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<u>Title : Alleged contradictions in implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver Scheme.</u>

(u4/1740/snb-bks)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): The waiver and the relief scheme to the farmers is a very good scheme which is going to help many farmers. But when the scheme was to be implemented, the Government framed guidelines and according to those guidelines many of the declared benefits which were to accrue to the farmers have been curtailed. I can quote one example. In the Budget declaration in the Lok Sabha it was mentioned that all loans before 31.03.07 will be waived in case of all those eligible ones. But when it came to implementation, clause 4 of the guidelines stipulated that all long term loans before 01.03.97 will be out of the scheme. That is totally against what had been declared in the Lok Sabha.

There is another one and that is for short-term loans it was said that all the loans would be waived. But when it came to the guidelines, clause 3 of the guidelines states that in case of short-term loans a limit is fixed and that is Rs. 1,00,000/-. Any loan above Rs. 1,00,000/- would not come under this scheme. This is actually in contradiction to what had been declared in the Budget.

In fact, I have moved a Privilege Motion. I do not know the fate of that Privilege Motion because nothing has been said so far. The reply which has been given to the hon. Speaker also is very vague. For example, about long-term loans on or before 01.01.97, the hon. Minister has given a note to the hon. Speaker

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<u>* Not recorded</u>

stating that the loans which are already 10 years old will be provisioned by that time. How can it be provisioned? There are loans which are pending. For example, loans taken for cash crops like Rubber, Coffee and Tea are for 14 to 15 years and the repayment itself starts, in some cases, after 10 years. It does not get provisioned. I think, the matter has to be re-looked into. The Government should come forward to clear the contradiction and help the farmers who are now out of this scheme. Thank you.