

Agricultural Loans provided by Co-operative Agencies to Farmers

7351. SHRI B. D. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various State Governments are actively considering to condone the agricultural loans provided by the Cooperative Agencies to the farmers;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the total amount of the loan proposed to be condoned since 1976-77 (year-wise) giving the names of the States bearing the maximum and the minimum liability; and

(d) the main causes for the accumulation of the agricultural loans?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) : (a) and (c). The State Governments of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Tripura have proposed to write-off loans given to small farmers by cooperative credit institutions. Year-wise details for different States from 1976-77, as desired, are not available. However, Government of Maharashtra has made a budget provision of Rs. 49 crores (Rs. 40 crores under principal and Rs 9 crores under interest) for repayment to the credit agencies on account of over-due crop loans as on 30-6-79 from small farmers.

Government of Tamilnadu announced a decision to write-off Rs. 16 crores of taccavi loans and Rs. 42 crores of principal and interest on cooperative loans outstanding against small farmers.

Government of Orissa has expressed its intention to write-off cooperative loans outstanding against agriculturists mostly small and marginal farmers and has requested for Central assistance to meet this expenditure amounting to Rs. 22.50 crores.

Government of Tripura have made only a general suggestion without specifying the amount.

(b) Central Government are of the view that general or a large scale write-off loans is not in the long term interests of the States since this would vitiate the climate of recovery of loans and erode the viability of credit institutions.

(d) Government of Maharashtra are of the view that successive drought conditions have resulted in increasing the total burden of debt which in the case of small holder farmers had gone beyond their repayment capacity. Government of Orissa similarly think that drought conditions were the cause of the inability of small and marginal farmers to repay their loans.

देश में बूनकरों की संख्या

7352. श्री विजय कुमार यादव: क्या वाणिज्य मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में बूनकरों की, राज्यवार, कूल संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) बेरोजगार बूनकरों की, राज्यवार, संख्या कितनी है;

(ग) क्या उनको रोजगार देने अथवा बेरोजगारी भत्ता देने की कोई योजना है; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

वाणिज्य मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री जियाउर रहमान अंसारी): (क) देश में बूनकरों की कूल संख्या के बारे में जानकारी राज्य-वार उपलब्ध नहीं है। किन्तु ऐसा अनुमान है कि देश में कूल 1 करोड़ व्यक्ति अपनी जीविका के लिए इस उद्योग पर आश्रित हैं। इस समय देश में हथकरघों की कूल संख्या 38.55 लाख आंकी गई है। राज्यवार तालिका संलग्न है।