

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Parallel circulations of paper coins in Gujarat

*84. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that parallel circulation of paper coins printed by traders of Gujarat are in wide use;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to curb circulation of such paper coins;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI):

(a) The Reserve Bank of India have reported that certain establishments like shops, hotels etc. are reported to be issuing paper coupons to their customers in their transactions of goods. Reserve Bank of India, however, have no information regarding wide circulation of paper coupons, in lieu of small coins.

(b) to (d) As stated above, the use of paper coupons has been in vogue in establishments like hotels, canteens and shops for facilitating their transactions and not for replacing coins. Such coupons are not legal tender and there is no cause for any legal action.

SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government will take steps to supply in adequate numbers the small coins and currency of small denomination. It is because of sort supply that such things are going on and cases of malpractice have come to light. What is the difficulty faced by the Government in providing adequate supply

of small coins and currency in small denomination?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Steps have been taken to improve so far as small coins are concerned. For the information of hon. Members, I can say that following steps have been taken. 9-hour working per shift in the 3 mints situated at Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad; installation of 22 new coin pressers. These pressers are to be installed from 15th of May and this will lead to additional production of about 300 million pieces per year; start of a second shift in Calcutta mint from 25th February 1985; introduction of cupro-nickel coins production in Hyderabad in March 1985. We have taken decision to set up a new mint at NOIDA in U.P.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Is the hon. Minister aware that in Delhi, not only paper money is being used but stamps, sweets and toffees are being used as currency? If you remember, I had brought this matter in detail to your notice but it appears no action has been taken in Delhi.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Wherever possible, we are trying to improve the supply of coins.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, there is a drought in the supply of currency of small denomination, particularly one rupee and two-rupee notes, and the currency which is in circulation is also totally damaged and torn out like this. This is the type of currency which is in circulation. This state of currency itself is the evidence of poverty conditions of the teeming millions. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why such type of currency is being allowed in circulation and what steps you are taking to solve the problem of shortage of small denomination currency.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I share the concern of the hon. Mem-

ber. So far as production of currency notes is concerned, we have taken steps as follows:

Modernisation and expansion of currency notes press at Nasik additional balancing equipment installation at bank notes press at Dewas; shift working increased to 11 hours introduction of partial second shift in Dewas; full second shift in Dewas will start working by the end of May 1985; incentive scheme for production has been introduced; sanction, in principle, of a new printing press.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: But the shop-keepers and taxi drivers refuse to accept such soiled currency notes.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि गुजरात के अतिरिक्त देश के अन्य भाग, विशेषकर मध्य प्रदेश में भी ऐसा बड़े पैमाने पर हो रहा है। यहां तक कि पान वाले, चाय वाले, परचून का सामान बेचने वाले, छोटे-छोटे दुकानदार प्लास्टिक के टोकन, गत्ते के टोकन बनाकर रेजगारी के बदले में देते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार दुकानदारों की इस प्रवृत्ति पर रोक लगाने और जनता को इस बात से शिक्षित करने के लिये क्या कदम उठा रही है और इस प्रकार के प्लास्टिक के टोकन और गत्ते के टोकन आदि देना यदि कानून के विरुद्ध है तो ऐसा करने वालों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, we know the plight of the people there. Through the Ahmedabad issue centre of the Reserve Bank of India, we have supplied coins to Gujarat State. Now, this year, in the year 1984-85, we have been able to allot coins worth Rs. 152.20 lakhs. This is against coins worth Rs. 134.90 crores allotted in the year 1983-84.

श्री लालकृष्ण आडवाणी : महापति जी, यह सवाल गुजरात के सन्दर्भ में पेश करेंसी के बारे में है। लेकिन जैसा कि शेष सदस्यों के सवालों से स्पष्ट है, यह समस्या देश भर

में है और न केवल कागजी सिक्के करेंसी के रूप में प्रयोग किये जा रहे हैं बल्कि टाफ़ी, चौकलेट और स्टैम्प्स भी करेंसी के रूप में प्रयोग किये जा रहे हैं। आपको यह जानकर ताज्जुब होगा कि जिन दुकानदारों को रेजगारी की जरूरत होती है वे सौ रुपयों के लिये 117) २० देते हैं और 117) २० केश देकर सौ रुपयों की रेजगारी प्राप्त करते हैं। इतनी गम्भीर समस्या पिछले कई वर्षों से चली आ रही है। आज जो जवाब दिया गया है वैसा जवाब पिछले तीन सालों से अनेक बार दिया गया है और यह कहा गया है कि ये-य कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं। इसलिये मैं यह समझना चाहता हूं कि इस प्रकार का आश्वासन देने के बाद भी यह छोटी-सी रेजगारी की समस्या इतनी बड़ी समस्या क्यों बन गई है ? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि वे प्रमुख कारण क्या हैं जिनके कारण पिछले तीन सालों से अनेक बार आश्वासन देने के बाद भी हम इस रेजगारी की समस्या को हल नहीं कर पाये हैं ?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, we have taken steps and for the information of the hon. House, I would like to say that in the year 1982-83, the production of coins was only 660 million pieces and in the year 1983-84, the production was increased to 1,063 million pieces. In the year 1984-85, up to 2.3.85, the production has gone up to 1,240.44 million pieces. This is the step we have taken. Now, this is from the available capacity. We have also taken steps to set up a new mint. Not only that. I will give a brief history why this has happened. In the year 1977, I may be permitted to say,...you know, why I say in the year 1977...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No explanation.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, you also know as the former Finance Minister.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: There was no such problem in 1977.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI:

