

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

farmers, landless agricultural labourers, artisans and weavers on loans below Rs. 10,000.

(c) and (d). RBI has estimated the share of small and marginal farmers in the outstanding loans of commercial banks and cooperatives in Agriculture Sector at about Rs. 12,000 crores. Government desires to ensure that richer sections of the society and wilful defaulters do not get benefit in the process and further that the credibility of the financial institutions does not get eroded. The modalities of providing debt relief to specified groups are being examined in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

New Note Printing Press at Salboni, West Bengal

*9. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a New Note Printing Press at Salboni in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Government have approved the setting up two New Note Printing Presses, one at Salboni in West Bengal and the other at Mysore in Karnataka. The estimated cost of the two projects is Rs. 844 crores. The presses are designed to print about 5000 million pieces of currency notes per annum, each.

Trade Turnover from IITF

*10. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the India Inter-

national Trade Fair (IITF) held in Delhi recently;

(b) the volume of trade turnover from the Fair;

(c) whether any new agreements were entered into with other countries for exports and imports during the Fair; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) While IITF-89 covered various aspects of industry, agriculture, trade, science & technology etc., the special displays were on:—

(i) Environment—Air, Water, Earth and

(ii) Essential Oils, Fragrances and Flavours.

(b) to (d). It is difficult to quantify the business booked and agreements signed during the fair because business usually results over a period of time after the fair. The principal objectives of the IITF are to facilitate business contacts, project export capabilities, to offer technology options to Indian industry and create greater awareness among the Indian public about developments in different fields.

Decontrol of Newsprint Import

*11. SHRI BANWAR LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand for the decontrol of newsprint import;

(b) whether Government propose to decontrol the import of newsprint and if so, when; and