

23K farmers from city seek loan waiver

FAILED EXERCISE? 14,000 applicants of scheme for waiver of loans from outside the state of Maharashtra

(Free Press Journal 25-9-2017)

FPJ POLITICAL BUREAU
Mumbai

More than 14,000 farmers who have applied for the state's Rs 32,020 crore loan waiver scheme are from outside Maharashtra and are touted to be fake. Interestingly, applicants from Mumbai island city are around 23,000 whereas only 1,400 farmers have applied for loan waiver from suburban city. V K Gautam, principal secretary of the Information and Technology (IT) department whose department is scrutinising applications, said that farmers who are residing in Mumbai but having agriculture land in Konkan may have applied for the loan waiver

and hence the figure of applicants in Mumbai may have more than of suburban city.

The deadline for acceptance of forms to avail Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetakari Sanman Yojana (loan waiver scheme) was over on midnight of Friday. Though the government has announced that the beneficiaries would be 89 lakh farmers, in actuality, 56,59,393 (59 lakh+) farmers have submitted online application to avail benefit of loan waiver.

Out of these, 2,42,628 farmers have not submitted their Aadhaar number and hence may be excluded from the scheme. "We are scrutinising all applications and will



give one more opportunity to submit their Aadhaar number. The farmers who fail to submit, will not get benefit of loan waiver," said Gautam.

Elaborating fewer applications, Pandurang Fundkar, minister for agriculture said, "In most part of Vidarbha and Marathwada, though father and son have

taken loan from the banks, the agriculture land has not been set-apart between them. Hence, ownership of land on property card (7/12 extract) remained by the name of father."

He further said, "It means, though the bankers' committee has record on 89 lakh farmers who have taken loan, due to lack of separa-

tion of land, the number has been reduced." He added that as the benefit has offered based on agriculture land, only one member from such house will get benefit of the scheme.

Meanwhile, Gautam said that farmers who do not have mentioned district or state and some farmers who are from other state have also applied for the loan waiver scheme. "There are over 14,600 such applicants who are suspicious and need to further investigate. After detail scrutiny, the picture will be cleared and if found fake or from other state, the cooperative department will exclude them from the scheme," said Gautam. He added that our duty

is to scrutinise the forms and it will take some more time.

Chandrakant Patil, minister for revenue and relief and rehabilitation had said that actual amount of the loan waiver will be transfer in account of farmers in last week of October. It seems, farmers will get money not before Diwali.

The state government has begun the process acceptance the applications and registration for the loan waiver scheme from farmers across the state in 36 districts since July 24. Out of the total registered farmers, Ahmednagar has topped with over 3.15 lakh following Pune with more than 2.73 lakh farmers.