

to hoard coins and several malpractices have aggravated the situation;

(b) whether it is the policy of Government to put into use both rupee-coin and rupee-notes ; and

(c) The steps proposed by Government to solve the problem of small coins ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Since there is a general shortage of small coins in the country, the possibility of hoarding of coins cannot be altogether ruled out ;

(b) While Government's ultimate intention is to totally replace one-rupee notes with one-rupee coins, this is proposed to be done in a phased manner so as to avoid inconvenience to the public. As such, one-rupee notes would continue to be printed and supplied for some more time, though at a reduced level.

(c) The steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the availability of coins are enumerated below :

(i) The working hours in all the three Mints (Bombay, Calcutta & Hyderabad) have been increased along with the operation of Group Incentive Schemes on account of which the output has registered substantial increase;

(ii) In order to increase the minting capacity, additional coining presses are being imported of which some have already come;

(iii) It has been decided to introduce a second shift in the Calcutta Mint which would yield an additional 360 million pieces of coins per annum, and

(iv) A proposal is under active consideration for setting up of one more Mint.

Value of Indian Rupees with that of British Pounds and American Dollars

822. SHRI G.S. NIHALSINGHWALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased

to lay on the table of the house a statement showing the value of rupee year-wise from 1.4.1972 to 1.8.1980 with base of 1960 and also the present value of Indian Rupees with that of American Dollar and British Pound respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : The internal value of rupee is worked out on the basis of the reciprocal of the all India Consumer Price Index for industrial workers with 1960 as the base. The requisite information is given below :

Period	Index	Value of Rupee in Paise
April 1972	195	51.28
1972-73 (Average)	207	48.31
1973-74 ..	250	40.00
1974-75 ..	317	31.55
1975-76 ..	313	31.95
1976-77 ..	301	33.22
1977-78 ..	324	30.86
1978-79 ..	331	30.21
1979-80 ..	360	27.78
August 1980	397	25.19

The external value (middle rate) of Indian Rupee with that of U.S. dollar and Pound sterling was Rs. 11.40 and Rs. 15.10 respectively as on 20th July, 1984 (latest available).

#### Memorandum on Problems of Mica Industry

823. SHRI A. K. ROY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum was submitted to the Minister of State for Commerce on the problems of the mica industry in the country in December 1983 ; and