

श्री भगवत नारायण भागवत : गवर्नमेंट को नई दूसरी प्रेस कायम करने की कब आवश्यकता मालूम हुई और क्या कारण है दूसरी प्रेस तैयार करने का ?

श्री बी० आर० भगत : सन् १९५६ में यह तय किया गया कि एक और प्रेस खोला जाय और जरूरत पड़ी ज्यादा नोट छापने की ।

श्री भगवत नारायण भागवत : गवर्नमेंट ने क्या इस बात का कोई उपाय सोचा है कि जो जाली नोट छापे जाते हैं उनमें कमी हो और इसके सम्बन्ध में क्या विदेशों में कोई प्रशिक्षण अपने यहां के आदमियों को दिया है ?

श्री बी० आर० भगत : यह तो अलग सवाल है । मगर एक बार मैंने अपने जवाब में बताया था कि इसका प्रबन्ध किया जा रहा है कि एक खास रंग के नोट छापे जायें और इसके प्रशिक्षण के लिये हम अपने आदमियों को भेजने का विचार कर रहे हैं ।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the currency expansion, which seems to be in a flourishing state in the Government, due to the fact that the present plans are not adequate enough to keep pace with the expansion of currency as a result of deficit financing of the Government and that is why you are starting new presses?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I think that is an extraordinary logic of the hon. Member.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, they are now starting a press to print notes. Do I understand that the existing arrangements are not adequate for supplying notes to the market

at the existing level and that you envisage such heavy expansion of currency that you have to put into operation new printing presses? There is nothing extraordinary in it. It is a very common question?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Well, as the economy develops, there is more demand for notes.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: What is the capacity of this new press?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The new currency note press will have a capacity to print about 1500 million pieces of notes per annum and the existing press has also more or less the same capacity, but it is at present printing 2500 million pieces of notes to meet the increased demand.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know, Sir, if the new press incorporates the latest technological developments in the printing of currency notes?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Yes, Sir. We have tried to make the machinery most up-to-date.

CLANDESTINE REFINERIES FOR SEPARATING SILVER FROM SILVER-NICKEL RUPEE COINS

*109. **SHRI JASWANT SINGH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of clandestine refineries in Delhi are engaged in separating silver from silver-nickel rupee coins and converting that silver into bars for sale in the market; and

(b) if so, what is the number of such refineries which have been detected?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). Apart from what has appeared in the newspapers, the Government of India have no information on the subject, but a report has been called for from the Delhi Administration.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Has any reply been received from the Delhi Administration?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We are awaiting a reply.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: When was the enquiry made from the Delhi Administration?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Sir, the news item appeared on 6th and 7th January, 1961, and soon after we asked for a report.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I know, Sir, if the Government are certain that in the country there are no illicit refineries for separating silver from the silver-nickel rupee coins?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Without prejudice to the report of the Delhi Administration, I may inform the hon. Member that the process of extraction of silver from coins, which contain 50 per cent. silver, 40 per cent. copper, 5 per cent. nickel and 5 per cent. zinc is a very very difficult electro-metallurgical process. We have set up a refinery in Calcutta and after a good deal of difficulty we are able to extract silver out of coins. On that score we can say that if there are any clandestine refineries, it would be very, very difficult for them to do so. But let us await the report of the Delhi Administration.

SHRI A. D. MANI: When the report appeared in the Press, did the Government conduct investigation on their own initiative or did they only pass it on to the Delhi Administration?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Delhi Administration is the local administrative authority, and we have to get the report from them.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The Central Intelligence is available for the Government of India. Was it used for conducting an investigation?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We cannot divulge the exact process of the enquiry.

STEEL PLANTS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN

*110. SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel plants proposed to be set up in the private sector in the Third Five Year Plan period;

(b) what is their estimated capacity; and

(c) the number of those that are proposed to be set up for the manufacture of alloy steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) Government do not propose to permit the setting up of new steel plants in the private sector; however, plants for manufacture of pig iron up to 100,000 tons per annum have been permitted.

(b) (i) Steel—Nil.

(ii) Pig Iron—500,000 tons, of which about 300,000 tons have already been licensed.

(c) A number of proposals for the manufacture of alloy steels from private parties are being examined.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: May I know whether it is a fact that alloy steel and pig iron also were considered to be promoted only in the public sector during the First and Second Plan periods and what is the