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Title:Need to provide interest free and subsidized loans to the farmers through the Nationalized Banks and NABARD.

SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN (MADURAI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy to share that under the leadership of *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, our State Tamil Nadu is progressing in all respects and particularly women, girl children and farmers are the beneficiaries who benefit most. Our *Amma* is persevering for the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu.

As a welfare measure to the farmers of Tamil Nadu, Amma has directed the Cooperative Banks in the State to extend interest free farm loans to the farmers on pledging gold. Short term loans for a period of six months against pledging gold is highly welcomed by all the farmers of Tamil Nadu. Small and marginal farmers are highly benefited as their interest is waived off on repayment of their loans within the stipulated time period. It is interest free loan. This waived off interest is borne by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. This has inculcated the habit of timely repayment of loans. The Cooperate Banks and the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies are motivated and functioning to their full strength and capacity. The Central Government has to adopt and introduce the said interest waive off scheme of *Amma* in the Nationalised Banks also for extending agricultural loans to the farmers. I would like to mention that the Nationalised Banks are fully stressed with Non-Performing Assets. I am sure that they will not be disappointed in extending loans to farmers if the Central Government bears the interest burden.

Since the last four-and-a-half years, the Cooperative Department has provided jewel loans of Rs. 1,849.71 crore to 4.05 lakh people through Central Cooperative Banks and Rs. 900.12 crore to 2.31 lakh people through Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS).

These kinds of efforts and initiatives are to be encouraged by the Central Government. The Central Government should provide interest free and subsidized loans to the farmers through the Nationalised Banks and NABARD.

I would like to suggest that the Central Government should follow the initiatives of our *Amma* as a role model. It may be extended to all the farmers of the country. I am sure that the farmers of the country will never think of committing suicide any more.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps to complement the welfare measures taken by our hon. *Amma* and the State of Tamil Nadu should be provided funds generously as a supportive measure.