

(c) whether, instead of absorbing the former Supply Department employees of the Assam Government engaged in procurement the services of any of them have now been terminated whereas new employees mostly from outside the State of Assam have now been appointed; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the FCI has not yet started procurement of paddy this year in districts like Nowgong?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) In the beginning of the last season the procurement of paddy was slow on account of rigid specifications about moisture content which was subsequently relaxed by the State Government. Thereafter the procurement picked up and over 89,000 tonnes of paddy were procured by the Corporation in the areas allotted to it.

(b) Excepting one report of non-delivery of some quantity of paddy there was no report of unnecessary delay and corruption against the co-operatives and traders who acted as promoting agents of FCI during the last season.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) The decision about the terms and conditions on which the Food Corporation has to procure paddy in Nowgong district has been taken by the State Government, recently. The Corporation is taking steps to appoint the co-operative societies as their procurement agents in accordance with the decision.

SHORTAGE OF UNDERGROUND WATER BY STATES

886. SHRI I. DER SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has accepted proposals from State Governments to help/undertake survey of underground water in the chronically famine affected areas.

(b) if so, whether the said survey will include parts of L.P., Bihar and Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details of the areas to be surveyed in these States and the programmes drawn up in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Exploratory Tube-wells Organisation has been doing ground-

water exploration work in non-haid rock and alluvial areas including chronically famine affected areas since 1954-55. This organisation has now been renamed as the Central Ground Water Board and it has also been decided to undertake groundwater exploration throughout the country including hard rock areas. While selecting areas for exploration, needs of chronically famine affected areas are also kept in view. The exploratory programme is finalised after inviting proposals from the State Governments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During 1970-71 exploratory work is being carried out in the districts of Ghazi-pur, Aamgarh, Ballia, Banda, Hamirpur, Jalaun and Allahabad of Uttar Pradesh and districts Monghyr and Muzzafarpur of Bihar. In Rajasthan a quantitative assessment of groundwater survey of three different areas in Western Rajasthan i.e. Jalore, Barunda (district Jodhpur) and Lathi Basin (district Jaisalmer) has been undertaken with UNDP assistance. Report in respect of Jalore area has been received and reports in respect of Barunda and Lathi Basin are expected to be received by the end of this year. The programme for the next year 1971-72 is yet to be finalised and this would be done keeping in view the proposals to be received from the State Governments.

12 NOON

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED SHORTAGE OF SMALL COINS IN THE COUNTRY CAUSING GREAT DIFFICULTIES TO TRADERS AND PUBLIC

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the reported shortage of small coins in the country causing great difficulties to traders and public.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Where is the Finance Minister?

SHRI N. G. GORAY: What is this?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Mysore): The House has to take serious notice of this.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: I want that you should take serious notice of this. This calling attention notice was sent to us yesterday evening and I hope that the Ministry of Finance also knew about it, and I am really surprised to find that none of them is here to represent the Government. It is a very serious matter.

(Interruptions) MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. Order, order, please.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Not only have the small coins become scarce but even the Ministers have become scarce.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: There is no business before the House now.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: May I say here, Mr. Deputy Chairman . . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat): He gave an assurance that there will be no such lapses and still it is happening.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I have been standing for a long time. You please allow me. I want to make a submission to you. It is not a question of mere lapse, an ordinal lapse on the part of a Minister. The agenda is there, the Order Paper is there, the item is already entered. It is expected of the person concerned in the Government to be present in right time. I consider this a grave omission on the part of the Minister,

DR. B. N. ANTANI (Gujarat): It is an instill to the House.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: The Chair should take notice. Mr. Goray has already said that the House should take serious notice of this omission on their part. I suggest that the Chair should admonish the Minister concerned, whoever he is, Mr. Chavan or his Deputy, for having insulted this House. It is not a thing that can be overlooked. This has been repeated. I think in the past also it has been done. This is being repeated. When such a question is coming up when we find that the Minister is absent. I do not think we can just pass it over. I expected you to safeguard the interests of the House, the dignity of the House. I expect . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: What all right?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made your point.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I am saying to you that you should take notice of this . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made your submission also.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: . . . and admonish the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have completed it. Do you want to say anything, Mr. Shukla?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I have a submission to make. Two Ministers have

come now. One is Rs. 100 currency note and other Rs. 10 currency note. The Rs. 1,000 currency note is not here.

