

/5 December, 2006]

RAJYA SASHA

Shortage of coins

1414, SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people have been experiencing the problem of shortage of coins all over the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints of melting of coins by some unscrupulous elements for their personal gains; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have initiated to make sufficient supplies of the coins as well as to punish those found melting the coins?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No shortage of coins have been reported from any part of the country Reserve Bank of India is maintaining adequate supply of coins of all denominations. Law enforcement agencies are taking appropriate action against persons found involved in melting of coins

Non-merit subsidies

1415. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the extent of non-merit subsidies provided by Government in the last three years and the major heads under which they are given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Details of subsidies provided by the Government as per the Budget is as below:

Subsidies of the Central Government

(Rs. in crore)

| | | 2004-05 | 2005-06 (RE.) | 2006-07 (BE.) |
|---|--|---------|------------------|------------------|
| A | Major Subsidies | 42484 | 43643 | 44792 |
| 1 | Food subsidy | 23280 | 23200 | 24200 |
| 2 | Indigenous (Urea) fertilisers | 10243 | 10410 | 10410 |
| 3 | Imported (Urea) fertilisers | 742 | 1094 | .1093 |
| 4 | Sale of decontrolled fertilizers with concession to farmers | 5142 | 5749 | 5749 |
| 5 | Petroleum subsidy | 2957 | 2930 | 3080 |
| 6 | Grants to NAFED for MIS/PPS | 120 | 260 | 260 |
| B | Other Subsidies | 1169 | 3231 | 1421 |
| C | Total-Subsidies | 43653 | 46874 | 46213 |

Source: Expenditure Budget Volume I.

Closure of Urban Co-Operative Banks

1416. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Private and Urban Co-operative Banks which were closed during the last three years;

(b) what steps being taken/proposed to be taken to meet the claims of the depositors of such private and urban co-operative banks; and

(c) what progress has been made to honour the claims of the depositors of the Charminar, Vasavi and Prudential Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The number of licences cancelled and application for banking licences rejected in respect of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) during the year 2003-04,2004-05,2005-06 and