

[Dr. (Shrimati) Sarojini Mahishi]

The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the Tea Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Ordinance, 1985 (No. 3 of 1985) promulgated by the President on the 8th April, 1985."

The motion was negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: I shall now put the motion moved by the Minister to vote. The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the sick tea units specified in the First Schedule and the right, title and interest of the tea companies in respect of the said tea units with a view to securing proper reorganisation and management of such tea units so as to subserve the interests of the general public by augmenting the production and manufacture of different varieties of tea which are essential to the needs of the economy of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 34, the First Schedule and the second Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:
I move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE COINAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1985

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Madam Vice-Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coinage Act, 1906, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, it is a non-controversial Bill, giving greater manoeuvrability to the Government for making available coins for circulation as per demand. Concern about the shortage of coins was expressed by hon. Members. The Government has already taken various steps for increasing the total availability of coins. The production has largely increased from 525 million pieces in 1981-82 to 1356 million pieces in 1984-85. The target for 1985-86 is 2000 million pieces. There is still a gap. The Reserve Bank of India has assessed that in 1985-86, we would require 2,600 million pieces which would rise to 3200 million pieces in 1992-93. Measures have been taken to modernise all the existing three mints and to establish a new mint, with a capacity of 1500 to 2000 million pieces per annum, at NOIDA, in Ghaziabad district of U.P. The present amendment is to take care of the intervening period of shortage and when there is absolute necessity to import coins to cater to the needs of the people. This is an exceptional measure and it will be made use of only to the extent it is necessary. I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

The question was proposed.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Did you move the Bill as Finance Minister or Commerce Minister?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: There are four or five members who have given their names to speak. Mr. Satyanarayan Reddy.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam, my name is there.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRI-MATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: It is there. I shall call you.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: My name should have been called first.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Vice-Chairman, the present Bill, of course ...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Madam, I do not mind giving preference to Mr. Satyanarayan Reddy, my colleague. But I do not know how it has been reported to the Chair from the Table. I would like to know.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Is it the mistake of the Table or is it some accommodation because this has happened in the past? We want to be clear about this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRI-MATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: It is not mentioned here, in order of priority, as to who should be called first.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Why it has not been given? This is what I would like to know.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): This is a discretion of the Chair.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: They should go by the strength of the parties in the Opposition.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Go and fight among yourselves.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: How can the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs say that it is a discretion of the Chair?

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Madam Vice-Chairman, of course, the present Bill has been brought forward to tide over the shortage of coins. Due to the shortage of coins, not only we, Members, but every person, whether he is a worker or peasant or anybody, is affected by this. When we go to the market, the shopkeeper gives a chit. When we travel in the bus,

he also gives a chit. No coins are given. The shortage is there. According to the hon. Minister's own statement, the production has increased from 525 million pieces in 1981-82, to 1063 million pieces in 1983-84 and to 1356 million pieces in 1984-85. The Minister has also mentioned that the target for production for 1985-86 is 2,000 million pieces.

Madam, Government knew very well, what would be the requirement of the country. I was surprised to read the statement made by the hon. Minister of State for Finance in the Lok Sabha. He says 'Now, the question is why we are going to import coins'. He also says 'There is a crisis; Nobody can dispute it'. We are not disputing that there is a crisis, that there is shortage of coins. He says 'The question is whether we should take measures to meet the requirement or we should sleep over the matter'. My point is, Government has slept over the matter all these years. They knew very well that a crisis will be there, shortage of coins will be there. Then, why have they slept over the matter? you cannot have an excuse to import coins from foreign countries. People, particularly the weaker sections are facing difficulties. I fully understand and share the concern expressed by hon. Members. This question has been discussed on more than one occasion, both in the Lok Sabha and also in the Rajya Sabha. Questions have been put and the Government has been assuring us that they will meet the requirements as early as possible. Now finally they have come out with the present Bill, stating that they will import the coins from foreign countries. This is most disgraceful and shameful on the part of the Government. No independent country should think in those terms. I respectfully submit to the Finance Minister why this Government have come to this decision to import coins from foreign countries, I do not understand. I really feel ashamed and it is disgraceful on the part of a sovereign country to do this. Government should have taken adequate measures to have the coins minted in the country itself. There are, I think, 22 newly opened centres in the country at Hyderabad, Calcutta and Bombay. Why have you not taken necessary steps to produce more coins in these centres? If you had

[Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy]

foresight you could have opened a new mint in this country itself. As a matter of fact, I remember you had promised, both in the Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha, that new mints are going to be opened and this shortage will be overcome. But so far nothing has been done. No new mint has been opened. I would like to know from the Minister whether they are in the habit of making promises in the House and not implementing them. What have you done? Why have you not taken this step? So I want to draw the attention of the Government and the House to these facts. Of course, I am in favour of meeting this crisis as early as possible, today or tomorrow, not by importing the coins from foreign countries but by minting them in this country itself. So I would like to know from the Finance Minister, how many million pieces of coins we are going to import from foreign countries? I think 500-600 million pieces will be imported. I do not know whether this is correct or not.

