

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Sir, the scheme of the workers' participation has been a failure in our country, because the Government wants workers' cooperation without participation in management. The whole idea is to support some trade unions, and not to come to a rational decision in the matter of representation. May I know from the hon. Minister, who is also a champion of the working class, whether he will accept the principle of elected representatives of workers and not nominate those who are not recognized and who have no following in the workers?

श्री टी० भन्जय्या : मैंने पहले ही आपसे कहा कि 25 और 26 की जो माई० एल० सी० कॉफ़ेस है उसमें डिस्टाइड होगा । . . .
(व्यवधान) . . .

Import of coins to meet coin shortage

*24. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:†

SHRI M. KALAYANA
SUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of small coins still persists; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the total number of each type of small coins, including one rupee coins, for which orders were placed with mints in foreign countries to meet the shortage;

(c) what is the number of coins out of these type-wise which have been delivered to Government as on date;

(d) how many pieces out of them were released by the Reserve Bank of India for circulation as on date;

(e) what steps are being taken to ease the shortage of small coins; and

(f) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up new mints and also to increase the capacity of the existing mints to meet the coin shortage; if so, what are the details thereof?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. Gopal-samy.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Reports of shortage of coins are being received from various parts of the country. There is a gap between supply and demand of coins. Owing to present capacity constraints in the Mints, it has not been possible to meet the demand fully.

(b) Orders have been placed with foreign Mints for supply of coins as indicated below:

Denomination	Number in Million Pieces
1 Rupee	1000.00
50 Paise	750.00
25 Paise	250.00
	TOTAL 2000.00

(c) and (d) So far 202.40 million pieces of 1 Rupee coin and 110.50 million pieces of 50 paise coins have been received and handed over to the Reserve Bank of India for distribution. Out of these the Reserve Bank of India have as on 9-11-85, made arrangement for distribution of 103.31 million pieces of 1 Rupee coin and 10.63 million pieces of 50 paise coins and the balance is in Reserve Banks pipe line for distribution.

(e) and (f) Government have taken various steps to augment the production of coins such as introduction of Incentive Schemes and increased working hours in the three Mints, and a second shift in the Calcutta Mint. As part of the modernisation and expansion of the existing three Mints, 22 new Coining Presses have been are being installed. These measures have already resulted in substantial increase in production of coins which was 1355.7 million pieces in 1984-85, as against 1063

million pieces in 1983-84, 660 million pieces in 1982-83 and 525 million pieces in 1981-82. The target for 1985-86 is 2000 million pieces. The existing 3 mints are also being modernised. As a long term measure it has been decided to establish a new Mint at NOIDA, Ghaziabad (U. P.) and steps are being taken to implement this decision. The new Mint with an estimated capacity of 2000 million pieces of coins per annum is scheduled to be commissioned by 1988-89.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, wherever the people go in the capital city, whether they travel in the bus or go to a cinema theatre or a restaurant or whether they go for shopping, they suffer a lot because of the coin shortage in spite of the efforts which have been mentioned in the statement by the hon. Minister. These are the coins of the Government. I am keeping them in my hand. If you go to the Mother Dairy, the balance is mentioned on the back of this paper. Here, the balance of Re. 1 has been noted on the ticket of a D.T.C. bus. Should the people go to Scindia House and get the balance even if they have to wait in the queue for two or three hours? The 21st Century is fast approaching and we are going back to the middle ages. *Biris*, pencils and even contraceptives are given as coins. It has been reported in India Today. In this country, Tughlak once tried leather coins. Now, these coins are distributed in the capital city and also in Bombay. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister what steps he is going to take in order to solve this problem. It has become an acute problem causing so much of hardship in the capital city of Delhi and also in Bombay.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, we share the concern of the hon. Member. It is true that there is a gap between the supply and demand. On account of the constraints, particularly the capacity constraint, it has not been possible to meet the demand fully. I can bring to the notice of the hon. Members that because of the steps that we have taken, we have doubled the production. As the hon. Member is aware, steps have to be taken to augment the production and supply has to be increased. For that purpose, we have introduced the incentive system in

