

the question?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: The question is whether Prof. Madhu Dandavate, hon. Finance Minister will constitute an inquiry to find out why the prices of sugar shot up from Rs. 8/- per kg. to Rs. 15/- per kg. and whether there was *hera pheri* of Rs. 300 crores in it and whether the palms of the people in the then ruling party, that agents and other people were greased? (*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted anyone except Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

(*Interruptions*)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I would like to assure the House that in giving reply, I would not like to induct politics into this question. But, at the same time, considering the economic aspect of the problem, I would like to assure my friend, Shri Kundu; he has asked whether I would examine the proposition of setting up a Committee to inquire into the factor that was responsible for the rise in prices. I would like to tell him that the Finance Ministry feels that there is no need for the Committee; we are already in the know of the things about the mal-practices that have taken place. We are already conscious of the aberrations in the policies and what corrections have to be done. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Have you taken action? (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Yes. I welcome the suggestion that has come from the opposition that we should take action. We will take firm action against those who

are responsible for the mal-practices and will solve the problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question.

Vacancies of Judges In Supreme Court and High Courts

+

*5. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in various High Courts and Supreme Court;

(b) the details thereof for each High Court and Supreme Court as on 30 November, 1989; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to fill these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). A statement showing the vacancies of Judges in various High Courts and the Supreme Court as on 30th November, 1989 is given below.

(c) Selection of Judges involves deliberations in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and is a continuous process. Government are making all possible efforts to ensure the delay that occurs in filling up the vacancies of judges at various levels is reduced to the minimum.

STATEMENT

Vacancies in Various High Courts as on 30-11-1989

I	S.No.	High Court	Number of Vacancies
	1.	Allahabad	11
	2.	Andhra Pradesh	8

*Not recorded.

I	S.No.	High Court	Number of Vacancies
	3.	Bombay	5
	4.	Calcutta	3
	5.	Delhi	6
	6.	Gauhati	—
	7.	Gujarat	8
	8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
	9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
	10.	Karnataka	6
	11.	Kerala	2
	12.	Madhya Pradesh	7
	13.	Madras	6
	14.	Orissa	1
	15.	Patna	7
	16.	Punjab & Haryana	4
	17.	Rajasthan	3
	18.	Sikkim	2
		Total	83
II		Supreme Court:	Sanctioned strength : 26
			Actual strength : 24
			Vacancies : 2

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Sir, the time is too short. So, I shall put both the Supplementaries?

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question first.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: The Minister has stated, in his reply, that the process of consultation and deliberation in the selection of judges under the Rules, consumes inescapable delay. Moreover, the

search for the favoured persons, rather than the talented, adds to the delay in the process. So, the casualty is public litigants and justice. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is planning to cut short this process and provide some speedy method to fill up the vacancies?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, the procedure for appointment of the judges had been laid down in the Constitution itself. Therefore, if we want to change the procedure, a constitutional amendment will be necessary. We are examining the whole matter, at the present moment. But, at the same time, under the constitutional provisions, we ought to consult the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of a State and in the case of judges, the Chief Justice of the High Court. Now, in many States, new Chief Ministers have come and new Governments have come into being. Of course, we have referred those cases back, for their opinions and so it is going to take some time.

For the broader question, whether we are contemplating any change in the procedure for selection of a judge itself, that will be a part which we will discuss while considering the aspects of judicial reform. At the present moment, we have no proposal as such for changing the procedure.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Transfer of Judges

*7. **SHRI V.N. GADGIL:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue the practice of appointing the Chief Justices of High Courts from other States;

(b) whether Government also propose

to continue the policy of transfer of High Court Judges; and

(c) if not, what would be the policy of Government in the matter;

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Even though consultation with the Chief Justice of India is necessary in every case of transfer of a puisne Judge, the Government will consider such a transfer only on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India.

Condoning of Agricultural Loans by Banks

*8. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total assets of the nationalised banks in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to condone the bank loans below Rs. 10,000/- in the agricultural sector;

(c) if so, the approximate liability on this account; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to compensate the banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) According to Reserve Bank of India, the total assets of 28 public sector banks as on 28th July, 1989 was Rs. 2,44,500 crores. As per working results of the above banks the profits for the year concluding 31st March, 1989 was Rs. 365 crores.

(b) The Government will take appropriate steps to provide debt relief for marginal