

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation	Name of the Post
4.	National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore	Chief Pharmacist
5.	All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi	OSD (AYUSH Grid Project)
6.	Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, New Delhi	i. Assistant Director (Medicine) ii. Assistant Director (Pharmacology) iii. Assistant Director (Pathology) iv. Research Officer (Medicine) v. Research Officer (Pharmacology) vi. Research Officer (Pathology) vii. Research Officer (Bio-Chemistry) viii. Research Officer (Psychiatry) ix. Research Officer (Animal/Experimental pathology)

Loans to farmers affected by floods in Kerala

†*275. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any special scheme of giving loans to the farmers in Kerala who were affected and suffered during the recent floods in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework. Banks have also been advised not to insist for additional collateral security for restructured loans.

RBI has informed that a special meeting of the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), Kerala was held on August 20, 2018 to discuss and adopt various relief measures to be implemented by banks for the calamity affected borrowers. Accordingly, *vide* letter dated August 21, 2018, all the banks were advised by SLBC for implementation of the relief measures adopted by special SLBC meeting, which *inter alia* include the following:—

- (i) Restructuring/rescheduling of short-term crop loans and long-term (investment) credit with moratorium for minimum one year.
- (ii) No additional security/guarantee to be taken for restructured/rescheduled loans.
- (iii) Fresh crop loans to be sanctioned as per extant guidelines.
- (iv) Need based term loan and working capital limit for repair/acquisition of the damaged productive asset.
- (v) Margins and penal interest to be waived.

SLBC, Kerala has informed that the banks in Kerala have restructured a total amount of ₹ 6,574 crore in 148751 accounts during 2018-19.

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of insured crops due to non-preventable natural risks, thus providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen events.

State Government of Kerala invoked the Prevented Sowing provision of PMFBY for paddy crop in Alappuzha and Kottayam district in Kharif 2018 after the flood. As informed by DAC&FW, so far, claims amounting to ₹ 5.57 crore have been paid to 2851 farmers. Claims of ₹ 0.78 crore are payable under Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS).

In view of the severe floods in the State of Kerala, instructions have been issued by the Government to all Public/ Private Sector Insurance Companies/General Insurance Council / Life Insurance Council to quickly process and expedite settlement of all claims arising out of floods, *inter alia*, appointment of nodal officer in all affected districts

and deployment of adequate surveyors. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has also issued guidelines dated 17.08.2018 on quick and timely settlement of insurance claims of victims of Kerala floods.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that subsequent to flood situation in Kerala, credit limits under Short-Term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations) to Kerala State Cooperative has been enhanced by NABARD from ₹1100 crore to ₹1500 crore. Refinance under this line of credit is extended to State Cooperative Banks at the concessional rate of 4.5% p.a. out of Short-Term Cooperative Rural Credit (Refinance) Fund allocated by the Government for providing crop loans to farmers.

Besides the above, the Central Government has, *inter alia*, taken the following major initiatives to reduce the debt burden of farmers and for development of agriculture and welfare of farmers:—

- With a view to ensure availability of agriculture credit at a reduced interest rate of 7% p.a. to the farmers, the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) implements an interest subvention scheme for short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. The scheme provides interest subvention of 2% per annum to Banks on use of their own resources. Besides, additional 3% incentive is given to the farmers for prompt repayment of the loan, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest to 4%. In order to prevent distress sale by farmers, the benefit of interest subvention scheme has been extended to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post-harvest on the same rate as available to crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in Warehouses accredited by Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA).
- Under the aforesaid interest subvention scheme, to provide relief to farmers affected by natural calamities, the interest subvention on crop loan continues to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. Such restructured loans may attract normal rate of interest from the second year onwards as per policy laid down by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Loan to distressed farmers indebted to non-institutional lenders is an eligible category of farm credit under the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) as per directions issued by RBI.