order to increase the production. The working hours in the three mints have also been increased from 48 hours to 54 hours. Shifts have also been increased. I am very glad to inform the House that the people working in the Calcutta mint have now agreed for the second shift. The production has increased because of the steps we have taken. As I said earlier, in the year 1982-83, the production was 660 million pieces. Now, in the year 1984-85, the production has increased to 1355 million pieces. Our target for this year is 2000 million pieces. Already within the short period of these 7 months, we have been able to increase the production to 1071.49 million pieces. I am very happy to tell the House that the Government has taken a decision to set up a mint at NOIDA with a production capacity of 2000 million pieces per year at a cost of 30 crores of rupees. It is scheduled to be commissioned by 1988-89. I think with this increase in production and also with the import of 2000 million pieces of coins from abroad we will be in a position to meet the situation. I request the hon. Member, the House and the nation to bear with us for some time.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has received any reports about hoarding of coins in big cities and also about melting of certain coins and use of coins for other purposes. If so, has the Government taken any steps to check it?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, we have received some unconfirmed reports to the effect that there are some hoarders and also that some people have hoarded for the purpose of melting them and that some people have hoarded them for the purpose of selling them on a premium. Sir, there is a provision for taking action if they are hoarded for the purpose of melting. We have written to the State Governments to take action in the matter. But, unfortunately, so far we have not received any reports on the action taken in the matter. Sir, here also monitoring is taking place. I am very sorry to say that and I am confessing that so far no information has been received from any State Government.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Sir, with regard to the sufferings of the people due to the shortage of coins, I cannot improve upon what my friend Mr. Gopalsamy has explained, but may I know from the hon. Minister why they failed to plan for this increased demand when they prepared the budget, which they could very well anticipate. You have produced a deficit budget. When you go on printing notes, will it not result in an acute shortage of coins? Why did the Finance Ministry fail to anticipate that such a shortage would occur and be prepared for that? With regard to the imports also, you have not succeeded in importing the full quantity for which you placed orders. This shortage was there earlier also. Five years ago it happened. Even after having the experience, the Finance Ministry has not improved its style of work with regard to the problems concerning the people and economy of this country. What is the long-term solution which the Finance Ministry is going to promise? I wish him success for the new plant which he has promised. But, what are the steps and are we satisfied with the steps that the Government have taken to improve production from the existing mints?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP

SINGH: Sir, it is not true that we have not paid attention. My colleague has already mentioned that within two years we have been able to double the production and the result is the test of the effort. Twenty-two new coining presses costing Rs. 4.5 crores have been procured for the three mints and except for four presses all have been installed and the remaining will be installed within two or three months. This is a concrete effort. For NOIDA also there is the proposal for an investment of Rs. 30 crores for a new mint. So, these are the very concrete steps. So far as the question of anticipation is concerned, it has a little history. It was in 1978 when stocks had accumulated that there was a misjudgment of demand and supply. So, instead of augmenting production, the demand was met by stocks for quite some time. While there was no obvious shortage because you were meeting the demand by your stocks and not by increasing the production base,

during this time the demand caught up much more than your production base, we started making an efforts in augmenting the production base and the specific measures that were taken I have concretely pointed out.

श्रीमती शान्ती पहाड़िया : श्रीमान्, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि अभी जो सिक्कों की कमी है यह कब तक दूर हो जाएगी? हमारे देहातों में यह हालत है कि अगर छोटा रुपया नहीं मिलता है तो दुकानदार माचिस पकड़ा देते हैं। उनके पास अगर 75 पैसे या 60 पैसे नहीं होते हैं तो बीड़ी पकड़ा देते हैं। आप जानते हैं कि बीड़ी महिलाओं के काम की चीज नहीं है।

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP

SINGH: Sir, it is a problem. I do not minimise the problem on this account. The position in this regard is that the expansion of production and meeting the demand will take them about two years to click with each other. That is why in the interim period we decided on imports to minimise the suffering of the people. I missed to reply one point earlier, namely, that the total quantum of imports has not taken place. The imports are on schedule. By the end of the year out of two thousand million pieces about fifteen hundred million pieces we intend to bring within the financial year and two thousand was projected by June 1986. By then, we will be completing as per the schedule.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Shortage of coins has become perennial. So far currency and the coinage have been in the public sector. The Government has made a departure by going in for imports. I want to know whether the Government has in view to encourage the private entrepreneurs to set up medium size mints, and secondly, till the shortage is over, whether the Finance Minister would ensure that prices of all articles are fixed at the nearest rupee or 50 paise.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP

SINGH: Certainly we have no proposal of minting in private sector and I categorically deny that Government would think on those lines. But certainly we are exploring possibility in the public sector whether HMT etc. should do that. It is a

very preliminary stage and that is all about that.

About the second part, I will take taxes in minimum of one rupee.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRA-SHANT: I would like to know whether the Minister is aware of the situation of coins in the villages which are at the remotest corner of the country. Coins are completely missing there. Barter system has started; people have gone 200 years back, to the old barter system. While the Government may cope with the situation, will it keep in mind the position of those villages?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: There are various distribution points in the country. We are making maximum efforts to see that coins reach those points and all efforts are made to supply the coins and meet the demands placed by the various regions.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: I crave your indulgence and place a very serious problem connected with it, and that is of soiled currency notes. It is very difficult to exchange them in the banks...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: It does not add to the honour of our country to import coins from our colonial masters.

