

Write off of farmers loans

4400. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen the growing demand to write off farmers loans; and

(b) if so, whether Government will consider the demand positively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Union Government to waive off loans of farmers of the country. However, to reduce the debt burden of farmers, the following major initiatives have been taken:—

- With a view to ensuring availability of agriculture credit at a reduced interest rate of 7% p.a. to farmers, the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare implements an interest subvention scheme for short term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Under the said scheme, additional subvention of 3% is given to those farmers who repay their short term crop loan in time, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% p.a. for such farmers.
- RBI has issued directions for Relief Measures to be provided by respective lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities which, *inter alia*, include, restructuring/rescheduling of existing crop loans and term loans, extending fresh loans, relaxed security and margin norms, moratorium, etc. These directions have been so designed that the moment calamity is declared by the concerned District Authorities they are automatically set in motion without any intervention, thus saving precious time. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.

Stand-up India programme under MSME sector

4401. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of "Stand up India" programme under MSME sector; and

(b) the total number of entrepreneurs belonging to women, Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes benefitted under the same programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Stand up India Scheme is intended to facilitate bank loans between ₹ 10 lakh and ₹ 1 crore to at least one Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up greenfield enterprises. This enterprise may be in manufacturing, services or the trading sector.

(b) The total number of entrepreneurs belonging to Women, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category who have availed loans under the scheme are 22609, 4476 and 1240 respectively as on 05.04.2017.

Allocation of funds to Kerala

4402. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected from the State of Kerala as Central taxes during each of the last three years;

(b) the allocation of funds to the State during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The details of Direct Taxes collected from the State of Kerala during the last three years is as under:—

(₹ in crore)

Financial Year	Direct Tax Collection
2014-15	11,910
2015-16	10,171
2016-17	The State-wise direct taxes collected during the financial year 2016-17 have not yet been compiled.

Since the Indirect taxes collections are not maintained State-wise. Therefore, the detail of Central indirect taxes collected from the State of Kerala is not available.

(b) The funds released to the State of Kerala during each of last three years are as under:—