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Title: Need to extend the benefit of loan waiver scheme to the farmers having 16 acres and 10 acres land in unirrigated and irrigated areas respectively.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (YAVATMAL): Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has mentioned that for marginal farmers (i.e., holding upto 1 hectare) and small farmers (1-2 hectare), there will be a complete waiver of all loans that were overdue on December 31, 2007 and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. In respect of other farmers, there will be a one time settlement (OTS) scheme for all loans that were overdue on December 31, 2007 and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. Only 30% farmers of our country fall under the above mentioned category (1-2 hectare) and 70% farmers will not be able to get the benefit of this loan waiver scheme. So, this scheme should be extended to the farmers holding up to 16 acres unirrigated land or 10 acres irrigated land, because these farmers also come under small farmers category. The Government should consider the cause of these small marginal farmers and render justice to them by giving benefit of loan waiver scheme to the farmers holding upto 16 acres in unirrigated area and 10 acres in irrigated area.