After reading the statement, it seems, if Government is guilty of not anticipating the demand, the present situation is really aggravated by the Reserve Bank. I think the Reserve Bank seems to be more guilty than the Government. For example, they have imported so far 202.40 million pieces of one-rupee coins but till 9-11-1985, the Reserve Bank distributed only 103.31 pieces, that is, 50 per cent. Regarding 50-paise coins, Reserve Bank received 110.50 million pieces, whereas only 10.63 million pieces have been distributed. It seems the Reserve Bank has now a stock of coins of one rupee and 50 paise. What is the delay. Why don't the Government take Reserve Bank to task? What is causing the delay?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: The hon. Member will be glad to know that distribution from Reserve Bank is in transit, and the consignment has been received. The last consignment was received in the end of October; one or two consignments had been received by the end of September. Reserve Bank has made efforts to distribute the consignments, particularly to various parts of the country. Not only that, even the commercial banks, the nationalised banks have been also asked—particularly the State Bank of India—to distribute coins through their branches. And in the main reply, we have stated, that we have been able to; the Reserve Bank of India has been able to, distribute 103.31 million pieces of one rupee coins and 10.13 million pieces of fifty paise coins and the balance is in the pipeline for distribution. It is true that efforts should be made. That is why, there is a meeting tomorrow in the evening and there will be another meeting of the General Managers of mints next Sunday in the evening. We are monitoring it and we will be monitoring it on a war-footing.

डा० बापू कालदाते : सभापति महोदय, इतने सारे सवाल पूछने के बाद हमें इस नतीजे पर आना पड़ता है कि दो-तीन सालों तक ये कौइन हम लोगों को पूरे ढंग से मिलने वाले नहीं हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार के सामने यह भी एक मुद्दा है कि जैसे आप एक रुपये का नोट छापते हैं तो बजाय डी०टी० सी० और अन्य जगहों में कागज के टुकड़े लेने के आप ही 50 पैसे, 25 पैसे और 10 पैसे के छोटे छोटे नोट छापकर उनको कौइन के रूप में लोगों को देने के बारे में कोई विचार कर रहे हैं।

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : मैंने अर्ज किया कि जितना आपका प्रोडक्शन बस है, डिमान्ड है वह दो साल में पूरी हो जायेगी। लेकिन अंतरिम पीरियड के लिये हम लोग जो इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं उससे मार्च एंड तक प्रभाव पड़ेगा, इस साल राहत मिल जायेगी, यह नहीं कि दो साल तक सफरिंग रहेगी।

जहाँ तक कागज प्रिन्ट करने की बात है उससे मामला सुलझेगा नहीं। जो कागज है वह जल्दी खराब होता है। इससे इसकी डिमान्ड और ज्यादा बढ़ेगी और इससे समस्या का कोई हल नहीं होगा।

SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Sir, Keynes, great British economist has said, 'Money is what money does'. My question is, is the price of the metal in the coin equivalent to the exchange rate? During the British period, one rupee coin was equivalent to the exchange rate. It was devalued by our time. Part (b) of my supplementary is, when you placed the order with the U.K. mint house, did you not conceive of the difficulties, did you not conceive as to what will be the requirement for the next five years? If the order has been placed, what is the quantum?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is being repeated. We have reached a shortage of new ideas. Next question.

बन्द पड़ी कपड़ा मिलों का पुनः चालू किया जाना

* 25. श्री मीर्जा ईशविदेग : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश की बन्द पड़ी कपड़ा मिलों को पुनः चालू करने के सम्बन्ध में क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं ;

(ख) ऐसी मिलों की संख्या क्या है जिन्हें पुनः चालू कर दिया गया है अथवा जो पुनः चालू की जाने वाली हैं तथा उनमें से प्रत्येक मिल कब पुनः चालू की गयी अथवा चालू की जाने वाली है;

(ग) कपड़ा मिलों को पुनः चालू करने हेतु केन्द्रीय सहायता देने के बारे

में बम्बई के लिए अलग तथा गुजरात के लिए अलग सिद्धान्त अपनाये जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) उपरोक्त केन्द्रीय सहायता से मजदूर किस प्रकार लाभान्वित होंगे ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री खुर्शीद आलम खान) : (क) से (घ) सभा पटल पर एक विवरण रखा जाता है।

विवरण

(क) सरकार ने देश में बंद पड़ी कपड़ा मिलों की समस्याओं की जांच करने के लिए अधिकारियों के एक समूह का गठन किया है ताकि उन मिलों के सम्बन्ध में, जो कि सम्भाव्य रूप से जीवनक्षम हैं और जिन्हें पुनः चालू किया जा सकता है, पुनर्वास कार्यक्रम तैयार किए जा सकें।

(ख) एक अनुपत्र सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है।

(ग) 13 कपड़ा मिलों का प्रबन्ध ग्रहण अक्टूबर, 1983 में किया गया था। कपड़ा मिलों को पुनः खोलने के सम्बन्ध में सरकार की नीति पिछले जून में घोषित नई वस्त्र नीति के अनुसार रहती है। गुजरात राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार की अग्रिम योजना सहायता की मदद से 12 बंद पड़ी मिलों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया है।

(घ) राज्य सरकार इस योजना के अन्तर्गत कार्यबल के सुव्यवस्थीकरण की स्थिति में या तो पुनः रोजगार देती है या पूरे अन्तिम लाभ देती है।