

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2601  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003  
SPECIAL LOANS TO GRAPE PRODUCERS  
PRAKASH V. PATIL

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government are aware that, though it has decided to grant special loans to grape producers in scarcity area of Maharashtra, the banks have not received formal orders from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD);
- (b) whether the grape growers are to be given concessional rate of interest on the loans on line of farmers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL)

(a) to (c) Keeping in view the difficulties faced by the Grape growers owing to drought during Kharif 2002, National Bank for agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has, as a one-time measure, approved/sanctioned a special refinance package for grape growers during 2002-03 in drought affected districts of Sangli, Solapur, Nasik, Pune, Beed, Latur, Osmanabad and Satara districts of Maharashtra in order to meet the additional cost of irrigation. Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank, Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and scheduled Primary Urban Cooperative Banks have been advised by NABARD to provide financial assistance to the grape growers on the basis of realistic credit requirements of the farmers and avail refinance from NABARD against the disbursements under the scheme. The loan is repayable within a period of five years or the remaining life of the grape garden, whichever is earlier. The rate of interest charged by NABARD on refinance is 6.75% per annum.