

Minting of Small Coins**Counterfeit cheques and currency notes**

1079. DR. A. U. AZMI:

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mint Authorities have approached Government to stop manufacturing 5 paise coins as it was costing more than 10 paise to make it; and even the 10 paise coin costs the Mint 15 paise to manufacture the same; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to bring down the cost of manufacturing these coins and whether 20 paise coin is proposed to be reminted to control the less usage of small coins?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) The Mint Authorities have not approached the Government with any proposal for stopping the manufacture of 5 paise coins. Nor is any such proposal under the consideration of the Government. The manufacturing cost of a 5 paise coin was 13 paise for the quarter ended June 1982 while that for a 10 paise coin was 17 paise for the quarter ended March, 1982.

(b) With a view to bringing down the cost of manufacturing these coins and to increase production, an Incentive Scheme has already been introduced in the Bombay Mint, while negotiations are in progress for introduction of similar schemes in the other Mints also.

It has been decided to re-introduce 20 paise coins (in Aluminium-Magnesium Alloy) which will be put in circulation soon.

1080. SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more and more counterfeit cheques and currency notes are pouring into the country through the African countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a foreign firm dealing with foreign exchange has successfully averted many such cases in the recent past; and

(c) whether Government have tried to take the advice and guidance of this foreign firm and whether Government have tried to quantify the losses suffered as a result of this during 1980 or 1981?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATABHI RAMA RAO): (a) to (c). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reaction of States to abolition of Octroi Duty

1081. SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although the Chief Ministers' Conference had decided two years ago to do away with the octroi duty, only a few States have done it so far;

(b) whether the Central Government have tried to liaise with States to find out the difficulties that are coming in the way of proper implementation of the decision taken; and

(c) if so, what are the findings of the Centre and in what way the Centre proposes to help resolve the issue?