

However, the possibilities will be explored in due course.

(b) Does not arise.

COST OF PRINTING OF ONE RUPEE NOTE AND COIN

3376. SHRI A. K. ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of printing of one rupee note and minting of one rupee coin in the country.

(b) whether there is marked deterioration in the quality of paper used in the one rupee note; and

(c) whether there is a move to replace one rupee note by the one rupee coin; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The manufacturing cost (including cost of paper) of One-Rupee Note is approximately 3.5 Paise and that of One-Rupee Coin (including cost of metal) is about 70.38 Paise.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Keeping in view the heavy cost involved in the printing, circulation, retrieval and destruction of One-Rupee Notes and the long-term economies in the minting of coins, it has been decided to increase the output of One-Rupee Coins (with reduced dimensions) so as to enable gradual reduction in the quantum and ultimate discontinuance of printing and supply of One-Rupee Notes.

INTRODUCTION OF MICROPROCESSORS IN L.I.C.

3377. SHRI SUNIL MAITRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have contemplated to introduce microprocessors in LIC which would ultimately make the employees redundant, spell disaster in the matter of

employment and endanger the job security of the employees; and

(b) if so, what stands in the way to concede the demands of the All India Insurance Employees' Association that the management should discuss the implications of the implementation of the scheme with the All India Insurance Employees' Association and till then stop proceeding with the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The unit record machines, with which policyholders' servicing operations of the LIC have so far been carried out, had, due to normal wear and tear, become incapable of adequately coping with the increasing volume of business. Moreover, these machines are not being manufactured any longer and, in the absence of spare parts, their maintenance was posing serious problems. In consequence, the standard of policyholders' servicing had gone down and the system of financial and other controls had suffered considerably. In the circumstances, introduction of microprocessors in the LIC had become a matter of urgent necessity, in the interests of the policyholders. A view to this effect was strongly expressed by the Era Sezhiyan Committee, which went into the working of the LIC in all major aspects. Keeping in view the recommendation of the Committee, the LIC has taken up introduction of micro-processors in its divisional offices and branch offices in a phased manner.

The LIC has kept the All India Insurance Employees' Association, as well as other organisations of its employees fully informed about the justification and need for introduction of micro-processors in all branches to replace the obsolete unit record machines installed in the divisional offices. The LIC has also sent to the Association in question a detailed reply dated 3rd July, 1982.

Government do not share the apprehension that the introduction of micro-processors would adversely affect the interests of the employees.