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Title: Need to put a moratorium on payment of interest on debt by Government of West Bengal.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): The present West Bengal Government inherited a debt burden of Rs. 2.3 lakh crores from the previous Left Government when it came to power in 2011. Since then it has been demanding a moratorium on interest payment for three years but neither the UPA II Government nor the present NDA Government has paid heed to its demand. The debt burden will rise to Rs. 3 lakh crores at the end of the current financial year. Moreover, at the end of the current financial year debt servicing requirement is supposed to take away Rs. 32000 crore from the State out of which more than Rs. 23000 crore are towards interest due. The special financial assistance promised by the Finance Minister in the Budget is only Rs. 890 crores, which is chicken feed. The Chief Minister of West Bengal met the Prime Minister on March 9, 2015 and we hope that the Centre will accept the State's demand.