

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Rs. 1CN and Rs. 2CN coin sized 26 mm dia are in circulation. The Shape of the coins is however different. Re. 1 coin is round in shape whereas Rs. 2 coin is 11 sided.

(b) and (c) There is no move to withdraw these coins at present.

[Translation]

#### Use of Hindi

3661. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sittings of Hindi Consultative Committee that have taken place during the last three years;

(b) whether all recommendations made by the Committee have since been implemented;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute new Hindi Consultative Committee; and

(d) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There are two Hindi Salahakar Samitis in the Ministry of Industry. One is for the Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Industrial Development and Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries and the other for the Departments of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises.

The Hindi Salahakar Samiti for the Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Industrial Development and Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries has met six times during the last three years. The Hindi Salahakar Samiti for the Departments of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises was constituted in March, 1995 and has met once since then.

(b) In the meetings of the Hindi Salahakar Samiti, progressive use of Hindi in all the Departments, including attached and subordinate offices is reviewed. Every possible effort is made to implement the suggestions of the members of the Samiti.

(c) and (d) The tenure of the last Hindi Salahakar Samiti of the Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotions, Industrial Development and Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries expired on 10.11.1995 and the same is being reconstituted.

[English]

#### Export of Palm Sugar, Fibre and Stalks

Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity of palm-sugar, palm fibre and stalks exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : Country-wise and item-wise details are available in the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India, Volume-I (Exports) published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, copies of which upto January, 1996 are available in the Parliament library. Country-wise and item-wise export figures for the month of February and March 1996 are not available. The item 'Palm Stalks' is not separately specified in the ITC (HS) Coding Book and therefore, its details are not available in the document.

[Translation]

#### Recommendation of Abid Hussain Committee

3663. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Abid Hussain Committee was constituted to examine the problems of the small scale industries.

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are given below:

(i) To examine the impact and efficacy of the promotional protective policies and direct assistance programme for SSI in the light of recent economic reforms and suggest appropriate changes.

(ii) To review the definition, legal framework and the heterogeneous opposition of the small scale sector and recommend appropriate changes for realisation of the objectives.

(iii) To examine the efficacy & desirability of the reservation policy for the small industries and made suitable recommendation.

(iv) To examine the present arrangements and sources for the collection, compilation, dissemination and

(v) To examine the possibility and necessity of replacing the present institutional arrangements for the transfer and dissemination of technological information and make appropriate recommendation.

(vi) To examine the effectiveness of the existing institutional arrangement and the policies for meeting the long term and short term financial requirements of the small enterprises and make suitable recommendation.

(vii) To review the impact of various fiscal policies and tax concessions on small enterprises.

(viii) To examine the impact of various regulatory laws and procedures such as the labour laws, the Factories Act, the Industrial Disputes Act and the Environment Protective Act on the small firms.

(ix) To consider and make recommendations on such other matters as the Committee considers relevant.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

(e) The term of the Committee has been extended upto 31st October, 1996 by which time it is expected to submit its report.

[English]

#### Patent Right

3664. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "After neem, turmeric patent is grabbed in US" appearing in the "Times of India" dated June 29, 1996;

(b) whether the broad nature of the patents of turmeric may affect the plan of Indians to commercially utilise the various properties of this plant; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to

safeguard the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) A patent for a method of promoting healing of a wound by administering turmeric powder to a patient afflicted with the wound has reportedly been granted in USA to two non-resident Indians.

(b) and (c) The patent granted in U.S.A. is valid in that country and does not have any legal effect in India. Even then, CSIR and Government of India are taking action in this matter.

#### Agricultural Export

3665. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of percentage of agricultural exports against the total trade exports of the country during 1995-96 in comparison to 1980s;

(b) whether the agricultural exports have been hampered by controls and over-valued exchange rate during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any scope to boost the agricultural exports upto 30 percent of the total exports;

(e) if so, the details of the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed for the export of agricultural products;

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (f) The exports of agricultural and allied products (excluding tea, coffee, raw cotton and marine products) and their share in the country's total exports, since 1980-81 have been as under :-

Year	Exports of agricultural and allied products (Rs. Crores)	Country's total exports (Rs. Crores)	% share of exports of agricultural & allied products
1980-81	1035	6711	15.4
1985-86	1650	10895	15.1
1990-91	3189	32553	9.8
1995-96	12772.38	106464.86	12.0

(Source : Economic Survey 1995-96 & DGCI&S, Calcutta)