

(a) how many flights have been cancelled during the last year due to the non-availability of crew;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to address this issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) to (c) Information is being collected from scheduled domestic airlines.

Utilization of central funds given to States

†*289. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the full benefits of the funds given under various schemes by the Central Government for the development of States towards amenities and assistance of common people do not reach the masses;

(b) if so, the names of these schemes;

(c) whether Government has made any arrangement to ensure responsibility of the authorities of concerned accountable departments and to review and monitor the utilization of funds given to States in public interest;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Central Government provides funds for Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes as also for State Plans, with the objective of development of States and provision of benefits to the target groups under various schemes.

The concerned State Governments and Central Ministries review and monitor implementation of schemes to ensure effective utilization of funds for the purposes for which these are provided. Relevant laws and systems provide for audit and oversight of application of public money to intended purposes.

Benefit of loan waiver for farmers in Jharkhand

†*290. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 1700 farmers of Deoghar Cooperative Grain Bank of Jharkhand were not given benefits of loan waiver under agriculture loan waiver scheme in 2008;

(b) whether Government will provide the benefit of loan waiver by bringing BPL/APL and small farmers under the scheme; and

(c) whether Government is aware that it would cost only Rs.2.5 crore for extending the benefit to these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Deoghar Cooperative Grain Bank provides loans to farmers in the form of seeds for paddy. This Cooperative Grain Bank had submitted claims of Rs. 1.24 crore in respect of 4454 loan accounts of Small Farmer/Marginal Farmer under the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDR) Scheme, 2008. As per the eligibility conditions of the ADWDR Scheme, 2008, Grain Cooperative Banks were not eligible for coverage under the Scheme. Thus, the claims submitted by the Deoghar Cooperative Grain Bank could not be considered for loan waiver.

In order to help indebted farmers and to de-clog the lines of credit to them, the Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech for 2008-2009, announced a Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme for farmers. As per the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS) 2008, those direct agricultural loans extended to 'marginal and small farmers' (cultivating up to 2 ha. or 5 acres of land) and 'other farmers' (cultivating more than 2 ha. or 5 acres of land) by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Cooperative Credit Institutions (including Urban Cooperative Banks) and Local Area Banks and which fulfil all the three conditions, i.e., (a) disbursed between March 31, 1997 and March 31, 2007, (b) overdue on December 31, 2007, and (c) remaining unpaid until February 29, 2008 were eligible for debt waiver/debt relief under the Scheme. In the case of a small or marginal farmer, the entire 'eligible amount' was waived, in the case of 'other farmers', there was one time settlement (OTS) Scheme under which the farmer were to be given a rebate of 25 per cent of the 'eligible amount' subject to the condition that the farmer pays the balance of 75 per cent of the 'eligible amount'. The Debt Waiver portion of the Scheme closed on June 30, 2008 and the Debt Relief portion of the Scheme closed on June 30, 2010. As per reports received so far, 2.44 crore small and marginal farmers and 31.27 lakh 'other' farmers were benefited under the ADWDRS, 2008 to the extent of Rs 49,889.60 crore.