

account of continuing ageing provision for NPAs recognised as a result of AQR initiated in 2015 and subsequent transparent recognition by banks, including under RBI's circular discontinuing restructuring schemes in the fourth quarter of F.Y. 2017-18. Additionally, because of hardening of bond yields, the bank had mark-to-market losses on its investment portfolios. Thus, by recognising NPAs transparency, up-front provisioning, and reforms for comprehensive systemic improvements in the bank, a clean and robust banking system has been put in place. The associate banks of State Bank of India (SBI) and Bharatiya Mahila Bank were merged with SBI, with effect from 1.4.2017. Since then, in addition to cleaning up the bank, it has improved its performance on a number of key parameters that position it for improved financial performance in succeeding quarters by leveraging the scale and synergy resulting from the merger. These include, *inter alia*, increase in bank's business by 7.5% by September, 2018, and substantial improvements in its Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) ratio from 39.64% to 45.27% as of September, 2018, Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) from 11.79% to 12.61% and Provision Coverage Ratio from 48.89% to 70.74%, as of September, 2018, as per data reported by SBI.

Loan waiver to farmers

2928. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total and average loans of the farmers of the country waived by Government till date during the last two years and as on date, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to waive off the loans of farmers upto rupees three lakhs; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) to (c) No farm loan waiver scheme was implemented by the Union Government during the last two years. Further, the Union Government at present is not considering any loan waiver scheme for farmers. As informed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), since 2014, various State Governments have announced their own schemes, *inter alia*, for loan waiver of farmers.

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:—

- Government fixes agriculture credit disbursement targets for the banking sector every year and banks have consistently surpassed these targets. The agriculture credit from institutional sources has increased from ₹ 6,07,376 crore in 2012-13 to ₹ 11,62,616.98 crore (provisional) in 2017-18, as reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.
- 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 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%. Further, in order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against warehouse receipts, the benefit of interest subvention scheme has been extended to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of up to 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).
- Reserve Bank of India 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.

- 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.
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) 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; stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming; and encouraging them to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
- For development of agriculture and welfare of farmers of the country, the Government in DAC&FW, is implementing various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which include:—
 - (i) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
 - (ii) National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
 - (iii) National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)
 - (iv) National Mission For Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

Unearthing of lottery and hawala rackets

2929. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of unearthing of lottery and hawala rackets during the last three years across India;
- (b) the total amount of money involved in these transactions;
- (c) whether any foreign connection has been unearthed in management of these rackets; and
- (d) the action taken by Government against people caught in India and also against those settled abroad?