I would also like to know whether the Government have made an assessment of the cost of each coin that we are going to import from other countries, whether they have made an assessment as to what will be the total cost of these coins, whether it will be less than what it will be if the same coins are produced in our country? What will be the difference in cost between coins being produced in our country and those that are going to be imported from foreign countries. And I would like to know what will be the total number of pieces that we are going to import.

I would also like to know whether the Government has taken steps to see that these coins are not hoarded. It has been brought to the notice of the public and now of the Members that there are certain agencies, certain persons who are in the habit of hoarding these small coins. I would like to know whether the Government has made any effort to unearth these efforts at hoarding by interested persons or agencies. What is the extent of the coins that have been hoarded? Whether it is a fact that due to hoarding of coins there is a shortage of coins in circulation in the market?

Secondly, I would also like to know whether the Government is seriously thinking of increasing production in the existing 3 mints that are there in the country and also opening a new mint at Ghaziabad or some place in U.P. Is it a fact that Government is going to open this mint? How much time it will take? What will be the—capacity of this mint to produce—coins? Finally, I would like to impress upon the Government that we are totally opposed to this disgraceful Bill to import coins from other countries. I would like to ask the Finance Minister to withdraw this Bill and see that the coins are minted in this country to meet the demands of the people immediately.

Thank you.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Madam Vice-Chairman, I rise to oppose this Bill.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Demand for withdrawal of the Bill.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: That is left to me. You just listen.

Madam, I think that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons the required information has not been supplied to the Members of Parliament while piloting this Bill. There was an occasion when we had raised this issue about the shortage of coins, in this House, and at that time the present Finance Minister's predecessor had denied having any such shortage of coins in our country. Even now the Government is not saying clearly whether there is any shortage of coins at all, because the first sentence of the Statement of Objects and Reasons says, "There have been persistent reports of shortage of coins in the country." Nor has the Government stated that there is a shortage of coins. In the Financial Memorandum it has been stated, "The amendment itself will not involve expenditure as the imports would be resorted to only if the demand for coins is not fully met by the Government Mints." Naturally, I want to know, first of all, whether Government has come to the conclusion having assessed the total requirements of our country about the coins and the total production capacity of our Mints, that there is a shortage of coins which necessitates the import of coins from

broad. This is one question I want to put. Secondly, the Government has also not mentioned here that Government has already imported, not the prepared coins but the blank coins, from abroad—from South Korea and from certain other countries—for printing in the Government Mints here. So, the Government has already taken recourse to import of coins partially; Government has imported blank coins. So, here also I want to point out why adequate information has not been supplied to the Members of Parliament while piloting this Bill.

Now, Madam, what happens is that actually the Reserve Bank of India assesses the requirements of coins in our country and places the requisitions with the Government Mints for manufacturing the coins and giving supplies thereof to the Reserve Bank. There was a time when Government Mints in India had surplus coins in their stocks, and the surplus production even went to such an extent that our Mints and Reserve Bank also had been suffering from want of space in their vaults with the result that coins produced by the Government Mints had to be kept in the open area inside the premises. The actual fault is with the Reserve Bank with regard to assessment of the requirements and placing of requisitions with the Government Mints on time for the production of coins by the Government Mints in India. Madam, it has been mentioned here that certain steps have been taken by the

Government to increase the production of coins in the Government mints. They also say that the production has picked up. They have given two figures here. But, what about the production capacity of every mint in the country? I would like to know whether the entire capacity has been utilised? If so, what is that figure? I say with all force and responsibility at my command in this House that every Government mint in our country whether it is in Calcutta or Hyderabad or Bombay, the entire production capacity is not being utilised. It is under-utilised. The Reserve Bank of India has not taken proper steps to place the order on time to utilise the existing production capacity. Because of the Reserve Bank of India's failure, this

import of coins is being taken recourse to. This is very objectionable. I think, this is really an obnoxious piece of legislation because the coins are going to be imported from abroad. We have our mints. We have our personnel. We have material. We have got machines. We have got production capacity. Yet, we are going to import.

And, therefore, I totally oppose this Bill and I would request the Finance Minister to withdraw this Bill. Thank you.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Madam Vice-Chairman, I rise to support this Bill, but with a little heavy heart. I am supporting this Bill, because I am convinced that the Government have taken recourse to this sort of arrangement as a last resort available to them for easing the situation arising out of the shortage of coins. But I am sorry to see that the coins of our country are going to be imported from abroad and such an unhappy situation has arisen.

