

Foreign Exchange Spent on Import of Coins

*257. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI P. SANKARAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of foreign exchange likely to be spent on import/minting of coins from abroad;

(b) whether the import of coins is likely to be continued in future also or there is any scheme to make the country self reliant in the field of coin minting;

(c) whether currency notes are also being printed in foreign countries;

(d) if so, the value thereof alongwith the names of countries;

(e) whether the substandard quality of paper available in the country is the main cause of printing currency notes in foreign countries; and

(f) if so, the method evolved to improve the quality of paper produced in our country atleast for printing of currency notes and the expected savings in foreign exchange in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a)

| Year | Foreign exchange involved on import of coins (in Million US Dollar) |
|-----------|---|
| 1997-98 | 19.59 |
| 1998-99 | 12.69 (provisional) |
| 1999-2000 | 35.29 (estimated) |

(b) Any decision to import coins is need-based. The Govt. has decided to import 1000 Million pieces of coins (Rs. 1 = 300 MPCs, Rs. 2 = 300 MPCs and Rs. 5 = 400 MPCs) in 1999-2000. The Govt. Mints at Calcutta and Mumbai are being modernised and a new Mint has been set up at Cherlapally on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The new Mint was inaugurated on 20-8-1997. It is also proposed to run India Govt. Mint, Noida in two shifts. With all these measures, the indigenous production of coins will substantially go up from 1999-2000. As against the present production of 2375 MPCs, from 1999-2000 the production is expected to be 4700 MPCs per annum.

(c) and (d) As a one time measure, the RBI was authorised to import printed currency Notes. The import was made by RBI as under :

| Year | Denomination | Quantity (in MPCs) | Expenditure (in Million USD) |
|---------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1997-98 | Rs. 100 | 1415 | 33.58 |
| 1998-99 | Rs. 100 | 585 | 13.88 |
| 1997-98 | Rs. 500 | 572.4 | 17.11 |
| 1998-99 | Rs. 500 | 1027.6 | 30.71 |
| Total | | 3600 | 95.28 |

The total value of the imported Notes is Rs. one lakh crore (Value-wise). The details are as under :

| Sl. No. | Name of Firm | Denomination | Quantity (in MPCs) |
|-------------|---|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. | De.La rue Currency & Security Print, UK | 100 | 1092 |
| 2. | Debden Security Printing Ltd, UK | 100 | 273 |
| 3. | American Bank Note Co., USA | 100 | 635 |
| Total | | | 2000 |
| 4. | Geisecke & Debrint GmbH, Germany | 500 | 787 |
| 5. | Francois Charles oberthur, France | 500 | 482 |
| 6. | BA Bank Note, Canada | 500 | 331 |
| Total | | | 1600 |
| Grand Total | | | 3600 |

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Recovery of Loans

*258. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court have directed the Union Government and RBI for review of banking system and banking laws in the backdrop of ever increasing bank-frauds and scams; and

(b) if so, the details of fresh steps taken/under consideration to frame rules, regulations for speedy recovery of bank loans and interest thereon and progress made in this regard so far?