

why I am giving him an opportunity. You will also get a chance.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : When the detention is made under the COFEPOSA Act for the alleged violation or the threatening of violation under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, is there is any consideration of the entire matter at a higher level. I am asking this because of the fact that in many instances where the proceedings had been started against some persons under the COFEPOSA Act, ultimately it was found that there was not even a *prima facie* case against them. It depends upon the sweet will and the whims of the particular officer concerned. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any high-powered committee to consider whether COFEPOSA would be applicable to a particular individual. That is my first part of the question. Number two...

MR. SPEAKER : Please complete your question. There is no number one, number two, number three etc. You yourself were a Minister. You have been answering questions. You should understand the position of the hon. Minister.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : I would like to know another thing. It is not correct to say that when the arrest has been made or the detention has been made under the COFEPOSA, it is not possible to go to the court until the Advisory Board has considered the matter. So, in how many cases have the persons gone to the court and in how many cases has the party or the detenu been released by the court? Will the hon. Minister answer?

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : The hon. Member has asked for the figures. In 1994, under COFEPOSA, 119 detention orders were issued, 77 persons were detained and 21 persons were released by the Advisory Board and the High Courts. In 1995, 70 orders were issued, 17 persons were detained and 19 persons were released. In 1996, 53 orders were issued, 48 persons were detained and 10 persons were released. Regarding COFEPOSA, it will be considered by the high-powered committee.

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : The FERA has been there for a long time. In 1973 an amendment was brought to the FERA. I would like to know whether the Government has any intention to bring further amendment to the FERA Act or to abolish it.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : I have already said that it is under consideration of the high-powered committee. I cannot give you any more details.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member's question is, do you have any plan to amend the FERA Act in the near future?

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : It is under consideration...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot ask the question. You have no permission to ask.

[Translation]

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know the number of cases in which officers were pressurised to register F.I.R. on weak grounds courts has also commented that these cases can not be pursued further as FIR has been lodged on weak grounds.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : The hon. Member has put a specific question. I cannot say as to in how many cases the courts have commented. I only said that some people are released. When they are released, there is no case against them.

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA : It was commented by the court that in some cases your FIR are not properly framed and in certain cases FIRs were not lodged at all or there is a lacuna.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Since the Member has asked this question, we will collect the information and furnish it later on.

[Translation]

Printing of Notes

*102. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to award the contract of printing of higher denomination notes to a Japanese company;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the printing capacity of Bank Note Press, Dewas and Currency Note Press, Nasik;

(d) the number of high denomination notes printed in these presses during the last two years;

(e) whether the Interpol has warned the Government that the Japanese printed notes can be easily forged; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing printing capacity of Bank Note Press, Dewas and Currency Note Press, Nasik is as under :

BNP, Dewas	-	1875	million pieces per annum.
CNP, Nasik	-	4000	-do-

(d) The number of high denomination notes of Rs. 100 and Rs. 500 printed in BNP and CNP during the last two years was as under :

(Figures in million pieces)

Denominations	1994-95		1995-96	
	BNP	CNP	BNP	CNP
Rs. 100/-	904	451	882	469
Rs. 500/-	88	nil*	105	nil*

*Rs. 500 dono. notes is printed only at BNP.

(e) The Ministry of Finance is not aware of any Interpol warning that the Japanese printed notes can be easily forged.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether apart from Dewas and Nasik currency printing press, the Government is contemplating to get the higher denomination notes printed from foreign countries or some other agencies. If so, the reasons therefor?

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Now, the currency is being printed at two places, one at Dewas and the other at Nasik. We have shortage of currency. We have not yet given orders for printing from outside, but the RBI is considering it... (Interruptions) I will give you the whole picture so that there would not be any more trouble for you to ask supplementary questions. The RBI is considering whether we can give contract. We have some offers which are received - three from Consortiums and another three from private persons; and no decision has been taken. There is a proposal regarding this and the RBI is going through it.

As it is now, though we have shortage of pieces - I do not want to refer to the value; if you want, I have the figure for its value also - in terms of quantum, we print less. Whatever is necessary for the country could not be printed from these two places. That is the position.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given to my question is incomplete. He has not answered to my question as to why this practice is being resorted to My Second question to the hon. Minister is whether he will tell the House about the amount of currency notes requisitioned by RBI or the Government from these two factories during the last three years and the amount of notes printed by these two Bank Note Presses during that period. I would like to make a submission that these Bank Note Presses have been able to fulfil the demand and printed the notes much more than the demand. I do not know as to why shortage is being stated presently the currency

notes worth 80 million are lying with the Bank Note Press Dawas Bank Note Press but the Government is not issuing requisition for that lot.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : I think the hon. Member might have had some information which is not correct... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is reading it. He should not do that ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not say like that. You may also become a Minister one day! One need not become a Minister only at the Centre; it can happen in the States also! Please do not mind that... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : We are thankful to you for that, Sir... (Interruptions)

