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Title: Need to extend loan-waiver scheme to farmers who were forced to remit some amount towards interest on loan.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): I have given two matters but I will raise only one out of the two.

Regarding the waiver of loans, one serious problem is being seen. Many poor farmers have, in the last minute or in the same year before 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2007 remitted small amounts towards interest. It may be, just because of compulsion or just because the banks have told them that otherwise attachment would take place. Many of them, without any source, have gone to the bank. They remitted small amounts to the bank towards interest. Now, those honest persons are left out. They are not going to get the benefit. Those persons who did not pay any amount, even the interest part, they only are coming under the waiver benefit. This is a very serious issue. The poor farmers, who have taken further debts towards payment of small interest, might have taken money from the moneylenders. So, they must also be included. At least, those persons coming in the same financial year must be included.