SHRI DAHABHAI V. PATEL: What about the coins?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Coins are there. Sir, they were a little late. Let us take it easy. Let him answer. In future, they should be careful.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say anything as to why you are late?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, I would like to apologise humbly to the House for being late. I was answering questions in the Lok Sabha and the hon. Speaker was indulgent towards an hon. Member to ask a supplementary question even after twelve of the clock, and I was answering that question, and so, I could not come in time to this House. Therefore . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You could have sent your deputy.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: The Deputy Minister also came. But his question was after me. Anyway, I wish to apologise to the House for the inconvenience caused.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has tendered an apology and he has explained that he was held up in the other House to answer a supplementary question. In view of this, I think, let the matter be closed note.

Mr. Goray has already called the attention of the hon. Minister, and now Mr. Shukla can make the statement.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is no general shortage of coins in the country. Some complaints regarding shortage of coins from a few places are being received from time to time and the reasons for such complaints are difficult to ascertain as this reflects mainly local or seasonal factors. However, the Reserve Bank of India have been making additional supplies of small coins to those places from where requests have been received by them for supply of such coins. Government have taken further steps to increase production of small coins in the Mints.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, I would like to ask two or three questions. Firstly, is this shortage affecting the transactions in the market place, in the transport system, in cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi? Sir, I am surprised to learn from the Minister that there is no shortage of coins in cities

like Delhi. But I would like to tell him that in the Cil of Delhi itself this shortage is being experi need. The other question is whether it is a Fact that this shortage is due in the assignm tit that the Mints have accepted from co tities like Greece ami Thai land? My third question is whether the Gov-ermment will ta e care to see that while supplying roins to foreign countries there will be no shortage if coins in our own country.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, J did say that i lere was a shortage of (dins and understand! J\ such a shortage will defi nitely hamper nine activities where small coins have to lk used. Here I have also indicated that we have taken measures to increase the prod action of coins. It is a fact that we have a cepted some foreign orders for minting som foreign coins, from countries like Thai and and Middle Eastern countries.

.SHRI N. G. GORAY: Greece.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Yes, Greece.

It is not beta ise of this order that this shortage has arisen. The real reason that seems to me is i lat the metallic value of 5 paise and 1 pais, —probably these two coins—is a little more than their face-value and therefore, some | Ople are using or misusing these coins for soj ic purpose. Therefore there is a shortage in certain regions, particularly in Byiulla in Hi nhay. And in the Reserve Bank Ollice here there have been queues of people asking for these particular coins. For the other coins lere is no such difficulty, coins like 50 pai e or '!) paise and others. Bombay, Bangalore, Byculla, Nagpur, etc. from these places there have been such demands. And we have, as I indicated, started minting these coins in greater numbers now in our Mint- in Hyderabad, in Alipore as well as in Bo ubav. Instead of working for 48 hours a week, now these Mints are working 60 hours i week and producing additional coins ih t are necessary. But the main fact of the n lallic use of these coins— that will have in I gone into ami corrected. Ibis will have ti be first corrected; only then a permanent solution to this recurrent coin shortagi in several parts of the country can be tli i

SHRI BHUPE II GUPTA: Sir, the hon'ble Minister s jiving an explanation that the metallic value of these coins is higher than the fa e value. This is certainly a serious propositi n. Why did the Government not lake llii into account in view of the fact that this t ia\ give rise to this kind of malpractice t which lie has made a reference? I shouli also like to know, Sir, whether in issuim new coins the Govern- ment has considered the advisability of making some of these paisa coins a little bigger than what th y are keeping in view

that the metallic value has to be on par; otherwise problems will arise. I should also like in know whether it is not a fact that iu some areas there is almost scarcity of small coins which causes difficulty. May I know whether (he Government has any spe-cia! arrangement to make the supplies of small coins available to the specified areas where difficulties have arisen? Would the Government take verv prompt steps in regard to meeting the requirements there?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Some guild suggestions have been given liv the hon'ble Member. We shall surely look into them. About this metallic value that I was referring to, we have already started minting these coins in alu min ium magnesium alloy so thai the metallic value does not exceed the face value of these coins. All these things are under constant review. We hope that within the next two, three or four months the situation will come back to absolute normal.

