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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of West Bengal to enable the State Government to re-pay the debt.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): I would like to request to the Finance Minister on behalf of people of West Bengal. Hon'ble Finance Minister understands the importance of fiscal correction at Central level. He would then certainly appreciate the agony of bearing huge debt burden by certain States like West Bengal so much so that the annual debt servicing i.e. Annual Interest and principal repayment comes to the sum of Rs 22,000 crore which is almost equal to State's own tax revenue. Under these circumstances, we have no other way but to request to the Government of India for an interest and repayment moratorium in the form of Annual Grant for a period of three consecutive years. I do hope, Hon'ble Minister would give due consideration to this request.