Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rate forecast for financial year 2020 from 6.8 percent to 6.6 per cent as manufacturing and agricultural sectors showed signs of slowing down over the past year;

(b) Whether the agency has note that India has been faltering on export front also; and

(c) Whether late arrival of monsoon earlier slated for June last week has also caused much concern about the crop yields to considerable extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) Yes Sir. FITCH rating agency in its report titled "Global Economic Outlook-June 2019" has put India's Gross Domestic Product rate forecast for FY 2019-20 to 6.6 per cent from 6.8 per cent before stepping up to 7.1 per cent in FY 2020-21.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The above mentioned report has no mention about the cause of concern regarding the crop yield because of late arrival of monsoon.

**Waving agricultural loans**

3393. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to waive off agricultural loans in the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government plans to waive off all agricultural loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Union Government to waive off loans of farmers. However, to reduce the debt burden of farmers, the following major initiatives have been taken:

- 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, there by reducing the effective rate of interest to 4%.

- Under the aforesaid interest subvention scheme, to provide relief to farmers affected by natural calamities, the interest subvention (2%) on crop loan continues to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount. Such restructured loans may, however, attract normal rate of interest from the second year onwards as per the policy laid down by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- In order to provide relief to the farmers affected due to severe natural calamities, the Government in DAC&FW has decided that interest subvention of 2% per annum will be made available to banks for first three years/entire period (subject to a maximum of five years) on the restructured loan amount, and in all such cases the benefit of prompt repayment incentive at 3% per annum shall also be provided to the affected farmers. The grant of such benefits in cases of severe natural calamities shall, however, be decided by a High Level Committee (HLC) based on the recommendation of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) and Sub Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC).

- 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 been reduced from 50% to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework. Banks have been advised not to insist for additional collateral security for restructured loans.

- 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 Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme has been implemented to provide an assured income support to all farmers, irrespective of the size of their land holdings subject to the exclusion factor. Under this scheme direct income support @ of ₹ 6,000 per year will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal installments of ₹ 2,000 each.

- 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.

**Transfer of Accounts Officers of National Insurance Company**

3394. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Insurance Company, in spite of working on two Accounting Systems, namely GENSIS and EASY, has transferred (inter-State) a larger number of its Accounts Officers, including women officers, under its Transfer and Mobility Policy; and

(b) if so, why cannot these Accounts Officers be treated at par with Marketing/ IT Officers who are exempted from such transfer when these Accounts Officers are also doing a specialised kind of work, more particularly, at a time when the impending merger of Oriental Insurance, United Insurance and National Insurance is under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) The National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) is a Board governed entity which has its own Transfer and Mobility Policy (TMP).

NICL has informed that GENISYS and EASI are two operating platforms of NICL and systems are known to all officers in Accounts Department and hence no exemption has been provided for them under the TMP.

NICL has also informed that due consideration is given to lady officers to post them as near as possible to their desired place of posting. Further, the company has