

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure fair price to the jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the present indications, there is expected to be a bumper jute crop during the current jute season 1985-86 provided the weather conditions remain favourable. •

(b) Yes, Sir. There has been a decline in raw jute prices recently.

(c) and (d) A communication has been received from the State Government of West Bengal wherein they have expressed the view that there may be a decline in raw jute prices in view of the expectations of a bumper crop. With a view to protecting the interests of growers, the Government have already announced the minimum statutory price of raw jute and mesta for the jute season 1985-86 (July-June). The Jute Corporation of India has also been made responsible to undertake price support operation to the extent necessary. Instructions have been given to begin purchases even if the price is Rs. 25 more than the minimum support price.

Closure of Jute Mills in Bihar

104. SHRI SURA J PRASAD :

SHRI CHATURANAN
MISHRA:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Katihar Jute Mills and S.H. Jute Mill in Bihar have been lying closed for a long time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of workers have been rendered unemployed due to such closure;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to reopen the closed mills;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is a proposal under Government's consideration to establish two new jute mills in Patna district; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to establish the new jute mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) M/s. Katihar Jute Mills, Katihar lying closed since 5-7-1982 affecting about 2,000 workers. There is no jute mill by the name of S.H. Jute Mill in Bihar.

(c) As the subject matter falls within the jurisdiction of the State Government of Bihar, it is for them to take appropriate action in the matter.

(d) and (e) The Government of India had granted two Letters of Intent both dated 14-5-1981 to M/s. Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation, Patna for setting up of two new jute mills at Kishanganj and Forbesganj respectively in district Patna, Bihar. The above Letters of Intent are now to be implemented by M/s. Bihar State Textile Corporation. The validity period of both the Letters of Intent which had been extended from time to time, has expired on 30-6-1985. It is for M/s. Bihar State Textile Corporation to take appropriate steps in the matter.

Import of small Coins to meet Shortage

105. SHRI RAMAN AND YADAV :

SHRI J. K. JAIN :

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM
PATEL:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: '

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER
PRASHANT :

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA

SULTAN: DR. H. P.

SHARMA :

SHRI BHAGATRAM MAN-
HAR:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that at present there is a large scale

shortage of one-rupee notes and small coins all over the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have placed orders with privately owned foreign mints to supply small coins of different denominations;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the shortage of small coins, what is the production capacity of small coins at the Indian mints per year and what are the names of the foreign companies which have received the orders for the supply of small coins; and

(d) what will be the cost of the imported coins of different denominations and what measures other than importing small coins Government have taken to meet the shortage of small coins?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) There have been reports regarding shortage of small denomination currency notes and small coins from various parts of the country.

(b) Orders for import of coins in the denomination of Rs. 1/- (1000 million pieces), 50P (750 million pieces) and

25P (250 million pieces) have been placed on four foreign mints/firms of repute in U.K., South Korea and Canada.

(c) There has been a gap between the demand and supply of coins due to capacity constraints of the Mints. Production figures of coins including small coins for the last five years are given below:—

(In million pieces)

Year	Production
1980-81	551.91
1981-82	525.17
1982-83	660.00
1983-84	1063.19
1984-85	1355.69

Target for the year 1985-86 is 2000 million pieces. Orders have been placed for import of coins on the following four foreign Mints/firms:

Sl. No.	Name of the Mint/firm	
1	M/s. Birmingham Mint Products Ltd., United Kingdom.	.. 500 million pieces of Re. 1 coin.
2	M/s. Royal Mint, U.K.	Do.
3	M/s. Hyundai Corporation, South Korea	.. 750 million Pieces of 50P coin.
4	M/s. Royal Canadian Mint, Canada	.. 250 million Pieces of 25P coin.

The firms mentioned at 2 and 4 above are owned by the respective Governments.

(d) The Cost of imported Coins is indicated below?

(i) Rs. 1/- coins	Rs. 38,62,86,050
(ii) 50P coins	Rs. 22,03,68,050
(iii) 25P coins	Rs. 4,29,10,556
TOTAL :	Rs. 64,95,64,656

Government have taken various steps to meet the demand of coins. Incentive schemes alongwith the increased working hours have been introduced in all the three Mints, i.e. Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad. A second shift has been introduced in the Calcutta Mint. As part of modernisation and expansion scheme, twenty two new coining presses are being installed in the three Mints. It has also been decided to establish a new Mint and steps are being taken to implement this decision.

Foreign exchange racket

106. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that massive foreign exchange racket is going on in our country unabated;

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to eradicate this menace; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of persons who have been arrested in this connection during the current year; and

(d) what is the number of firms in Bombay, Madras, Bangalore, Delhi and Calcutta which were raided by the Revenue Intelligence Department to detect such racket and the results of such raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI). (a) and (b) The Government is alive to the problem of foreign exchange racketeering. The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 contains adequate provisions to deal with the foreign exchange racketeers. The Enforcement Directorate (Foreign Exchange Regulation Act) remains vigilant in this regard and takes appropriate action under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and also for preventive detention under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, against such racketeers. The drive against such unauthorised transactions is a continuous process and the matter is constantly kept under review for taking appropriate measures with a view to curbing the same.

(c) During the first six months of the current year, 159 persons were arrested under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, by the Enforcement Directorate.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Problems Faced by Exporters in Chemical Sector

107. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Standing Committee to look into the problems being faced by the exporters in the chemicals sector so as to remove the constraints in their export efforts;

(b) what are the other aspects which the Committee will look into; and

(c) by when the Committee is likely to submit report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are:

(i) To review the export performance of Chemical Sector;

(ii) To suggest measures for increasing exports;

(iii) To identify problems coming in the way of export production and devise measures to remove them.

(c) This is a Standing Committee which will meet periodically, to review the problems being faced by the exporters of chemical sector from time to time so that obstacles and constraints coming in the way of exports can be resolved expeditiously. As such, the question of submitting a report by the Committee does not arise.

108. [Transferred to the 1st August, 1985].

109. [Transferred to the 2nd August, 1985].