

to give an assurance in the House that this will not be done, and that character assassination of women will not take place.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I am aware that the number of ladies I will personally like to see in the Bench is much less than what it is today. I can tell the hon. member that I have addressed letters to the Chief Justices as also State Chief Ministers telling them that while sending recommendations for appointment of judges they should particularly take care to see that suitable persons belonging to the SC&ST, minorities and women are forwarded. My problem is this. If the constitutional functionaries including Chief Justices—by constitutional functionaries I mean Governors, Chief Ministers and the Chief Justices—do not send any recommendations for appointment of a woman judge and if I appoint some woman as judge, then I may be accused of making a political appointment. Therefore, I hope that the constitutional functionaries will send their recommendations accordingly; and I can assure the hon. member that if the recommendation comes from the constitutional functionary, this will get the highest priority, so far as I am concerned. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: It is necessary. (*Interruptions*)

AN. HON. MEMBER: How many vacancies exist in the Supreme Court as on today?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: In the Supreme Court, when this Government took over, there were four vacancies; and immediately we filled up three vacancies. One vacancy still exists in the Supreme Court.

Vacancies of Judges in J & K High Court

*167. **SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of judges for the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of vacancies at present; and

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). The sanctioned strength of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court is 7 permanent Judges and there are two vacancies at present.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up. The State authorities have been asked to send recommendations for making appointments.

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the two vacancies referred to in the answer. One is caused due to the death of Justice Shah and the other is caused as a result to transfer of Justice Bhatt.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Actually I do not know how these two vacancies did occur. But I will check up and let you know.

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: Assuming that it is due to the transfer of Mr. Justice Bhatt from Kashmir to Allahabad, how is it that at the time of transfer, there is no replacement order? You transfer a judge and remain content with that.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Obviously, this type of vacancies are filled up even by transfer. There may be difficulties for which the vacancies may not be filled up. But this was before actually I took over; and there are some difficulties. But I can tell you that so far as I am concerned, I have written to the constitutional functionaries and I am waiting for their replies. I will fill up vacancies as soon as I get replies both from the Chief Justices and the Governors.

Loans Given by Public Sector Banks[*Translation*]

*168. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR
MALHOTRA:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks have taken a decision to distribute the loans on terms framed for the credit camps;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of loans distributed so far under the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Neither Government nor the Reserve Bank of India have formulated any specific terms or schemes for distribution of loans by public sector banks in credit camps. For the scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) the application forms of beneficiaries are to be prepared in a camp attended by the beneficiaries, the block functionaries, the other concerned departments including the revenue department and the bankers. The camp system is advisable to save time and energy of the beneficiaries in the completion of the applications, and procurement of requisite documents. The public sector banks have also been organising the credit camps in order to provide credit assistance to weaker sections. The data reporting system of banks does not yield any regular information in respect of such camps. However, on the basis of an estimate arrived at, during 1985 to 1989, the public sector banks had organised 38702 camps in which Rs. 1103 crores were disbursed to 28.43 lakh beneficiaries.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether there is any provision for waiving the loans upto Rs. 5,000 each distributed in the loan melas, as has been done in case of loans of farmers upto Rs. 10,000?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you permit me, I can answer this question, otherwise this question is not directly related to the main question.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is not directly related, then leave it.

Shri Malhotra, you please ask the second supplementary question.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I would like to know whether the Government proposes to waive the loans of the poorer and weaker sections of the society, including artisans, craftsmen and small shopkeepers, who were given loans upto Rs. 5,000, each in loan melas on the lines of the provision made to waive the loans of the farmers? Some of them had received Rs. 2,500, some had received Rs. 5,000 and some others received just Rs. 1,000. It is true that these loan melas were organised by the Congressmen, with elections in their mind. Yet I would like to know whether any such proposal is under consideration of the Government?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you permit, I can answer this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you may answer it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It has been clearly stated in the Budget that we are waiving the loans, in consonance with the assurance we had given in our election manifesto. Accordingly loans upto Rs. 10,000 taken by farmers, weavers, artisans etc., which were due upto 2nd October, 1989, would be waived by the Government, but if