Madam, I entirely agree with my honourable colleague, Shri Dipen Ghosh, that it is not the Government to be blamed, but it is the Reserve Bank of India for creating shortage of coins. I am blaming the Reserve Bank of India for two reasons: (1) They monitor the supply of coins, it is their responsibility and they have failed miserably; (2) It has been mentioned by the Minister of State for Finance in the other House the other day that the Staff of the Reserve Bank of India have failed to lift the coins from the Government Mints. So, the Reserve Bank of India has failed on both these counts. Why I am saying this is because I am not in favour of import of coins from other countries for three reasons:

To my knowledge no Government of our stature and of our standing of 38 years of freedom has imported coins from other countries. May be smaller countries or satellite countries import, but not a country like India which is the biggest democracy in the world. We have not imported coins for the last so many years. But, now the circumstances have compelled us to import from other countries.

[Shri P. N. Sukul]

Madam, minting of coins in another country means there will be a serious loophole. Although the Minister of State for Finance said the other day in the other House that the tools for minting coins will be destroyed, but what is the guarantee? How can you ensure it? Suppose they are not destroyed and coins are minted beyond our requirements and later on they will be smuggled into our country. How can you check them? You have not been able to check smuggling at all. So many things are being smuggled day in and day out. And coins can also be very easily smuggled into the country. So there is a serious loophole there also. Number three and the most important consideration is that, as Mr. Dipen Ghosh said, when there are three mints and when our mints in 1984-85 were in a position to mint double the quantity of coins as compared to 1982-83, why this shortage is there, why this situation has arisen at all. This situation has arisen, Madam, because of the fact, as mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, that there are a number of people in our country who are hoarders of these coins, who melt them and recover metals from them and then sell the metals. If that is the main reason for the shortage of coins, that is, hoarding and melting of coins, then the solution lies in apprehending those culprits and punishing them, in taking action against them under the Act, not in import of coins which is a short-term solution. It is not a permanent solution of the problem.

So, I would like to know from the Finance Minister what action has been taken by the Government against the staff of the Reserve Bank of India for had monitoring of the supplies of coins. What action has been taken or is proposed to be taken against the Reserve Bank staff for not lifting the coins already produced in the mints? How much time is the proposed new mint going to take, which is being set up at NOIDA? What will be the expenditure involved in the import of coins from abroad? What will be the cost of this import? Can't we set up this new mint at NOIDA with that money a bit faster, a bit quicker And, as I said in the beginning, how will our Govern-

ment ensure that those tools of minting coins are really destroyed and coins are not minted beyond our requirements and are not smuggled into the country to our great disadvantage. With these few words, I support the Bill.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI (Assam): Madam Vice-Chairman, I rise to oppose this Bill. It is a most extraordinary piece of legislation that we are discussing today. We do not understand as to why the Government thought it proper to bring forward this Bill for consideration. It is a disgrace on our part to go to this extent of importing coins for our use. From the figures that have been supplied to us, the production of coins has increased over the years. But why suddenly this shortage has come? How has this shortage of coins suddenly arisen? This matter should be enquired into as to how this shortage suddenly came. Had the Government taken proper steps at the proper time, this situation would not have arisen at all. Madam, now it has been said that better machinery and equipment are going to be brought for production of more coins. This situation should have been foreseen earlier and machinery and proper equipment should have been brought earlier. Really it is a disgrace on the part of a country like ours that we should import coins from other countries. And as my friend, Mr. Sukul, has said, there are many loopholes in the matter of import of coins. Smuggling of coins may be there. There are so many loopholes, so many defects in such an import. So I think the Government should abandon this idea of importing coins from foreign countries. Instead of that they should try to improve the production of coins in our own mints. With these words I oppose this Bill.

SHRI H. L. KAPUR (Nominated): Madam Vice-Chairman, I stand to support the Bill. I have heard my worthy friends who have accused the Government for not taking appropriate action in time and they have also said that it is a matter of shame for this country to import. I personally feel, if you read the statement, it very clearly says that there has been a gradual increase in the total production of coins in this country, according to the requirements as they have been reflected.

