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Title: Need to extend moratorium on agricultural loan.

ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a serious issue being faced by the farmers in Kerala. In Kerala, the moratorium on agricultural loans is going to expire on 31st July, 2019. The State of Kerala has faced the worst flood in 100 years in August last year resulting in severe crop loss. Due to this natural calamity, the Government of Kerala has sought to extend the moratorium on agricultural loans till 31st December, 2019. In Kerala, Rs. 80,803 crore have been distributed as agricultural loans through 76.28 accounts. Out of this, nearly 60 per cent of the loans is against pledging of gold for several years; only 1.25 lakh people will get the benefit of moratorium as they applied before 31st July, 2019. All the farmers thought that the new Government will write off all these loans. Unfortunately, this has not happened. A lot of these people have not made any re-arrangement for getting the benefit of moratorium in the belief that they will get a loan waiver. For these poor farmers, an extension of moratorium is required to be given by the Reserve Bank of India. It seems that the Reserve Bank of India is not in favour of Kerala's demand.

So, I request the Government to take urgent steps and issue necessary direction to the Reserve Bank of India for extending the moratorium on agricultural loans up to 31st December, 2019.