

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 522[NW673E]**

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**Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

- (1) (a) How many distressed farmers have received (i) financial assistance and (ii) other forms of assistance from the Land Bank (aa) in the 2010-2011 financial year and (bb) during the period 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2011 and (b) what form of assistance was received in each case;
- (2) whether (a) financial viability and (b) medium to long-term sustainability studies have been conducted in this regard; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

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**REPLY:**

1. (a)(i)(aa) During the 2010/11 financial year, 122 beneficiaries were assisted.
1. (a) (i)(bb) During the current financial year, 294 beneficiaries were assisted.
1. (b) The assistance which was provided included a combination of the following:
  - Additional disbursements to clients;
  - Reduction of interest rates;
  - Ring-fencing of arrears, resulting in no interest being charged on the arrears;
  - Debt write-offs;
  - Lengthening the repayment profile of their loans; and or
  - Assisting distressed clients to forge partnerships with appropriate service providers who can provide them with technical assistance.
- 2 (a) As part of the restructuring process feasibility studies are conducted on all participating clients.
2. (b) These feasibility studies inform the restructuring approach and the medium to long – term sustainability.