For instance, we produced 525 million pieces in 1981-82, 650 million pieces in 1982-83, 1063 million pieces in 1983-84 and 1356 million pieces in 1984-85. And these 1356 million pieces that were produced in 1984-85 were produced against the total installed capacity of the three mints, Hyderabad, Bombay and Calcutta, of 1450 million pieces. The capacity of Hyderabad is 480 million pieces a year, of that of Bombay 760 million pieces a year and of Calcutta 740 million pieces a year. So it will be seen that the mints have been producing coins to as much as 90 per cent of the capacity. Now there has been a certain spurt in the requirement and the shortage that has come about now is man-made. And it has come about because of the fact that our Prime Minister when he took over, laid emphasis on cleaning the Government, on a result-oriented Government and people thought that the high denomination notes would be demonetized and they started changing and exchanging their notes for smaller notes and coins. That is one reason. The other reason is it is common knowledge that coins are melted and used for making glasses, receptacles and things like that. The Ministry has now taken action—to my knowledge—with the HMT which is one of the finest machine tool factories that we have. There was difficulty in the import of these machines. The HMT has now started manufacturing machines and I think the Ministry has bought 7 machines from the HMT and this will increase their rate of production. Fifteen machines are being imported to further augment the capacity of our mints. With the mint coming up at NOIDA in another two years' time. I don't think there will be any problem so far as coins are concerned. While moving this Bill the honourable Minister said that it is only as a precautionary measure and that this will be exercised only in exceptional circumstances as one time exercise; and I personally feel that this is a reasonable precaution which the Government wants to take so that people don't suffer any more than what they are suffering today. With these words I support the Bill.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार (बिहार) :
माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, विदेशों से

सिक्का मंगाने का जो यह बिल आज लाया गया है यह देश की स्वदेशी की भावना, स्वावलम्बन की भावना और हमारी सार्वभौमिकता के ऊपर बहुत बड़ा धब्बा है। दुनिया में, कहा जाता है कि किसका सिक्का चलता है यह कहावत है। आज हम अपने सिक्के नहीं बना सकते और विदेशी हमारे सिक्कों को बनाएंगे, यह हमारी असक्षमता का लक्षण है। यह रिजर्व बैंक और फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री किसकी गलती है, यह घर के बीच की बात है। लेकिन जैसी जैसी इनकी मांग बढ़ रही थी उसके बारे में हम क्या विचार कर रहे थे, क्या आपको पता नहीं था कि यह मांग बढ़ेगी। मैं एक विषय की ओर आपका ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा और मैं वित्त मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि चार वर्षों के अन्दर ढाई गुना सिक्के बनाकर आपने बाजार में दिये हैं तो इसमें जो उनको गलाने की बात सामने आ रही है तो मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि जब भी ऐसे सिक्के आप बनायेंगे जिसकी वैल्यू जो उसके ऊपर लिखी हुई है, उससे उसके मेटल की वैल्यू अधिक होगी तो उसका दुरुपयोग प्रारम्भ हो जायेगा। पिछले दिनों में वित्त मंत्री महोदय को याद होगा कि लड़ाई के बाद एक पैसे का सिक्का चला था जिसमें छेद था। इस पैसे को छेदहा पैसा कहा जाता था। उस समय जो वाशर मिलता था वह चार पैसे में मिलता था। इसलिये हर आदमी ने उसको वाशर के रूप में प्रयोग करना शुरू कर दिया। इस कमी को दूर करने के लिये अस्थाई आधार पर अभी जो आप कर रहे हैं और जब पैसे की वैल्यू इतनी घट रही है तो कैसे आप पांच पैसे के सिक्के या दस पैसे के सिक्के बनायेंगे यह एक प्रश्नवाचक चिन्ह खड़ा हो गया है। पांच पैसे या दस पैसे के सिक्कों पर आप जितना भी मेटल लगायेंगे शायद उसकी वैल्यू 10 पैसे से ज्यादा होगी। जब तक आप इसकी एकानामी वर्क-आउट नहीं करेंगे तब तक इसका स्थायी निदान नहीं निकल सकते और गलाने वालों को इसका फायदा होगा, वे जरूर इसको गलाते रहेंगे। मुझे लगता है, कि जो प्लानिंग करने

[श्री अश्विनी कुमार]

वाले हैं यह उनकी अक्षमता का द्योतक है। इसके लिये कौन जिम्मेदार है, यह क्या हो रहा है क्या आप इसके ऊपर विचार करेंगे? who is responsible for this planning which has landed us in this mess?

महोदया, यह केवल सिक्कों का प्रश्न नहीं है। आज एक रुपया और दो रुपये के नोट भी उपलब्ध नहीं है। एक रुपये या 2 रुपये के नोट लोग जमा कर रहे हैं या गला रहे हैं मुझे पता नहीं है। हम लोगों को जो मिलते हैं वे गले होते हैं। एक आदमी हमको देता है लेकिन दूसरा उसको लेने के लिये तैयार नहीं है। इसके बारे में आप क्या कर रहे हैं। इसे तो कागज पर छापना होता है। क्या कागज की वैल्यू भी एक रुपये से, दो रुपये से ज्यादा होती है? मैं इस संबंध में वित्त मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि क्वाइन के साथ-साथ जो एक रुपये और दो रुपये के नोटों का भंयकर अभाव हो गया है उसके लिये वे क्या कर रहे हैं? मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि मुझे एक स्थान का पता है, रांची स्टेट बैंक ने 5 करोड़ रुपये के नये नोट मांगे। रिजर्व बैंक ने केवल 50 लाख रुपये के नोट दिये। यह रिजर्व बैंक की नोट की सपलाई करने की क्षमता है। इसके परिणामस्वरूप बाजार में गंदे नोट आते हैं और इन गंदे नोटों के कारण कुछ लोग भ्रष्टाचार करते हैं कि नोट कम हैं, अच्छे नोट नहीं हैं हम इनको नहीं लेंगे। इस प्रकार का भ्रष्टाचार वहां पर पतप रहा है। आप इस कमी को दूर करने लिये क्या करने जा रहे हैं?

