

Force; Naval constructor in Navy and Accounts, Technical, Administration, Logistic and Meteorology branches in Air Force.

Review of recruitment policies including greater role for women in defence is a continuous and ongoing process.

Credit relief to farmers facing natural calamities

876. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is operating a Plan for providing credit relief to farmers in the event of occurrence of natural calamities through issue of standing guidelines;

(b) whether in spite of these RBI guidelines, farmers knock at the door of private moneylenders who by virtue of their informal and speedy disbursal of credit force farmers into the vicious and never ending debt cycle from which they get no respite; and

(c) if so, the action taken to ensure that RBI guidelines are followed in letter and spirit by each bank enabling farmers to easily obtain credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put in place a mechanism to address situations arising out of natural calamities. The banks have been issued necessary guidelines, consolidated in the form of a Master Circular which is revised/updated every year in July, for undertaking necessary relief measures. The RBI Guidelines, *inter alia*, contain directions to banks to ensure that meetings of District Consultative Committees (DCCs) and State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBCs) are convened at the earliest to evolve a coordinated action plan for implementation of the relief programme in collaboration with State/District authorities. These indicative Guidelines enable SLBCs/ DCCs and banks to take their own decisions, depending on the nature and severity of the calamity, on rescheduling of existing loans and granting of fresh loans to borrowers, without any intervention/specific approval from RBI. Banks have also been advised to consider moratorium period of at least one year in all cases of restructuring.

(b) and (c) RBI has stipulated in its guidelines that to be effective, the assistance to farmers will have to be disbursed with utmost speed. For this purpose the lead bank and the district authorities concerned should evolve a procedure whereby identification

of borrowers, issuance of certificates regarding dues, title of the applicant to land, etc. is secured simultaneously. Also, the provision of credit camps for finalizing the applications on the spot has also been made in the above guidelines. In order to avoid delay, RBI has further stipulated that forms in which State Government Officers have to give certificates at the credit camps may be got printed in sufficient numbers by respective District Magistrates. Besides, RBI has prescribed that in considering loan applications for ensuing crop season, current dues of the applicants to the State Government may be ignored, provided State Government declares a moratorium for a sufficiently long period on all amounts due to the State Government as on the date of occurrence of the natural calamity.

**Compensation to Rajasthan for mandatory expenditure
under central laws**

†877. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has requested the Central Government for the compensation of the mandatory expenditure made by the States under Central laws, if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(b) whether the State Government has requested to eliminate the gap between plan and non-plan expenditure of the Central Government, if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation of funds/grants

878. DR. T. N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism/formula adopted for allocation of various types of funds/grants between the Central Government and the State Governments;

(b) the details of funds allocated to the State Governments as per recommendations under the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Finance Commission and share of each State thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.