.26	126.20	17.80	108.75	20.80	122.07
25	NAGALAND	44.64	304.19	44.16	278.46	38.75	286.01	35.80	275.97	36.00	262.91	36.55	265.83
26	ODISHA	1867.81	13266.51	1910.89	13971.66	2452.24	15298.32	3110.61	17507.62	3513.61	20147.12	3832.74	23392.14
27	PUDUCHERRY	158.39	1554.83	178.14	1860.83	230.55	2054.33	259.43	2314.97	273.04	2543.60	280.52	3123.99
28	PUNJAB	1447.23	70999.36	1464.30	70847.53	1634.29	73341.11	1804.75	67662.79	1919.63	66432.66	1960.58	67789.44
29	RAJASTHAN	3035.25	61000.14	3045.32	68658.93	3469.74	74034.46	4175.23	84807.55	4929.18	83821.21	5317.85	89739.02
30	SIKKIM	16.67	166.33	14.08	169.09	14.98	206.74	19.33	205.70	20.51	162.80	21.11	184.43
31	TAMIL NADU	12204.76	129952.81	13040.92	139323.57	16189.99	150041.09	18614.78	163829.95	19413.14	178931.20	19612.36	218827.70
32	TELANGANA	3105.39	47807.60	3151.94	50550.49	3244.60	56519.09	3494.89	56638.34	3620.98	65375.73	4248.96	73223.03
33	TRIPURA	324.69	1221.91	307.45	1255.20	339.22	1777.12	351.15	2390.11	385.76	2506.82	433.89	2540.37
34	UTTARAKHAND	461.86	8297.51	398.21	8708.31	2365.95	40908.82	1373.76	24046.36	1880.99	33515.28	2239.34	27823.73
35	UTTAR PRADESH	6424.26	86796.32	6541.40	98131.90	5090.33	88319.44	6834.64	92424.32	7215.03	85311.88	7115.38	100793.97
36	WEST BENGAL	5373.10	42108.96	4383.18	41963.74	4255.73	45278.59	4863.03	50483.98	5859.98	56797.68	6331.85	53852.53
	Total	69340.29	1203606.23	69106.21	1290733.38	78330.07	1435610.52	89884.87	1580920.11	97388.23	1662627.75	102110.16	1842027.81

Source: RBI