In 1977, the working hours were reduced from 60 to 64, per week. In the year 1978, they were reduced from 54 hours to 46 hours. There was no proper distribution system also. From the mints, during this period, the Reserve Bank of India did not lift the production. There was accumulation. The accumulation had gone up to such an extent that in the year 1978...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not matter. Now, try to improve.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI:

Afterwards, the Government of India was under the impression that available supply is more than the demand. At one point, the Government was compelled to take a decision to stop the production at the Hyderabad Mint. Immediately, when the new Government came to power, this decision was withdrawn. We are taking steps to improve the production. So far as supply is concerned, I can assure the House that within six months, we will improve the position and so far as the shortage of coins is concerned it will ease.

श्री मीर्जा इशदिबेग : चेंबरमैन साहब, सरकार इस बात को मान रही है कि काइन्स की तंगी है और यह तंगी देश भर में चल रही है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि यह तंगी हकीकत में तंगी है या यह कृत्रिम तंगी खड़ी कर दी गई है? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि अगर सरकार के पास इस तंगी को दूर करने के लिये सोलूज हैं, साधन हैं, तो साधन क्या हैं, उनकी जानकारी मैं प्राप्त करना चाहता हूँ। मैं विशेषकर मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि अगर आप ने यह तंगी स्वीकार की है तो इस तंगी को दूर करने के लिये और नया उत्पादन करने के लिये, नये काइन्स बनाने के लिये क्या आपके पास सुविधाएँ हैं या नहीं? जिन लोगों ने या व्यापारियों ने काइन्स को घरों में दबाकर रख लिया है उनके खिलाफ आप क्या कार्यवाही करेंगे, यह मैं साफ और से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI:

Sir, we have been receiving the reports that there is shortage and that is why these steps are being taken. There are also complaints that there is melting, to a certain extent, of coins and also that the coins are handed for selling them at premium. These are offences under the Small Coins Act and we have written to the State Government to take action under this Act.

श्री शंकर सिंह चावला : महापति महोदय, गुजरात के लिये ही सवाल नहीं है। सभी लोग खड़े होकर प्रश्न पूछ रहे हैं। मुझे ताज्जुब उस समय हुआ जब कि लोक सभा और विधान सभा के चुनावों में जब कैंडिडेट्स भाषण करने के लिये खड़े होते थे तो लोग कहते थे कि हमारी और कोई सेवा न करिये, केवल हमें 5 रुपए की चेंज दे दीजिये। यह स्थिति है। ... (व्यवधान) ... जगह-जगह प्राइवेट लोग कूपन, पोस्टेज स्टैम्प दे रहे हैं। अहमदाबाद की म्युनिसिपल ट्रांसपोर्ट सर्विस एक्सपायरि स्टेट के हिसाब से कूपन दे रही है जिनमें कोई 29 मार्च को खत्म हो जायेंगे कोई 1 अप्रैल को खत्म हो जायेंगे। जब कोई व्यक्ति बाहर से आयेगा, जयपुर, इंदौर आदि शहरों से तो वह उन कूपनों का क्या करेगा? जब डेट एक्सपायर होगी तो उनको बदलने के लिये कैसे आयेगा? गुजरात गवर्नमेंट ने सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को जो लिखा था उसके बारे में आपने क्या कार्यवाही की और उसका क्या जवाब दिया। क्या दूसरे राज्यों ने भी आपको डम बागे में लिखा है, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI:

There are reports from Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bombay, Poona and Calcutta transport undertakings that they are issuing paper coupons. This is in the notice of the Reserve Bank of India and to issue paper coupons is not an offence, the Reserve Bank cannot raise any objection. So far as the production and supply is concerned, I have already replied the question.

SHRI H. L. KAPUR: Sir, we accept the explanation of the hon. Minister that the production capacity has been increased, but the fact still remains that there is shortage of coins and small coins, and this has accentuated further during the last five to six months than it was before. So, there is definitely something wrong. Either the estimate is not correct or the supply position is not correct. What we would like to know from the Minister is, in spite of the capacity having been increased, what is the reason that the small coins are not available in the market and everyone is facing so much of difficulty?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: This part of the question also I have already answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY: I must ask the question. I have been raising both the hands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody cannot ask the question.

SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY: On this I have an important question. (*Interruptions*). Just one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Next question.

Credit facilities for the small scale sector

***85. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a separate bank to render adequate credit facilities to the small scale sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA. Sir, our policy is to generate new employment opportunities and this can best be done through small scale sector. On the one hand the Government is contemplating expansion of the small scale sector, there is also a boast that the small scale sector will be at par with other sectors to provide employment, on the other hand the hon. Minister is very proudly telling the House that the question does not arise I would....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You stop here. Otherwise, he will not answer.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Government....

SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded please.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: I would like to know whether the whole situation will be taken into consideration and the Government would reconsider his policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

पंजाब नेशनल बैंक के विरुद्ध कपारो प्रप
के उद्योगों के श्री स्वराज पाल
द्वारा दिया गया नोटिस

***86. श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र :**
श्री शंकर सिंह बाघेला :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा
करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि लन्दन के
एक उद्योगपति, श्री स्वराज पाल ने पंजाब

***Not recorded.**