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Probably, some hon. Members might be thinking that the full capacity in these two Presses was not being used in previous years. In 1996-97, the figure of production 5940 million pieces; the requirement is 16,000 million pieces; and the shortfall is 10,060 million pieces. During 1997-98, the production would be 7,560 million pieces; the requirement would be 14,400 million pieces; and the shortfall would be 6,840 million pieces. During 1998-99, the production would be 10,390 million pieces; the requirement would be 15,890 million pieces and the shortfall would be 5,300 million pieces. We feel - I am giving you figures even for future - that the same trend may continue in future also. For the year 1999-2000, production will be 16,650 million pieces and requirement will be 18,800 million pieces and shortage will be 2240 million pieces. In 2000-01, production will be 16,700 million pieces, requirement will be 21,050 million pieces and shortage will be 4350 million pieces. I will give you the last figure. In 2004-05, our total production will be 19020 million pieces and shortfall will be 12,680 million pieces. That is the position ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has given incomplete reply to my question.

MR. SPEAKER : No. It is complete.

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware that there is shortage of printing of notes of small denominations like one rupee, two rupee and five rupee notes? If so, will the Government again start printing notes of these denominations in order to help the poor and also the middle class people?

For instance, the Government is printing and selling post cards at 15 paise per card and also inland covers at a lesser price. In the same spirit, may I know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government will start printing notes of small denomination like one rupee, two rupee and five rupee notes?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Formerly, we were printing one, two and five rupee notes. Now, what has happened is that we cannot do that. We have stopped printing one, two and five rupee notes and made them coins. So, we are printing coins and not one, two and five rupee notes.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Sir, that is not sufficient.

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. Now, listen to the next question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the shortage of one and two rupee currency notes in market. The notes available in market are generally mutilated and in very shabby condition. New notes one and two rupee denomination or being sold in black market at higher say double or four times of their worth. In view of these conditions whether the hon. Minister would like to tell as to what steps would be taken by the Government for printing of one and two rupee notes and by when these steps will be taken?

[*English*]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : The hon. Member has said that there is shortage of one, two and five rupee currency notes. We do not produce one, two and five rupee currency notes. Only coins are being printed and we know that there is shortage. We produce only one-fourth of what we need. There are four printing mints in India for producing currency notes and coins with the centre at Hyderabad. The whole operation is in Hyderabad. Now, if you want to know what the Government proposes to do, I may tell you that we have some old machines and we are bringing some new machines. We are going to overhaul the whole thing. We are going to look into the matter very seriously because this thing cannot continue. So, regarding minting of coins and printing of notes, I think we are going to look into what is happening in our minting press including machinery, structure and everything and we will come with a solution...(*Interruptions*)

Maruti Udyog

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*103. SHRI CHITTA BASU :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Suzuki Motors has requested the Government to sell the Maruti Udyog to it; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) President and CEO of Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) has in his letter proposed, inter-alia, that "management of Maruti be straightened by listing its shares or by selling the Government's shares to Suzuki, or vice-versa".

(b) Government is not considering any change now in the existing equity structure of MUL or disinvestment of its shares in favour of SMC.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, as you know, Maruti Udyog is a highly profit-earning institution in our country.

It is expected that it will make a net profit of Rs. 500 crore this year.

It is now estimated that the market value of the company is about Rs. 10,000 crore. The contribution of the Suzuki Motor Corporation in this respect does not exceed more than Rs. 100 crore. Having regard to these facts, it is apprehended that the SMC wants to take over the Maruti Udyog Limited and exploit the Indian market and also earn fabulous profit.

In view of that apprehension, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he could assure this House that the Government would not allow disinvestment of the Maruti Udyog in future which is a profit earning company?

Would he also take certain measures to prevent the dilution of equity of the Government in the company?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the hon. Member need not have any apprehensions. I have made it very clear in my statement. The Government is not considering any change now in the existing equity.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Not now.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : How can I answer for eternity? There is not such decision now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Therefore, I put a question. I think, the hon. Minister is an experienced one and he might have taken note of it. Does he also propose to take some preventive measures for further dilution? Anyway, he chose not to reply about it. It is for him.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, as I have said, we have no proposal to dilute the equity structure of the Government. We would not dilute it.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Thank you.

Is it a fact that the Maruti Udyog Limited was, at first, conceived as a hundred per cent public sector undertaking? Suzuki Motor Corporation was allowed to