

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1225

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013

PENDING BILL FROM MAHARASHTRA

Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha ;Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Bill from Maharashtra for regulation of Private Money Lending is pending with the Government for approval;
- (b) if so, whether the said Bill is designed to protect the farmers and villagers from exploitation by private money lenders in the rural areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has suggested some changes in the draft of the Bill;
- (e) whether the changes suggested by the Union Government in the said Bill have been incorporated by the Government of Maharashtra; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such Bill is likely to be approved?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): The Maharashtra Money-Lending (Regulation) Bill, 2010 as passed by the State Legislature of Maharashtra and reserved by the Governor of Maharashtra under article 200 read with article 254(2) of the Constitution of India for consideration and assent of the President of India under Article 201 of constitution of India has been received in Ministry of Home Affairs.

(b) & (c): The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill states that the various committees appointed by the State Government to study the reasons for farmers' suicides have submitted their reports, which, inter-alia, point out that harassment by money-lenders is a major reasons for such suicides. The Bombay Money-Lenders Act, 1946 is found to be too inadequate to prevent the harassment of the farmers-debtors by the money-lenders. The State Government of Maharashtra, therefore, considers it expedient to make a new law to regulate the transactions of Money-lending in the State.

(d) to (f): The State Legislations are examined in consultation with the central Ministries/Departments from three angles viz.

- i) Repugnancy with Central Laws;
- ii) Deviation from National or central Policy; and
- iii) Legal and constitutional validity.

Certain changes were suggested by the Union Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) in the Bill. These changes were referred to the State Government of Maharashtra for their clarification. The clarification received from the State Government of Maharashtra were again referred to Department of Financial Services for their further comments. In their reply, the Department of Financial Services has again reiterated their comments. Therefore, the same have been sent to the State Government of Maharashtra for their consideration. No time frame can be laid down for accord of such approval.