

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued bonds in foreign countries keeping in view the need of foreign exchange in the country;

(b) if so, the value of bonds, in foreign exchange issued in the current financial year so far and the names of the countries where these bonds have been issued;

(c) the value of foreign exchange earned so far through these bonds; and

(b) the purposes for which foreign exchange so earned has been utilised by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Government have not issued any bonds in foreign countries. However, some Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Financial Institutions (FIs) have issued bonds in order to meet their foreign exchange requirements. Such bonds issued by PSUs and FIs in the current financial year are as follow:-

1. ONGC : Swiss Francs 150 million Bond Issue in Switzerland.
2. ONGC : Yen 20 billion Samurai Bond Issue in Japan.
3. ONGC : US \$ 125 million Bond Issue in U.K.
4. IDBI : DM 250 million Bond Issue in West Germany.
5. ICICI : Swiss Francs 80 million Bond Issue in Switzerland.

The money raised in the bond markets by the PSUs is utilized for meeting their foreign

exchange requirements and by FIs for the foreign exchange requirements of the industrial undertakings to whom they on-lend.

[English]

Vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

*133. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 1 November, 1988;

(b) the reasons for delay in filling up these vacancies; and

(c) the time-frame to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As on 1-11-1988, there were 10 vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and 65 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges in the High Courts.

(b) and (c). Selection of Judges involves deliberations in consultation with the concerned Constitutional authorities and is a continuous process. As such, it is not possible to indicate any time-frame.

Exports from Eastern Region

*134. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strategy for promoting exports from the eastern region is being finalised;

(b) whether he convened a special meeting of all the eastern States in Calcutta in this regard;

(c) if so, the States which attended the meeting; and

(d) to what extent this will boost the exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government have been considering the question of evolving plans to increase exports from some of the States in the Eastern Region like West Bengal, Tripura and some others in the North Eastern Region like Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. At a meeting in New Delhi on 12th October, 1988, chaired by Minister of State for Commerce, the Action Plans prepared by Trade Development Authority for West Bengal and Tripura were discussed. The meeting was attended, among others, by the representatives of the State Governments of West Bengal and Tripura.

(d) At this stage it is too early to give any indication of the export potential as the Plans have not yet been finalised.

Memorandum on Narmada Valley Project

*135. DR. DATTA SAMANT:
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government

has submitted a memorandum to Union Government asking for fresh review of the gigantic Narmada Valley Project;

(b) if so, the details of new proposals suggested; and

(c) the steps Government have taken recently to solve the dispute regarding this project?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Promotion of Trade by Indo-Pak Joint Commission

*136. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI:
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission has played a useful role in the expansion of bilateral trade;

(b) the commodities presently covered under Indo-Pak trade; and

(c) the other possible commodities which can be considered for trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The Sub-Commission on Trade under Joint Commission has provided a forum for detailed discussions on ways and means of boosting bilateral trade.

(b) India's major exports have been tea, iron ore, crude vegetable materials, spices