

Officers' Representative on Board of Nationalised Banks

2538. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of appointing one of the principal office-bearers of Officers' Association in the bank concerned as representative of officers on the board of nationalised banks has been discontinued; and

(b) if so, when and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Government considers it necessary in the interest of the banking industry that the appointment of an Officer Director should not be based on his affiliation to an Officers' Association. The provisions laid down in Clause 3(c) of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes, 1970 and 1980, provide for appointment by the Central Government of one Director from among the employees of nationalised banks who are not workmen on the Board of nationalised banks, after consultation with the Reserve Bank of India. The Schemes do not provide that the persons should be principal office bearers of any Officers' Associations. This issue has, however, been taken to law Courts by some of the bank—Officers' Associations.

Impact of High duties on copper consuming industries

2539. SHRI G.M BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high import and excise duty has hit the copper consuming industries very adversely by pushing up the price of copper and copper alloy products and thus forcing the industries to operate at about 40 per cent capacity utilisation;

(b) whether in view of further rising trend

in international price of copper, the Government propose to reduce import and excise duty on the above products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). The excise duty on copper has remained unchanged since 1982. Import duty changes are made in consultation with the administrative Ministry keeping in view the ruling international prices, which often fluctuate and the need to safeguard the interests of domestic producers of copper. Last such change in import duty on copper was made in November/December, 1986. No representation has been received in this Ministry to the effect that high import and excise duty have forced the copper consuming industry to operate at 40% capacity utilisation. No recommendation for reduction in import duty has been received from the administrative Ministry so far.

Import of Coins

2540. PROF K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many coins were imported during 1986-87.

(b) whether more coins are proposed to be got minted outside the country;

(c) the cost for minting coins outside; and

(d) the steps taken to mint more coins internally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Out of the 4000 million pieces of Cupro-Nickel coins imported during the years 1985 to 1987, 2373 million pieces of coins were received during the period 1.4.1986 to 31.3.1987.