

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2255

ANSWERED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024/AGRAHAYANA 18, 1946 (SAKA)

Discrimination against Farmers in Waiving Off Loans

2255. Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant

Shri Dharmendra Yadav:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the deplorable debt situation of the farmers;
- (b) if so, the current plan of the Government regarding loan waiver and the number of industrialists and farmers whose loans have been waived off during the last ten years along with the amount of such loans;
- (c) whether the Government is discriminating against farmers with regard to waiving off loan;
- (d) if not, the reasons for not waiving off farmers' loans while loans of big industrialists are being waived off; and
- (e) whether the Government is contemplating to provide any immediate assistance to farmers for debt relief and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e): The details of agriculture credit extended in the past five years are as follows:

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total Agri Loan Outstanding (In Rs. Crore)	2058730	2277428	2513499	2888173	3352646
Number of Accounts (in lakh)	1494	1532	1612	1741	1875
Outstanding Loan per Account (In Rs.)	137821	148661	155948	165886	178835

Source: RBI and NABARD

The number of accounts of the farmers opting for credit through institutional sources has increased by 381 lakh from 31.03.2020 to 31.03.2024.

In addition, NPA in Agriculture loans of Scheduled Commercial Banks, Cooperatives Banks & Regional Rural Banks has been decreased during the last 5 years (ie. from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24) as below:

Period	Scheduled Commercial Banks	Cooperative Banks	Regional Rural Banks
2019-20	10.1%	7.99%	8.72%
2023-24	6.2%	5.32%	6.65%

Source: RBI and NABARD

Decreasing NPAs during this period indicate improvement in repaying capacity of farmers. The various schemes/ programmes of the Union Government such as Kisan Credit Card, PM KISAN, PMFBY etc have been designed to increase the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support to farmers. There is no proposal under consideration to waive off loans of farmers of the country.
