

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION & FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 92**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018

**DEBT RELIEF TO FARMERS**

\*92. SHRI M.B. RAJESH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण  
1/2ââ"ããè  
be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of debt relief given to the farmers in the country during the last two years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government offers debt relief to the families of farmers who committed suicide due to debt; and
- (c) if so, the amount allocated for debt relief during the said period?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण 1/2ââ"ããè  
SINGH)

(SHRI RADHA MOHAN

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 92 DUE FOR REPLY ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018.**

(a): The State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry have in the recent past have announced their own farm loan/debt waiver schemes to extend relief to the needy farmers in these States/UT. The details of debt/loan waiver announced by these States/UT during the last two years and current year is given at **Annexure**.

(b) & (c): Agriculture is a State subject and the information with regard to debt relief to the families of the farmers who committed suicide due to debt, if any, extended by various State Governments is centrally not available. However, to reduce the debt burden of farmers and to increase availability of institutional credit to farmers, following major initiatives have been taken by the Union Government:-

- i) With a view to ensuring availability of agriculture credit at a reduced interest rate to farmers, the Government is implementing the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) since 2006-07. Under ISS, the Government is providing interest subvention to make available short-term crop loans upto Rs.3 lakh for a period of one year at an effective interest rate of 4% per annum against the normal lending rate of 9% to prompt payee farmers. Thus, the prompt payee farmers are getting an interest subvention of 5 % per annum. The scheme is continued in 2018-19. Besides, some State Governments in fact also provide additional interest subvention, reducing the effective interest burden on short term crop loans to zero.
- ii) Government sets annual target for the flow of credit to the agriculture sector. Banks have been consistently surpassing the annual target. The current year's agriculture credit flow target has been set at Rs. 11 lakh crore.

- iii) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued Priority Sector Lending Guidelines (PSL), which mandate all Domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks to earmark 18% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure (OBE), whichever is higher, as on the corresponding date of the previous year, for lending to Agriculture.
- iv) As per PSL guidelines loans to distressed farmers to repay non-institutional lenders are eligible under priority sector. Besides loans to stressed persons (other than farmers) not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000/- per borrower to repay their debt to non-institutional lender are also eligible for the purpose of priority sector lending by banks.
- v) In order to ensure that all eligible farmers are provided with hassle-free and timely credit for their agricultural operations, the Government has introduced the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, which enables them to draw cash to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides as well as meet other agricultural and consumption needs. The KCC Scheme has since been simplified by providing the farmers with ATM enabled debit card based on one-time documentation and built-in cost escalation in the limit, etc.
- vi) To bring small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, etc. into the fold of institutional credit, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been promoted by banks. The Government also promotes formation of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in a big way to enable farmers to leverage economies of scale, not only for agricultural inputs but also for enhanced marketing opportunities.
- vii) Banks have been advised by RBI to waive margin/security requirements of agricultural loans upto Rs.1,00,000/-, vide RBI's circular dated 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.
- viii) 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 to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.

- ix) Further, for empowerment of the farmers, the Union Government is making huge investments. To give a boost to agricultural production, productivity and also to adopt modern technology and improved agricultural practices, the budgetary allocation of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare has considerably increased to Rs.46700.00 Crore in 2018-19 as against the allocation of Rs.17004.35 Crore during 2015-16 (i.e. approximately 175%). Further, the Government, mindful of the criticality of agriculture credit for the sector has consistently increased agricultural credit flow targets over the years from Rs.8,00,000 crore in 2014-15, Rs.8,50,000 crore in 2015-16, Rs.9,00,000 crore in 2016-17 to Rs.10,00,000 crore in 2017-18 and for 2018-19, the target has been fixed at Rs.11,00,000 crore. What is more impressive is that the financial institutions have consistently surpassed these annual credit flow targets by as much as 5% to 18% in these years.

**Loan Waivers announced by various States****Details of States/UTs which have announced Farm Loan Waivers in recent past:**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of State</b>	<b>Details</b>
1.	Tamil Nadu	GoTN had announced waiver of loans outstanding vide GO No.50 dated 23 May 2016. Outstanding Crop Loan, MT-Agri& LT (Farm Sector) loans issued to Small & Marginal Farmers by the Cooperative Banks as on 31 March 2016 were waived. Rs. 5318.75 crore were waived in respect of 1202075 farmers.
2.	Maharashtra	The Maharashtra Government announced Debt waiver for farmers vide GR dated 28.06.2017 covering 31 lakh farmers with amount of debt waiver of Rs. 30,500 crore.
3.	Karnataka	Karnataka government vide Govt. order No CO313 CLS 2017 dated 23 June 2017 announced waiver of farm loans of up to ₹50,000 taken from State-run Cooperative Institutions covering 22 lakh farmers with amount of debt waiver of Rs. 8,165 crore.
4.	Uttar Pradesh	UP Government on April 4, 2017 announced a Rs. 30,729 crore scheme waiving crop loans up to Rs.1.00 lakh for Small and Marginal Farmers. In addition to this, Rs. 5,630 crore was allocated for writing off bad loans of around seven lakh farmers, which had become NPAs for banks. This takes the total amount allocated for loan relief to Rs.36,359 crore. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of UP, vide DO letter dated 24 May 2017 had issued a letter to CMD/CEO of all Scheduled Commercial banks informing State Govt.'s decision to implement a scheme for redemption of crop loan debt of Small and marginal Farmers of the state.
5.	Jammu Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir Government declared Debt Waiver scheme under KCC vide Govt order no. 16-F of 2017 dated 23-01-2017. KCC loans upto Rs. 1 lakh were given 50% waiver in a phased manner. Total amount waived was Rs.244 crore for 1.15 lakh farmers.
6.	Punjab	The Punjab Government announced Debt waiver for farmers vide Notification No. 8/259/17-Agri/2(10)/19235 dated 17.10.2017 covering 10 lakh farmers with amount of debt waiver to the tune of Rs.10,000 crore.
7.	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh Govt. announced Debt relief/waiver vide its notification no. 2838/2015/02-15/30-15F dated 26 December, 2015. 25% of debt waiver was provided for, amounting to Rs. 129.76 crore for 189379 farmers.
8.	Union Territory of Puducherry	The Union Territory of Puducherry vide G.O. Ms.10/Coop. dated 12/01/2018 announced the agriculture loan waiver Scheme 2016-17 covering loans of all agricultural and allied activities availed through Cooperative structure as on 31.03.2016.
9.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Government announced Waiver of Agriculture crop loan to farmers vide GO Ms.No.164 dated 02.08.2014
10.	Telangana	The Telangana Government announced Debt waiver for farmers vide GO RT No.69 dated 13.08.2014

## ANNEXURE-I (Contd...)

## Details of loan to farmers waived during the respective year

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Sr. No.	Name of the State/ RO	2015-16				2016-17				2017-18				2018-19			
		No. of A/cs		Amount		No. of A/cs		Amount		No. of A/cs		Amount		No. of A/cs		Amount	
		Coop	RRB	Coop	RRB	Coop	RRB	Coop	RRB	Coop	RRB	Coop	RRB	Coop	RRB	Coop	RRB
1	A & N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Andhra Pradesh	179899	4655	68.673	15.37	808681	90516	645.536	117.96	621239	88010	562.08	115.44	23165	2542	20.5	3.14
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7	Chhattisgarh	189379	0	129.77	0	0	4555	0	5.37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10	Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
12	Jammu & Kashmir	5278	0	12.71	0	684	22487	1.74	52.55	0	209	0	0.75	0	0	0	0
13	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
14	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2227506	0	8165	0	0	0	0	0
15	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
16	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
17	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1312699	199742	5222.53	1117.29	76546	17243	344.38	122.82
18	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22	New Delhi	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.	Nil	N.A.
23	Odisha	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
24	Puducherry	4781	Nil	19.31	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
25	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	71245	Nil	308.49	Nil	228093	Nil	1372.39	Nil
26	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
27	Sikkim																
28	Tamil Nadu	1202075	Nil	5318.75	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
29	Telangana	883019	697524	582.15	900.84	883019	697197	581.33	897.32	883019	697248	581.18	898.28	0	0	0	0
30	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31	Uttar Pradesh	26637	0	63.9	0	0	0	0	0	212925	1474164	360.31	8097.37	185194	66420	152.49	343.63
32	Uttarakhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
33	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	TOTAL	2491068	702179	6195.26	916.21	1692384	814755	1228.61	1073.20	5328633	2459373	15199.59	10229.13	512998	86205	1889.76	469.59

Note: The information with regard to loan waived by the Commercial Banks is not available.

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