दूसरा मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि हमारी नई सरकार ने विदेशी कंपनियों को निमंत्रण देने का बहुत बड़ा कार्य प्रारम्भ किया है। अब सिक्के भी विदेश में बनेंगे। यह हमारे लिये बहुत दुख का विषय है। मैं वित्त मंत्री महोदय से स्पष्टतः जानना चाहूंगा कि यह काम विदेश की किसी सरकार को दिया जायेगा या किसी विदेशी कंपनी को दिया जायेगा? क्योंकि विदेशी कंपनी को यह काम देने से उसमें बहुत घपले

होने की संभावना होती है। अगर मित्र सरकार के पास यह काम हो तो शायद यह ठीक हो। महोदया, मैं आपसे कहना चाहूंगा कि यदि ऐसी भयंकर हमारी प्लानिंग की भूल है जो हमको समझ में नहीं आता कि क्या हो रहा है। पहले भी स्वाधीनता के बाद हमने देखा था कि हमारे देश में अनाज कम हुआ जिसके कारण हम बहुत वर्षों में पी० एल० 480 के मोहताज रहे लेकिन आज इस मामले में सरप्लस स्थिति में हैं। अगर हमारी प्रोपर प्लानिंग होगी तो ये सारी चीजें बंद हो सकती हैं। यह जो सिक्के विदेशों में बनवाने का प्रश्न है यह अत्यन्त दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है। देश के स्वाभिमान की भावना पर खतरा है, सार्वभौमिकता की भावना पर खतरा है इस नाते से मैं इस बिल का विरोध करता हूँ।

SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Vice-Chairman, this Bill which has come before the House, the Coinage (Amendment) Bill is a sad Bill. We are sure that the Finance Minister and his entire Finance Ministry have gone into all aspects before proposing such a Bill to be brought forward to import coins. Besides the threat that today the Government is importing, tomorrow it may be brought in by some private party and our markets flooded with coins from abroad, we wish to take the Finance Minister to the real facts of what is happening.

Madam, I will not go into the statistics which have been very well brought out by our learned Colleague, Mr. Kapur. But what I want the hon. Finance Minister to hear is that for the last five years I have been the President of the Labour Union of Hyderabad Mint and we have struggled continuously to convince the Finance Ministry and the previous Finance Minister to look into matters not in an autocratic manner but in a proper, democratic manner. There was a very excellent officer called Mukherjee who was posted at Nasik. The officer in disgust re-

signed and took an assignment abroad. He was treated so badly. He continuously told the Government and the Finance Ministry that he is a technocrat and does not know the bureaucratic systems. But it is the bureaucrat system that has to learn how to run a mint. We have pleaded with the Government. At every negotiation in which we have participated to improve the conditions of the mint. I would invite the hon. Finance Minister to visit the mint and see the inhuman conditions in which the workers work at Hyd. mint. It is sad that today in 1985 we have no consideration for the life and the danger to the health from unhygienic conditions prevailing for the workers of the mint. In every negotiation it is just dictatorship. Nobody is allowed to say anything. They insist on the negotiations ending as they want. The incentive scheme which we pleaded for all the mints ended in absolute shambles. I earnestly plead with the Finance Minister to go into all these details and see why the coins cannot be made by the mints in India. Today India is exporting almost everything, and of high quality. Why is it that we are behind in producing coins. I think the entire system that manages coins at the Government level should be revamped and the Finance Minister could personally look into it. We are sure and we are confident that his experience will help the entire set-up that is totally deteriorated. The people in the world will laugh at us. Madam Vice-Chairman, that India which boasts of so many things that they can export are thinking of bringing coins from other countries. The morale of the labour will also go down if we are to resort to import of coins. The labour will be frustrated. the hon. Finance Minister would have done well if he had called a meeting of all the Unions to find out the reasons why this day has come that we have to import coins.

With these words, Madam Vice-Chairman, I thank you for giving me a few minutes, to speak on this subject.

Thank you very much.

