

(b) The Government has been following liberal policy for licensing, both in the organised and small scale sectors; capacity constraints have practically been removed, import of Design and Drawing know-how is allowed freely for projects, special MRTP waiver under section 21 and 22 of the MRTP Act has also been provided.

(c) The prices of indigenously manufactured computers have been falling with the increase in production and increasing level of competition. The Government's aim is to bring down the prices as close to the international level as possible.

(d) About 142 units have reported production.

(e) An Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee has been functioning in the Department of Electronics which is empowered to deal with all technical aspects on a single point basis.

Permission to Master Card International to open Office in India

9221. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted Master Card International to open an office in New Delhi in a bid to tap the growing credit card market in the region,

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has allowed the Central Bank of India to issue blank permit to select export and trading houses under its Master Card International Scheme;

(c) whether the amount of foreign exchange against such permits will have to be sanctioned beforehand by the R.B.I.; and

(d) the steps Government have taken to prevent any misuse of foreign exchange permits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House, to the extent available.

Production and Import of Coins

9222. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to step up indigenous production of coins particularly at the Calcutta Mint;

(b) whether there is any plan for expansion of Calcutta Mint;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the cost of coins of various denominations likely to be imported during the current year and from which countries; and

(e) precautions taken to ensure that these coins do not contain any element of counterfeit and doubtful coins?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Some of the steps taken to increase production of coins in the India Government Mints including Calcutta Mint are:

(i) Introduction of an incentive scheme for higher production.

(ii) Working hours have been increased to 60 hours per shift per week.

(iii) A second shift has been introduced in the Calcutta Mint.

(iv) As part of modernisation of the Mints, 24 new Coining Presses have been installed of which 6

were in the Calcutta Mint; 14 more Coining Presses are being installed.

- (v) A New Mint with an annual capacity of 2000 million pieces per annum is being set up at NOIDA, U.P. It is scheduled to commence production in 1988-89.

As a result of the steps taken, production in the Calcutta Mint has increased during the past three years, as under:

	<i>(in million pieces)</i>	
1984-85	—	432
1985	—	873
1986-87	—	1103

(b) and (c). With a view to augmenting the capacity of the Mints through modernisation, M/s. MECON had been commissioned to make a study and their report is under consideration.

(d) Orders for 1250 million pieces of stainless steel coins consisting of 300 million pieces of 50 paise coins, 400 million pieces of 25 paise coins and 550 million pieces of 10 paise coins at a cost of Rs. 16.62 crores have been placed on Royal Canadian Mint, Canada. These are expected to arrive during 1987 and 1988. Apart from this, a small quantity of 144.5 million pieces of 1 Rupee coins from U.K. and 80 million pieces of 50p. coins from South Korea, being the balance of the orders placed in 1985-86, will also be arriving during the year.

(e) Coins are imported from foreign Mints who have a reputation of reliability and security established over the years. These Mints observe security precautions on the same lines as the Mints in India. Suitable security measures have also been ensured in our arrangements for imports.

Seizure of Indian Ships near Belgian Port of Ghent

9223. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Min-

ister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two ships of Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited were seized at flushing road near the Belgian Port of Ghent, on orders from a Dutch Court in Potterdam recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to secure the release of these ships and prevent such incident arising in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The two vessels were seized on orders of court on petitions filed by some creditors for non-payment of their dues.

(c) An official team has been deputed to look into issues arising out of seizure of these ships. A new organisation by the name of Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India has been set up, which will, *inter-alia*, look into the viability of various sick shipping companies and would prepare rehabilitation packages in respect of those companies which are found to be viable.

Plan to Promote Study of Nuclear Medicine

9224. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have investigated the effects from the medical point of view of the likely radiation fall-out in the event of an atomic reactor accident,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to promote the study and research into nuclear medicine and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE