

these draft Recruitment Regulations. The policy matters of the Tobacco Board are decided by the Board/its Committees having regard to the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act and Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

Women Judges in High Court.

1373. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the total number of women judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): There are 12 women judges in position in the following High Courts:

1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Bombay	1
3.	Calcutta	2
4.	Delhi	3
5.	Kerala	1
6.	Madras	1
7.	Orissa	1
9.	Rajasthan	2
Total		12

There is no woman judge in the Supreme Court

Clearance for Singur Project of Andhra Pradesh

1374. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the likely

data by which Singur Irrigation project of Andhra Pradesh will be cleared by Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): Techno-economic appraisal of the project has been completed.

Writing off of Debts to Farmers

1375. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware of the growing tendency of various State Governments to write off debts to farmers;

(b) if so, whether this tendency is within the framework of the fiscal policy laid down by the Reserve Bank of India in consultation with his Ministry; and

(c) if not, what effective steps Union Government propose to take to check this growing tendency in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some State Governments have been writing off principal amounts or interest due from farmers.

(b) The consistent stand of RBI and Central Government in this regard has been that generalised waivers or write off of farm loans through whatever modality, irrespective of the merits of each case, harm the agricultural credit system.

(c) It is also reported by RBI that a decision has been taken that henceforth State Cooperative Banks and State Land Development Banks would get refinance