श्री सुरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : उप-सभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं इस बिल का विरोध करता हूँ और इसलिये विरोध करता हूँ कि

जो काम अंग्रेजों ने भी नहीं किया उस काम को भारत सरकार करने के लिये उतारू हो गयी है। एक 1906 में पास हुआ था। 1906 के बाद काफी दिनों तक अंग्रेज इस देश में रहे फिर भी उन्होंने कोई कायन बाहर से मंगाने की आवश्यकता नहीं समझी। लेकिन भारत की सरकार ने इसकी आवश्यकता को महसूस किया। सिक्कों की कमी है इस देश के अन्दर इसको अस्वीकार नहीं किया जा सकता है। लेकिन यह बात समझ में नहीं आती है कि जब देश के अन्दर ढाई गुना सिक्के की संख्या बढ़ी है तो ऐसी स्थिति में यह कायन के मंगाने का औचित्य क्या है? इसलिये लगता यह है कि कायन को या तो गलाया जा रहा है या दूसरे तरीके से इसको खत्म करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। मैं इस संबंध में विशेष बातें नहीं कहना चाहता, लेकिन एक बात की तरफ सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि जो फाइनेंशियल मैमोरेण्डम है उसमें इस बात को कहा गया है कि :

"It may authorise minting of coins by any person or government of a foreign country and import such coins for circulation in the country as legal tender."

इसका मतलब है कि विदेश के अन्दर भी क्या कोई प्राइवेट पर्सन को कायन बनाने का अधिकार दिया जायेगा या विदेश के अन्दर जो कम्पनियाँ हैं, क्या उनको इस तरह के कायन बनाने का अधिकार दिया जायेगा? विदेश के सरकार के बारे में तो चर्चा है, लेकिन "एनी पर्सन" की व्याख्या कहीं देखने को नहीं मिलती है? इससे लगता यह है कि सरकार धीरे-धीरे पब्लिक सेक्टर के अन्दर जो काम हो रहे थे, उनको प्राइवेट सेक्टर के हाथ में देने की दिशा में कदम उठाती जा रही है और यह एक खतरनाक प्रवृत्ति है, जिसकी तरफ सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिये। दूसरी बात, मैं इस सम्बन्ध में जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन से ऐसे देश हैं जिन देशों से सरकार यह कायन मंगाना चाहती है और उनकी क्या संख्या है? अखबारों में यह समाचार आया था कि सरकार इटली से भी कायन मंगाने के बारे में सोचती है? क्या यह बात सत्य है कि इटली से इस तरह के कायन मंगाने की बात सोची जा रही है। देश के अन्दर सोफिस्टिकेटेड चीजें मंगाने के बारे

(श्री सूरज प्रसाद)

बारे में हम सोच सकते हैं। सुपर टेक्नोलॉजी के नाम पर अच्छी से अच्छी चीजें मंगाने के बारे में हम सोच सकते हैं, लेकिन व्हायन मंगाने की बात सोचना देश की इज्जत पर एक धब्बा है। इसलिये मैं इसे उचित नहीं समझता हूँ और इसका विरोध करता हूँ। मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार इसे वापस करे।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, (क्वाय-नेज) एक्ट 1906 में पारित किया गया था और उस समय हमारे देश में विदेशी हुकूमत थी। वह ऐसा समय था जबकि हमारे देश में कागज के नोट नहीं चलते थे। अंग्रेजों के जमाने में सिक्कों के मामले में हम आत्म-निर्भर थे। लेकिन यह जो वर्तमान विधेयक है यह हमारे राष्ट्रीय सम्मान को ठेस पहुंचाने वाला है। मैंने बहुत जानकारी प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया। लेकिन मुझे किसी भी ऐसे लोकतांत्रिक देश की जानकारी नहीं हुई जिसने कि विदेशों से सिक्कों को आयात करने के सिलसिले में कोई कानून बनाया हो या ऐसा कोई फैसला लिया हो। अंग्रेजों ने भी जो 1906 में कानून बनाया, उसमें इस बात का प्रावधान नहीं किया था और यह बात बिल्कुल साफ है कि हमारे देश में सिक्कों की कमी है। सिक्कों की कमी के कारण देश में लोगों को आर्थिक कठिनाई उठानी पड़ती है। जो लोग बस में चलते हैं, बस का किराया 80 पैसे एक रुपये का नोट रहता नहीं है कंडक्टर कर्ता कि हमारे पास वापस करने को पैसा नहीं है। या तो आप बस से उतर जाइये या जितना नोट आप दे रहे हैं उससे हम आपको वापस नहीं कर सकते हैं। कई बार तो वापस देते भी नहीं हैं। इसी प्रकार से आप दुकानदार के पास जाइये। साढ़े तीन रुपए का सौदा आप लीजियेगा और चार रुपए का नोट दीजियेगा तो कहते हैं कि आठ आना हमारे पास नहीं है। स्वयं रेल मंत्रालय ने गत वर्ष इस बात को स्वीकार किया है, क्योंकि जहां पर साढ़े तीन रुपए का टिकट था तो उन्होंने कहा कि राउन्ड फिगर कर दिया जाए। तो साढ़े तीन रुपए की जगह चार रुपए का टिकट कर दिया गया। इस बहाने टिकट का दाम बढ़ा दिया गया और सिक्कों की कमी को स्वीकार किया गया।

