

an>

Title: Need to provide compensation and announce loan waiver scheme for farmers whose crops have been damaged by unseasonal rains and hailstorms in the country.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** The recent suicide by a farmer from Rajasthan has highlighted the losses, the farmers have suffered due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms across 13 states in North India in February-March. States like Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal have been affected by the calamity. What is needed now is not only compensation but also loan waiver. The Secretary (A&C) has written on 30.03.2015 to Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance highlighting major difficulties faced by the farmers in repayment of crop loans taken by them and requested to issue directions to banks in this regard as well as consider whether the benefit could be considered for restructured loans. But there has been no response so far. The West Bengal Chief Minister has written to Union Finance Minister on 09.04.2015 on the plight of the farmers, mentioning the losses suffered by potato farmers due to bumper crop and the steps State government has taken to give them relief. She has also asked for waiver of loans of farmers. The Centre should announce a decision immediately regarding payment of compensation to farmers and waiver of bank loans.