

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) As on 15.3.1990, there were 2 Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes in the Supreme Court, and 9 Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes and 2 Judges belonging to Scheduled Tribes in different High Courts of the country.

(b) The Government have addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges so as to give them better representation on the High Courts.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Debt

*182. **PROF. YADUNATH PANDEY: SHRI NATHU SINGH:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of outstanding foreign debts in the year 1980;

(b) the total amount of outstanding foreign debts as on 31 December, 1989; and

(c) the action plan drawn up, if any, to repay these debts?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The total amount of the country's foreign debts outstanding excluding NRI deposits at the end of 1980-81 was of the order of Rs. 18400 crores.

(b) The total amount of the country's foreign debts outstanding excluding NRI deposits at the end of 1988-89 is estimated to be Rs. 68831 crores. Information as at the end of 31st December, 1989 is not available

as the accounts for the period are yet to close.

(c) The loans are being repaid on due dates according to the terms and conditions of each loan. The level of the country's external indebtedness and the likely burden of debt servicing are constantly kept in view to ensure that debt servicing liability remains within our capacity to meet these obligations.

[*English*]

Certificates of Deposits

*183. **SHRI K.S. RAO:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'certificates of deposits' introduced last year by the Reserve Bank of India to give investors greater flexibility in the deployment of their short-term surplus funds has evoked a good response from industrial and corporate investors;

(b) if so, the categories of investors with whom the 'certificates of deposits' instrument has been popular;

(c) whether the State Bank of India and the other commercial banks have achieved the targets fixed in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the commercial banks have approached the Reserve Bank of India seeking its permission for allowing them to continue 'certificates of deposits'; and

(e) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India propose to allow the continuation of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (e). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the scheme of 'Certificates of Deposits' (CDs)