

- (b) if so, the details of the agreement; and  
 (c) the reasons for import of blank coins from Italy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Government have placed an order on M/s. Institute Polygraphics Verres, Italy for supply of 3277.5 M.T. of Stainless Steel Coin Blanks for India Government Mints as per details given below :

Denomination	Quantity in M.T.
Re. 1	2085.5
50 paise	758
25 paise	2212
10 paise	222

(c) The requirement of coin blanks is met by the Government through various sources, which include their own production of coin blanks by India Government Mints as well as procurement from external sources like supplies by Salem Steel Plant, import from foreign suppliers.

### Black Money

3798. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of black money recovery during the year 1994-95; and  
 (b) the steps being taken by the Government to unearth such money in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Recovery of black money during the year 1994-95 cannot be quantified since such details are not maintained. However, unaccounted assets in the form of cash, jewellery and others are seized during the search and seizure operations carried out by the Department. During the year 1994-95, total value of assets seized amounted to Rs. 381.43 crores.

(b) Combating tax evasion and unearthing black money are continuous processes inherent in any economy. The Government has been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures, as deemed appropriate, from time to time to unearth black money. Rate of taxation has been progressively reduced and slabs of income have been progressively rationalised. At the same time the Income Tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at unearthing black money. These include, *inter-alia*, provisions regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in appropriate cases u/s 44AA and 44AB, restrictions on cash transactions u/s 40A (3), 269SS and 269(T), pre-emptive purchase of properties under chapter XXC and provisions regarding penalties and prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters. The Act also contains

provisions regarding summons, surveys, searches and other investigations to unearth black money. These provisions are resorted to in appropriate cases. Recently, amendments have been proposed in the Income Tax Act by the Finance Bill, 1995 to further strengthen the machinery for unearthing black money.

### Decline in Coffee Demand

3799. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the consumption of coffee in Southern parts of the country is declining;  
 (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;  
 (c) whether the Government have received any representation from the United Planters Association for mixing of the chicory with coffee;  
 (d) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. There is no information to indicate that the consumption of coffee in Southern parts of the country is declining.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d). United Planters Association have requested the Ministry to evolve ways and means to curb/regulate the mixing of Chicory with coffee so as to promote consumption of pure Coffee.

(e) Mixing of Chicory in Coffee is regulated as per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, which permits upto 49% of Chicory in blended Coffee. However, the Coffee Board promotes the consumption of pure Coffee only.

[Translation]

### Free Traveling Facility in IA and AI

3800. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government provide free travelling facility in Indian Airlines/Air India;  
 (b) if so, the criteria adopted in this regard; and  
 (c) the number of such free travel passes provided during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Free passages for medical treatment abroad, on the recommendations of the Director General of Health Services are issued by the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism under his discretionary powers, in deserving cases. Free passages are also issued by M(CA and T),

in other deserving cases under his discretionary powers. Further, the Department of Tourism operates a quota of free passages for tourism promotion purposes, which are also issued under the orders of M(CA and T).

(c) The number of free passages, issued under the above mentioned criteria are indicated below :

Year	Free passess issued by M(CA&T) including those for treatment abroad	Free passes placed* at the disposal of Department of Tourism
1991-92	124 (on Air India)	* 850 (on Air India) * 675 (on Indian Airlines)
1992-93	173 (on Air India)	* 970 (on Air India) * 675 (on Indian Airlines)
1994-95	250 (on Air India)	* 1000 (on Air India) * 800 (on Indian Airlines)

\* actual utilisation figures are not available.

#### Action Plan to Promote Tourism in U.P.

3801. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of action plans included in the Eighth Five Year Plan to promote the tourism in Uttar Pradesh and fund allocated in this regard; and

(b) the details of the facilities likely to be provided at the places selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) On the basis of complete proposals received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh the Central Department of Tourism sanctioned 29 projects/schemes at a cost of Rs. 398.00 lakhs during the first three years of Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) Tourist facilities provided and proposed to be provided at places indentified by the State Government include construction of Yatri Niwases Tourist Lodges, Tourist Complexes, Wayside Amenities, Tented Colonies, Moditation Centre, Reception Centres and Public Conveniences.

[English]

#### Payment of Wages

3802. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that mine workers employed in the

sandstone and marble mines of Rajasthan are paid wages according to the caste to which they belong by the private owners of these mines;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to put an end to this practice; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, there is no provision for Payment of Wages on caste basis. The Central Government as the appropriate Government in respect of the scheduled employments in Stone mines and Marble mines has not received any information regarding payment of wages on caste basis in the Stone and Marble mines in Rajasthan and no such complaint has come to Government's notice in the course of inspections.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Illegal Imports

3803. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to lack of coordination between the Customs officials and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence the illegal imports have increased; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to prevent illegal imports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). Close coordination is being maintained amongst all agencies of the Government including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and field Customs formations to prevent and detect smuggling of goods into the country. Field formations and intelligence agencies are alert to detect and prevent illegal imports into the country.

#### R.R.B.s in Gujarat

3804. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the locations of Regional Rural Banks in Gujarat;

(b) the extent upto which these banks have achieved the target during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) whether some of the banks are facing acute financial crisis;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken for improving the efficiency of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) There are nine Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operating in the State of Gujarat with their headquarters