दूसरे मेरा निवेदन यह है कि हमारे देश

में जो टकसालें हैं, जैसे बम्बई, कलकत्ता, हैदराबाद में, तो इन टकसालों की क्षमता को बढ़ाया जा सकता है। जो तीन टकसालें हैं उनके अतिरिक्त और टकसालें भी देश में स्थापित की जा सकती हैं और उनके जरिये जो हमारे देश में प्रतिभा और जो श्रम है उसका उपयोग किया जाना चाहिये। श्री सूरज प्रसाद जी ने एक शंका व्यक्त की है। जहां तक मैं इस अधिनियम को समझ सका हूँ, तो उनकी शंका निर्मूल नहीं है बल्कि इस अधिनियम में सबसे अधिक इस बात का प्रावधान है कि किसी व्यक्ति से भी सिक्का बाहर से मंगाया जा सकता है यास किसी बाहरी इंडीविजुअल को भी सिक्का बनाने के लिये भारत सरकार अपना आदेश दे सकती है क्योंकि यहां पर अंग्रेजी में इन्होंने कहा है—

“...it may authorise the coining in like manner as is provided in that subsection, of coins by any person (including the Government of any foreign country) beyond the limits of India”.

और इसी को हिंदी में परिभाषित किया है कि 'भारत की सीमाओं के बाहर किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा' अर्थात् इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि सरकार के दामाग मैं यह बात भी बैठी हुई है कि विदेशों सरकार ही नहीं, बल्कि कोई विदेशी व्यक्ति, जो भारत की सीमा के बाहर भी रहता हो, आवश्यकता पड़ने पर सिक्का निर्माण का हुकूम, आदेश या टेण्डर उसको भी दिया जायेगा। यह चीज बहुत आपत्तिजनक है।

इसके अतिरिक्त आजकल एक रुपये के नोट भी बहुत कम हैं और काफी दिनों से यह कमी चली आ रही है। एक अतारंकित प्रश्न भी इसी सदन में उठा था संख्या 614, दिनांक 7 मई को, जिसमें वित्त मंत्री जी ने स्वीकार किया है कि 1984 में जबकि एक रुपये, पचास पैसे, पच्चीस पैसे, बीस पैसे, दस पैसे और पांच पैसे के सिक्कों का निर्माण तो हुआ है। लेकिन दो रुपए का एक भी सिक्का वर्ष 1984 और 1985 में नहीं निर्मित हुआ। तो इसको क्या बजह थी? इस बारे में भी मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि दो रुपये से नीचे के सिक्कों का तो निर्माण हुआ और दो रुपये के सिक्के का निर्माण वर्ष 1984 और 1985 में क्यों नहीं किया गया?

जहाँ तक इस बात की चर्चा की गई। यह एक ऐसा विधेयक है, जो हमारे देश की राष्ट्रीयता और हमारे देश के आत्म-सम्मान को ठेस पहुंचाने वाला है। यह बात बिल्कुल निर्विवाद है और इस सम्बन्ध में इलाहाबाद से प्रकाशित होने वाली "नादर्न इंडिया" पत्रिका का जो दिनांक 24 अप्रैल, 1985 का संपादकीय लेख है, उसकी ओर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। संपादक महोदय ने लिखा है—

"Import of coins is something unprecedented at least so far as India is concerned. It reflects on our national capacity and our national dignity in that we are powerless even to manage our own currency."

इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि जो सरकार का सेल्फ रेलाइन्स या आत्म-निर्भरता का दावा है, वह बिल्कुल खोखला है और मेरी ऐसी राय है कि जो सरकार, लोकतांत्रिक सरकार, जनता के द्वारा चुनी हुई सरकार, ऐसे नारों पर बोट लेकर बनी हुई सरकार, जिसने जनता को इस बात का आश्वासन दिया कि हम आत्म-निर्भर होंगे, वह सरकार अपने देशवासियों को अपने देश में ही सिक्का निर्माण कर उपलब्ध न करा सके, उस सरकार को एक क्षण भी गद्दी पर बने रहने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है।

इस बारे में लोगों के मन में कुछ शंका भी है और उत्तफाक से वह समाचार-पत्र भी मेरे सामने है, "दैनिक जागरण", जो कानपुर से प्रकाशित होता है, यह समाचार-पत्र 14 अप्रैल, 1985 का है, जिसमें समाचार छपा था कि सरकार सिक्कों को आयात करेगी और समाचार में एक प्रश्न-चिह्न भी बनाया है, "सूत्रों के अनुसार सरकार ने इटली से सिक्कों का आयात करने का फैसला किया है, जिसे अभी अंतिम रूप देना है। इटली में पर्याप्त टकसाल है और वह सिक्कों के निर्माण की क्षमता रखता है।" तो मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सिक्कों को आयात करने के सिलसिले में..... (व्यवधान).....