श्री चक्रपाणि शुक्ल (मध्य प्रदेश): क्या शासन को यह मालूम है कि अगर 5 पैसे या 2 पैसे गला करके बर्तन बनाए जाएं तो 100 रु० के सिक्कों की कीमत बाजार में 170-180 रु० होती है। यही कारण है कि लोग गला कर बर्तन बना रहे हैं ?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : मैंने पहले ही कहा कि यह बात सही है कि सिक्कों को जो मेटलिक वैल्यू है वह फेस वैल्यू से ज्यादा है और जो माननीय सदस्य कह रहे हैं वह ठीक ही जान पड़ता है यद्यपि मैं फिंगर्स के बारे में नहीं कह सकता कि यह आंकड़ा जो दिया है वह ठीक है या नहीं है, लेकिन यह सही है कि इस तरह का उपयोग करने से यह कमी हो रही है।

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): May I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that in the rural areas sometimes some unholy businessmen and traders hoard a large number of small coins and create artificial deficit in the lo-cality? If so, what measures ate the Government going to adopt to prevent it?

Is it a fact that an old institution of silver refiner) in Calcutta i- going to be closed down by the Government of India throwing 50(1 employees out of job? If so, what meare the Government going to take to re-employ these retrenched'employees?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, the second question is not really concerned with this. As for the silver refinery which is refining silver which is retrieved from the old coins, we are going into the second stage where we will be having silver of 99.99 per cent purity.

I am sorry I could not exactly follow the first part of the hon. Member's question.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: The first part of my question was whether the Government is aware that in the rural areas sometimes complaints have been received that there is shortage of coins which is mainly due to hoarding of a large number of small coins by the unholly businessmen and traders.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Yes, Sir, I have already said that it is quite likely and it may be true also that some unscrupulous business men might have hoarded the 2-paisa and 5-paisa coins, because of their metallic value, and melted them to make more money out of them. And the coins shortage would arise to a large extent because of such illegal and anti-national activities. I have already stated that.

SHRI A. D. MAM (Madhya Pradesh): May I ask the Minister to give some information about the principles on which these coins are minted? Does the number of coins in circulation have some relationship or some ratio to the total notes in circulation, or is it based on the requirements of the various regional centres according to the information submitted by them from time to time? Secondly, I would like to ask him whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that some of the banks have been unable to supply coins, particularly to those who want them and, if so, whether the Government has taken steps to help the banks to see that the demands of their clients are met.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, there is a coinage programme that is fixed for all the three mints year by year. Regular meetings are held by the Reserve Bank of India and they fix this coinage programme and the production programme for the three mints. Therefore, this has regular relationship with the notes in circulation and it is all done by the Reserve Bank when they hold the meeting and fix the coinage programme year by year. Really speaking, if everything had been normal, this coin shortage would have never arisen. But because of the abnormal factors that I have mentioned, this situation has arisen.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, there are coins of various denominations. May I know whether there are any guidelines or rules or norms governing the issue of these coins in certain

proportions? Secondly, these 20-paise coins are likely to be confused with half-a-rupee coins. Especially in darkness when we get down from a rickshaw or scooter, we are not able to decipher whether it is a 20-paise coin or a half-a-rupee coin. Will the Government think of taking steps to remove this difficulty and maintain certain differential characteristics between the 20 paise coin and the half-a-rupee coin?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, we shall surely look into the difficulty that the hon. Member has mentioned. As for the first question regarding guidelines, in reply to Mr. Mani I have already indicated that the Reserve Bank, when they hold a meeting to fix the coinage programme, do give guidelines to the mints according to which coins of various denominations are minted, so that all demands for the various denominations are properly met.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, on a point of procedure. In the Lok Sabha, generally supplementaries are allowed only to those Members who are party to the Calling Attention Notice, not to the whole House. Here it is permitted to the whole House, with the result that quite a lot of time is taken.

