

**Circulation of 20-Paise Coins**

122 SHRI K PRADHANI · Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some organisations have written to him and to the Reserve Bank of India that the new 20-paise coins is hurting the religious sentiments of "crores of people" and pleaded for stopping the circulation of the coins as the symbol of a fisherman catching fish with a net, hurt the feeling of those who believed in non-violence, as reported in the "Hindustan Times", New Delhi of 28th January 1984, and

(b) if so, his reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) Yes, Sir One organisation viz Rijendra Raya Jeeva Dya Ghar Sumanlal Kamdar of Rajkot has sent a telegram inviting the attention of Government on the subject

(b) Fisheries is one of the major sources of occupation and livelihood for a vast number of people all over the country. Fish is a staple item of diet for many people in different parts of the country. Fisheries development is considered one of the major planks through which the lot of landless labourers and marginal farmers can be improved. Substantial allocation of funds for improvement of fisheries has been made in the various State Five Year Plans. All the State Governments have their own fisheries department and some have also Fisheries Department of Corporations. Schemes for development of fisheries have been drawn up and posed by the Government of India to various international financial institutions for assistance. In the circumstances it is difficult to appreciate the objection that the issue of circulation of coin with the theme "Fisheries" hurts the religious susceptibilities of crores of people.

**Shortage of Coins**

123 SHRI K PRADHANI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ,

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India

in its report on currency and finance for 1982-83 has disclosed the tell-tale evidence of the coin shortage facing the public in several cities particularly in the far-flung rural and tribal areas for the past few months,

(b) if so, whether this shortage is 'man-made' or there has actually been a fall in the proportion of rupee and other coins in the total currency coins in circulation over the past couple of years, and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to overcome this shortage ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) and (b) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India in their report on Currency and Finance 1982-83 in Table V-7, the proportion of notes to total currency in circulation which was 95.7% in 1981-82 rose to 96.2% in 1982-83. The amount of rupee coins in circulation (which includes one rupee notes) which was Rs. 351 crores in 1981-82 increased to Rs. 360 crores in 1982-83. The proportion of the rupee coins in circulation to total currency in circulation has come down from 2.3% in 1981-82 to 2.00% in 1982-83. As regards small coins, their amount increased from 306 crores in 1981-82 to 315 crores (provisional) in 1982-83. The proportion to total currency in circulation declined from 2% in 1981-82 to 1.8% in 1982-83. Thus, the proportions of one rupee and small coins to total currency in circulation have declined in 1982-83 whereas proportion of notes to total currency in circulation has gone up.

The current shortage is confined to small coins only. Although there have been complaints about shortage of one rupee notes, there are no complaints about shortage of one rupee coins. There is a general shortage of small coins and it is felt more in industrial/commercial centres. However, no complaints of shortage of coins have been received from far-flung rural and tribal areas. These have been reports that anti-social elements particularly in big cities have been exploiting the current situation to their personal advantage.

(c) Owing to constraints in the capacity of the 3 Mints located at Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad, it has not been possible fully to meet the requirements of small coins. However, steps are being taken to increase production in the three Mints to meet the growing requirements of coins. With a view to steps up production of coins an Incentive Scheme has been introduced in the Bombay Mint with effect from 28.12.1981. A similar scheme has been introduced in the Hyderabad Mint effect from 8.4.83 and in the Calcutta Mint with effect from 4.7.83. The number of working hours per shift has been increased from 48 to 54. New coining presses have been ordered for the Hyderabad Mint to strengthen coining capacity. The 20 Paise coin has also been reintroduced 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 1050 million pieces in 1983-84 against 660 million pieces in 1982-83 and 525 million pieces in 1981-82. Actual production during the first 10 months of 1983-84 has been 851.58 million pieces as against 539.49 million pieces during the corresponding period in 1982-83. The value of small coins expected to be produced in 1983-84 will be around Rs. 13 crores as against Rs. 5.97 crores in 1982-83.

As a long term measure, it has been decided to introduce a second shift in the Calcutta Mint which is expected to yield an additional 360 million pieces per annum.

#### **Selection of Aircraft for I.A.**

124. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to news-item captioned 'Suspense', over IA's aircraft for 1990's' appeared in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi of 1st February, 1984;

(b) if so, the facts of the case; and

(c) whether any decision has since been taken on the type of aircraft, Indian Airlines will buy for the 1990's; if so, the broad details thereof and the financial outlay involved therein ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Committee has been constituted by the Indian Airlines for the technical and economic evaluation of several alternative types of aircraft of varying size and range. The report of the Committee will be shortly submitted to the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines. It is not possible at this stage to give the financial implications of the proposed acquisition of aircraft and other details.

#### **Security Measures in View of Leakage of Defence Information**

125. DR. A.U. AZMI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the security measures that have been taken in view of the latest leakage of defence information by retired senior Service officers;

(b) whether the identity cards of the civilians working in the Defence Headquarters and those of Service personnel have been replaced by new series pass and are the entries of serving Defence personnel to be regulated through reception offices when they come on visit to Delhi from outside;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the civilians have been restricted to their places of work in the new system ?

**The MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) :** (a) Details of the security measures are given in attached statement.

(b) and (c) The new series of identity cards have been/are being issued to the civilians working in the Defence Headquarters. This process would be completed by the end of the month. The Defence personnel working in the Defence HQ have been given validation cards which alongwith their Service cards, would make them