

Interest free loan in drought affected areas

†979. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has provided interest free loan to assist in drought affected areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during last three years and current fiscal year, State-wise including Maharashtra;
- (c) the details of funds allocated in this regard and benefits received by BPL households during this period State-wise including Maharashtra; and
- (d) the other steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank has issued standing guidelines to banks in order to provide relief to bank borrowers in times of natural calamities. The relief measures, *inter alia*, include conversion of the principal amount outstanding in the crop loans and agriculture term loans as well as accrued interest thereon into term loans for periods ranging from 3 to 10 years depending upon the frequency of crop failures/intensity of damage to crops; treatment of converted/rescheduled agri-loans as 'current dues'; non-compounding of interest in respect of loans converted/rescheduled etc.; moratorium period of at least one year, while restructuring; relaxed security and margin norms; fresh crop loans and consumption loans for affected farmers etc.

It has also been clarified that the accounts that are restructured for the second time or more on account of natural calamities, would retain the same asset classification category on restructuring.

In order to assist distressed farmers whose accounts have earlier been rescheduled/converted on account of natural calamities as also farmers defaulting on their loans, due to circumstances beyond their control, banks have been advised to frame transparent One Time Settlement (OTS) policies for such farmers, with the approval of their Boards.

Relief to home loan applicants for NOIDA Extension

Housing Projects

980. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantum of housing loans that have been extended/approved for home buyers by various public sector banks for housing projects in NOIDA Extension;
- (b) the total quantum of loans that have been disbursed to builders as project loans;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.