

Shortage of Coins in West Bengal

1123. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA
HALDER :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE;
SHRIASHFAQ HUSAIN : Will the
Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state ;

(a) whether Government are aware that in West Bengal the shortage of coins is causing hardship to the people in their daily transactions;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the transport services had been severely hit due to this;

(c) whether Government also are aware that the Government's revenue collection had been affected in the shape of lower collections though transport services;

(d) what is the reasons for such shortage; and

(e) remedial measures taken to remove the shortage ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Complaints of shortage of coins and of resulting inconvenience to public are being received from certain parts of the country including West Bengal.

(b) and (c) A statement to this effect is reported to have been made by West Bengal Finance Minister.

(d) Owing to the constraints in the capacity of the Mints, it has not been possible fully to meet the requirements of small coins.

(e) While State Governments have been requested to deal with the hoarders of the coins, steps are being taken by the Government to increase production to meet the growing requirements of coins. An incentive scheme has been introduced in the three Mints located at Bombay, Calcutta, and Hyderabad

which has resulted in an increase of about 70% of production in the Bombay Mint and over 50% in the production in the other two Mints. The number of working hours per week per sift has been increased from 48 to 54. Similarly, the number of working days is also being increased to the extent possible under the provisions of the Factories Act. New coining presses have been ordered for the Hyderabad Mint to strengthen coining capacity. The 20-paise coin has also been re-introduced so as to reduce the demand for ten paise coins. As a result of these measures, it is expected that production of coins will be at least about 950 million pieces in 1983-84 against 660 million pieces in 1982-83.

Besides, long-term measures like introduction of additional shifts wherever possible are under consideration.

Payment of DA to State Government Employees at par with Central Government Employees

1124. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :- Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) how many State Governments have agreed in principle and in practice to pay A. to the State Government employees at par with the Central Government employees;

(b) the details there of ;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the State Governments have to face a great difficulty in order to release D. A. to their employees at par with the employees of the Central Government; and

(d) if so, what is the proposal of the Central Government in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) At the time of formulation of the States' Annual Plan for 1983-84, necessary