

Need to direct State Bank of India to reinstate the special agricultural Loan Scheme for pineapple growers in Kerala and other parts of country.-laid

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Pineapple cultivation is one of the most vibrant and economically significant agricultural sectors in Kerala. Recognising the importance of this sector, the State Bank of India had introduced a special loan scheme for pineapple farmers under which hundreds of farmers have availed agricultural loans ranging from ₹10 lakhs to several crores of rupees. For many years, farmers have been cultivating pineapple by relying on this credit facility. The scheme enabled timely renewal of loans in line with agricultural cycles and ensured uninterrupted farming activities. However, without any prior notice or consultation with the farming community, the State Bank of India has abruptly discontinued this special loan scheme. Farmers came to know about the decision only when they approached the bank for loan renewal. They were informed that the scheme had been withdrawn and that they would be required to repay the entire outstanding loan amount immediately before becoming eligible for any other loan facility. This has resulted in the Risk of crop losses. Therefore, I would like to request the Finance Minister to kindly issue necessary directions to the State Bank of India to reinstate this scheme.