

[10 May, 2005]

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of infrastructure under its scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Tourist Circuits and destinations based on the receipt of the project proposals, merit of the proposal, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

(b) No such proposal has been received from the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Supply of PNG in Delhi

*656. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to supply domestic gas through pipeline in various areas of Delhi is under consideration of the Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Piped Natural Gas connections for domestic use presently operational in various areas of Delhi; and

(d) the areas which are likely to be covered with Piped Natural Gas connections during next three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As on April 1, 2005, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) is already supplying piped natural gas (PNG) to about 25100 domestic consumers for domestic use in many areas of NCT of Delhi and proposes to extend the facility to other areas of Delhi in phases spread over next few years. PNG network would be expanded to other areas depending upon the demand/response from prospective customers besides the technical feasibility and availability of permission from different Authorities for laying gas pipelines.

The areas likely to be covered during 2005-06 are as follows:—

Kidwai Nagar, Andrews Ganj, Laxmi Bai Nagar, Netaji Nagar, R. K. Puram (8, 12 & 13 sectors), Chanakya Puri, Asiad Village, HUDCO, Kali Bari/ BKS Marg & Lodhi Colony, Vasundhra Enclave, Mayur Vihar Phase II, Rohini (Sector 15), Vikas Puri, Paschim Vihar, Pitampura, Mayfair Garden and Kalkaji/Kalkaji Extn.

Waiver of loans to farmers

*657 SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether burden of loan on the poor and marginal farmers of our country is increasing While their sources of income are shrinking.

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) the details of the average loan given to poor and marginal farmers during the last three years and their average income;

(d) Whether Government have decided to waive the loan of farmers upto Rs. 10,000/-; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The average debt of cultivator households as at current prices is as follows:—

Year	Average debt at current prices	
	per rural household (Rs.)	per cultivator household (Rs.)
1971	500	605
1981	661	803
1991	1906	2294

Source ue. All muia ueui anu investment Survey, 1991

The level of indebtedness based on size of land holdings is not available. With a view to provide relief to the Small and Marginal Farmers, relaxations in regard to margin requirements, security norms etc. have been extended to them. The banks have been advised to waive margin/security requirement for agricultural loans upto Rs. 50,000/-. Reserve Bank of India has also advised banks that total interest debited, to the accounts of small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount in respect of short term advances. Further, Government's policy announcement on 18th June, 2004 includes a One Time settlement (OTS) scheme for small and marginal farmers, debt Restructuring/Reschedulement for Farmers in distress and farmers in arrears. The package also includes advancement of loan by banks to provide relief from indebtedness from non-institutional lenders such as money lenders and others.

(c) The statement regarding average loan provided to Small and Marginal farmers by public sector banks from 1997-98 to 2001-02 is at enclosed (*See below*). Data regarding average income for these years is not generated by the present information system.

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(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d)

Statement

The data of loans issued by Public sector banks to farmers having holding less than 1 hectare and having holding 1-2 hectare.

Year	Upto 1 hectare		1-2 heactares		Total Disbursements		(Rs. Crore)
	No. of accounts	Amount	No. of accounts	Amount	No. of accounts	Amount	% of credit
1997-98	2104300	2288	1811300	2412.5	5335800	9527.5	49
1998-99	2307700	2786.6	1877500	3180.7	5844500	11829.3	50.4
1999-00	2341800	3337.8	1871200	3466.9	5793500	14013.6	48.5
2000-01	2382400	3739.6	1860300	3641.6	5841300	14515.3	50.8
2001-02	2678600	4351.8	1933000	4370.5	6970000	16300.1	53.5

SF-Small

MF-Marginal farmer

Source: Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy 2003-04 (Latest available published by RBI)

Based on the assumption that all holding below 2 hectares generally belong to small and marginal farmers, the average size of loan for the respective years is as under:

year	(Amount Rs.)		
	Average upto 1 hectare	Average between 1-2 hectare	Average upto 2 hectare
1997-98	10873	13319	12005
1998-99	12075	16941	14258
1999-00	14253	18528	16152
2000-01	15696	19575	17397
2001-02	16246	22610	18914

Out of new accounts financed by commercial banks during 2004-05, 26.87 lakh accounts belong to small and marginal farmers, with an average loan size of Rs. 33,904.