

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:383

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008

LOAN WAIVER TO FARMERS

Jatiya Dr. Satyanarayan;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of farmers likely to be benefited under the scheme for waiving of the loans of farmers, category-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the existing limit of two hectares to cover more farmers within the purview of the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) whether alongwith the loan waiver scheme, the Government proposes to provide quality seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and other inputs free of cost to small and marginal farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 383 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21ST APRIL, 2008.

(a): Government estimates that about three crore small and marginal farmers and about one crore other farmers will benefit from the scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers announced in the Union Budget for 2008-09. All the eligible farmers in the country are entitled to receive the benefit of debt relief under the scheme. However, category-wise and state-wise details in this regard will be available with the Government after implementation of the scheme.

(b) & (c): The scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers announced by the Government in the Union Budget for 2008-09 is applicable to all the farmers in the country. All direct agricultural loans disbursed to farmers by scheduled commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative credit institutions up to March 31, 2007 and overdue as on December 31, 2007 will be covered under the scheme. However, for marginal farmers (i.e., holding upto 1 hectare) and small farmers (1-2 hectare), there will be a complete waiver of all loans that were overdue on December 31, 2007 and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. In respect of other farmers, there will be a one time settlement (OTS) scheme for all loans that were overdue on December 31, 2007 and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. Under the OTS, a rebate of 25 per cent will be given against payment of the balance of 75 per cent.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.