

Debt Waiver Scheme for SC/ST borrowers

*268. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for a Debt Waiver Scheme for waiving off loans upto Rs. 25,000/- to borrowers belonging to SC/ST community;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken or contemplated by the Central Government for sanction of financial assistance to the State Government for implementing the scheme?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has reported that the Minister for Welfare of Scheduled and Backward Communities and Electricity, Government of Kerala, had sent a letter dated 1.7.2009 to the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, stating that the Government of Kerala had announced a scheme for writing off loans upto Rs. 25000/- to SC/ST loanees and requested the Government of India for assistance "for undertaking this venture and also for waiving off all loans to the State-level Institutions".

The Ministry has further reported that no action is presently under consideration on the above request.

Development of bio-medical stents for cardio-vascular treatment

*269. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bio-medical stents have been developed for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases in the country;

(b) whether bio-medical stents are being used in India for cardio-vascular treatment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether clinical trials are conducted as per protocol for the bio-medical stent usage; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Bio-medical stents have been developed in the country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Biomedical stents have been used in India in order to restore the blood flow in the coronary arteries which have been blocked due to formation of plaque.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Clinical trials have been carried out in the country as per the protocol approved by the office of Drugs Controller General (I) for the purpose.