SHRI A. D. MANI: No, no, we should have an opportunity.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: I only wanted to know if it would be possible, if the House felt like that, to amend our rules or our procedure.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have no objection to follow the suggestion made by Mr. Tyagi if the House accepts it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I suggest, Sir, that the Calling Attention matter should continue for more than two hours. Will you accept it? Just because somebody is making a suggestion, you say "All right."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, / said that if it is acceptable to the House. I will welcome that suggestion. It is really a good suggestion, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta; you should understand that. Now, Mr. Lokanath Misra.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): May I know from the hon. Minister whether he would not consider it intellectual bankruptcy, if not financial bankruptcy, that the minting cost of the coins should be more than their real value in the market? How does he justify more money being spent on the minting of the coin itself? The metallic value of the coin is higher than the face value of the coin. Who was responsible for minting these coins with this metallic value, and what action has been taken against people who are responsible for such wrong actions?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You must answer this question because Mr. Misra has become a high denomination coin in the mint of the Swatantra Party). Therefore, you must answer it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I am in the Swatantra Party. But you are much higher. You are an ally of the ruling party. The ruling party in his country is very much appreciated. Therefore, you have appreciated very much in your value.

SHRI VIDYA BHARAN SHUKLA: The ultimate responsibility in such matters is that of the Government. But it is really the Reserve Bank which normally manages these things. They fix up all these technical matters, about the metallic content of the various coins of various denominations that have to be used, how many in coins or how many pieces of these various coins should be minted, etc. It is the Reserve Bank which normally does these things. As the honourable Member knows that nickel and copper are the main things which are used in these coins, and in the recent past not when this decision was taken the value of these non-ferrous metals has gone up in the market and because of that this phenomenon has arisen. When the decision was taken to put some element of nickel and copper in these coins of this denomination, probably at that time the market value was not as high as it is today. And therefore, I would not say that this mistake has been deliberately committed. A situation like this has just come out and we are trying our best to remedy this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Goray.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: I would like to ask only one historic question . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The value of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has also gone up simultaneously.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: My friend, Mr. Misra, has appreciated in value. But the trouble is his is a coin in the black-market.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, let us come from human coin to metallic coins. The Minister has said just now that it will take about two or three months to remedy the shortage. Does he not think that this period is too long? If the people who are indulging in this sort of a thing come to know that it will take two or three months, the scarcity will go up still further. Will he not still shorten the period so that the shortage of coin supply is remedied?

SHRI VIDYA BHARAN SHUKLA: We are doing our best to shorten this period. I am only saying three or four months so that our new production schedule that we have put into operation in the three mints goes

on and we get the aluminium coins, for instance, where the face value is more than the metallic value. It is not the minimum period, the period which I mentioned. It is the maximum period within which we shall try to remedy the position. Actually the process of remedying is going on even now. For complete normalisation it might take a few months.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(i) **FIRST ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE MADHYA PRADESH STATE AGRO-INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED, BHOPAL.**

(ii) **SECOND ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE HARYANA AGRO-INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED, CHANDIGARH.**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. C. JAMIR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section (19A) of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each of the following Reports:—

(i) First Annual Report and Accounts of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1969-70, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts. [Placed in library. See No. LT-4311/70.]

(ii) Second Annual Report and Accounts of the Haryana Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1968-69, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4390/70.]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY IN PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA BHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Public Relations and Publicity in Public Undertakings. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4481/70.]

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1970.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under subsection (1) of section 22 of the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962, a copy of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Cooperation) Notification G.S.R. No. 1884, dated the 14th November, 1970 (in English)