

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