

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:489  
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005  
MINTING OF COINS  
Bellarmin Shri A.V.

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the coins minting capacity of Government Mints are not being fully utilized by the Government and coins of smaller denominations like one rupee, 50 paise and 25 paise are being minted from abroad;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the foreign exchange spent on minting of such coins from abroad annually;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to utilize the facility existing in the Salem Steel plant coins blanks mill;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to fully utilise the minting capacity of our Mints?

**Answer**

FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM)

(a), (b) & (c) No, Sir.

(d) & (e) Mints invite tender(s) for procurement of raw materials which are decided as per prescribed procedure. Salem Steel Plant has supplied the following quantity during the last two years:

Ferritic Stainless Steel

Year (in MTs)	Coin Blanks (in MTs)	Coils (in MTs)
2003	1524	4856
2004	666	2525

(f) The annual production target of coins is fixed as per the indent received from the Reserve Bank of India for that particular year. For the last three years Reserve Bank of India has reduced their annual indent of coins and their indent for the year 2005-2006 is Nil, in view of surplus stocks of coins with them for distribution to the public. General Managers of the mints have been asked to explore the possibility of export of coins to other countries to utilise their spare capacity, if any, without involving any capital expenditure.