एक माननीय सदस्य : इसमें इटली भी है ?

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : जी, हाँ, इटली भी है। ठीक उसी तरीके से, जिस तरीके से इटली को पाइपलाइन के लिये आर्डर दिया गया..... (व्यवधान).... दूसरे देशों के बारे में सरकार के दिमाग में कौन-कौन देश हैं, इस बारे में मंत्री जी से जानकारी चाहता हूँ।

रिजर्व बैंक ने 1985-86 में 2600 मिलियन सिक्कों के निर्माण का आंकलन किया था। लेकिन अब जानकारी हुई है कि केवल 2300 मिलियन सिक्कों के ढलने की आशा है। तो क्या कारण है कि आंकलन 2600 मिलियन का था और जिसमें से 300 मिलियन घटाया जा रहा है ?

मेरा तो यही अनुरोध है कि आप अपनी क्षमता को बढ़ाइये। हमारी जो प्रतिभा है और हमारे देश में जो हाथ हैं, जिस हाथ के नाम पर आप बोट लेते हैं, उसका सद्प्रयोग कीजिये और साथ ही साथ सिक्कों के लिये विदेशों के मोहताज न रहिये। आप इक्कीसवीं सदी की बात सोचते हैं जबकि बीसवीं सदी में अपने नागरिकों को सिक्के देने के लिये तरसा रहे हैं। वे आर्थिक मार के शिकार हैं, मंहगाई के शिकार हैं। इस विषय पर एक मत नहीं है और कन्ट्रोलिंग विषय है, इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि आप पुनर्विचार करें और इस कन्ट्रोलिंग विधेयक को वापस लेने की कृपा करें।

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Madam Vice-Chairman, Mr. Malaviya asks why was the Government sleeping over it. Mr. P. N. Sukul said the Reserve Bank should be punished. Hon. Members have expressed indignation as to why this has come about. Yes, but the sleeping drug was administered in 1977. (Interruptions) I am coming to facts. Yes, in 1977, there was 60-hours shift, it was reduced from 60 hours to 54 hours in 1977, and from 54 hours to 48 in 1978 and there was a general assessment by that Government then that we do not need to mint more coins, because there was some accumulation and if RBI was to be punished it should be asked which was the Government, if RBI was not lifting, who was responsible at that time to see how the RBI was functioning. It was highest during the Janata period, the accumulation

[Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

f coins and RBI was not lifting. It was hereafter in 1980-81 that lifting of coins started. And this was the mis-impression of wrong assessment of production that there is surplus of coins that the sleeping rug was administered at that time. It had the hypnotic effect for some time of assessment and re-assessment. Of course, we have taken a decision. There have been incentive schemes for workers of producing more coins than the past. We have increased the working hours with the consent of the workers. The second shift has been introduced in the Calcutta mint. Modernisation and expansion of existing and expansion of existing mints have been started. Twenty-two new coining presses at a cost of Rs. 4.5 crores have been ordered in three mints, eight each in Calcutta and Hyderabad and remaining six machines in Bombay. A new mint is being established in NOIDA. I am informed that it will cost Rs. 20 crores and that will be coming up in about 36 months. So, there has been a step up of production of coins and the target for 1985-86 is two thousand million pieces. But as the demand has been projected by the Reserve Bank of India that of 1992—the demand would be about 3,200 million pieces. So, during this interim period, I have given the story, the background, the reasons for it. In order that the people may not suffer from the problem that is created to the poorest man, he is the hardest hit because with any shortage if something is retained and is not paid back to him, he is the sufferer. That is why this most important step has been taken. A question has been raised as to how much outgo for foreign exchange would be there. Now, so far as the metal is concerned, we do not export the metal for the coin. That much metal goes anyway there. Even if we do not mint in our own mint, it would be there. So, it is only the processing cost that will be additional. We have taken very strict measures and it has been provided that in the presence of our own officers, the punches or the dies cast will be destroyed and other terms have been stipulated to give the fullest security in this respect, and I think by the time we assess our capacity after this, it will be more than what

will be required in the coming years. So this one step is taken for this very contingency and as our capacity will grow, there will be no further need of any import. It is one-time affair and with these words, I request that the Bill be passed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRI-MATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Coinage Act, 1906, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRI-MATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The question was passed.”

SHRI GHULAM RASQOL MATTO: (Jammu and Kashmir): When orders for importing of the coins are passed, may I know whether global tenders will be invited?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRI-MATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

MESSAGES FROM THE LOK SABHA

II. The Arms (Amendment) Bill, 1985

III. The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1985

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have to report to the House the following mes-