

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want?

14.11 hrs.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara): Will you please direct the Home Minister to make a statement whether it is a fact or not?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): I request that we may take up item No. 7 now. They are all agreeable.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now before we take up the business on the order paper I have a small verbal request from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and that is to vary the order in a small respect. We are now on item No. 6. If we look at item No. 7, there is another Bill. His request is that we may interchange; we may take up item 7 now and item 6 later.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: They all agree.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How can they agree without understanding? This is a small Bill.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): Regarding small coins.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why don't Members have patience? I must put it to you for your consent and you may give your consent. So far as this Small Coins Bill is concerned they have stipulated a period of 3 years. This period of three years expires tomorrow. It is only to remove that bar, so that this—Act may continue, that they want it to be passed today. If you agree we will take this up now..

SHRI D. N. TIWARY (Gopalganj): We have no objection.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Minister.

SMALL COINS (OFFENCES)  
AMENDMENT BILL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-  
MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI):

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and to the leaders of the opposition and other hon. Members for having agreed to take up this Bill. This is to be passed urgently and I am thankful for permitting me to bring it just now.

I beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend the Small Coins (Offences) Act, 1971, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration.”

The objective of the Bill is that the Small Coins (Offences) Act, 1971 may be made permanent instead of being a temporary one as at present.

In June, 1970 and beginning of 1971, there were serious complaints of shortages of small coins, mainly due to melting of small coins and hoarding them for purposes of melting as their metallic values had risen beyond their face values. In order to prevent the melting or destruction of small coins, of hoarding of small coins for the purpose of melting or destruction thereof, the Small Coins (Offences) Act, 1971 was enacted on the 11th December, 1971. Government also took various steps to increase the production of small coins in the Mints and these steps have contributed to a large extent in easing the shortage of small coins. Action was taken to change the metallic content of these small denomination coins from cupro-nickel to aluminium magnesium. As a result, reports of melting of coins have considerably come down. Since the

shortage of coins, which the Act was intended to tackle was expected to be a temporary phenomenon, specific provision was made in Section 1(2) of the Act to the effect that it shall remain in force for a period of 3 years.

The Act seems to have served its purpose well. It has deterred acts of melting cupro-nickel coins whose metallic value in 1970-71 and 1971-72 had exceeded the face value because of rise in prices of copper and nickel. There have been quite a number of prosecutions also in the different States under the Act. Steps have also been taken to increase the production in the three Mint at Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad. The coinage production has increased from 2165 million pieces in 1973-74 to estimated 2295 million pieces in 1974-75. The increase has been due to the introduction of a second shift in the India Government Mint, Hyderabad and the use of more sophisticated machines and equipment for the minting of coins. As a result, the shortage of small coins, experienced earlier, has been overcome.

While the acts of melting small coins have come down of late, it cannot be said with certainty that melting has been completely stopped or that there will be no such acts of melting in the future. Price of metallic alloys even of aluminium magnesium may behave erratically depending on the international demand and supply position. Inducement to melt coins is derived not only from the difference between metallic value and the face value of the coin, but also from the prospective margin of profit in alternative uses to which the metal or its alloy can be put to. Intending melters may try to avail of the ready metal in the existing cupro-nickel or aluminium-magnesium coins and put it to unauthorised use in manufacture of utensils, or hardware or other ventures of profit-making. It is, therefore, considered desirable that the *Small Coins (Of-*

fences) Act of 1971 may be retained as a permanent measure, instead of being a temporary one as at present. This is sought to be achieved by deleting clause 1(2) of the Act through this Amendment Bill.

I commend this Bill to the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. Motion moved:

“That the Bill to amend the *Small Coins (Offences) Act, 1971*, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI DINESH JOARDER (Malda): Sir, this is a small Bill, no doubt, but it concerns a large number of people particularly the poor people those who are going to market or travelling by buses or trains. Some time back people were feeling difficulty in getting these coins. The position has now improved a little bit but still in different parts of the country we find these small coins are not easily available. Therefore, for want of small coins people have some time to pay higher value than they are required to pay actually when they go to the market or travel by buses. This is the problem which we are still facing. As far as this Bill intends to prohibit the melting or destruction of small coins this intention of the Bill we welcome but whether this Bill alone will be able to solve the problem that we want to consider for a little while in this House.

The coins are being manufactured in three mints at Bombay, Hyderabad and Alipore in Calcutta and we are told that these mints are not capable enough to produce sufficient number and quantity of the small coins that are required in circulation throughout the country. So, another device has to be found by which this production of small coins can be increased to a certain extent. Also, we find that counterfeiting of coins also creates distress and menace to people to a large extent. Counterfeiting of coins is still there in different cities.

[Shri Dinesh Joarder]

This has not been totally wiped out. Effective steps should be taken to wipe out this menace of counterfeiting of coin.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Bill is about melting or destruction of small coins

SHRI DINESH JOARDER To avoid unlawful melting and destruction of small coins our Government diminished the value of coins. The value of coins has been so diminished that they have lost importance in the market.

That is why, to a certain extent, the melting and distribution has automatically been lessened. The other aspect is this that even in the Reserve Bank we have seen the duplicate currency notes. Regarding the coins, we do not know whether the hon. Minister has actually given the figure of production of small coins in different Mints. We have not yet seen any journal wherein the actual figure of the production of coins has found a place. We do not find anything regarding the quantity of coins produced in the mints during the last year. In Reserve Bank, we have seen currency notes bearing the same number and the same were produced in this House also. In my constituency, I have seen that in the State Bank, two rupees notes of the same number being issued. We do not know whether they are counterfeit currency notes or whether they are issued by the Reserve Bank. The notes are bearing the same number. And this sort of printing and manufacturing of currency notes and coins is going on in different mints and the same are being circulated by the Reserve Bank. I want to draw the hon. Minister's attention to this aspect also

To-day without taking much time of the House, I would only request the Minister to see to it that the want of small coins in this country is attended to and a large quantity of small coins is produced and circulated and

thereby see to it that the people's demands are met.

श्री हुकम चन्द काश्यप (जुरेना) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ। इस देश के सिक्के गलाने पर कोई कानून नहीं था जिस की वजह से छोटे सिक्कों की बहुत दिक्कत हो गई। मैंने सरकार से जानकारी मागी तो इन्होंने बताया कि कोई कानून नहीं है। तो धाग्रह किया गया कि कोई कानून बनाये। जिस से सिक्कों का गलाना रोका जा सके। लोग सिक्के गला कर उन के गहने बना कर विदेशों में तस्करी करते हैं। मुझे खुर्शी है कि सरकार ने मेरी बात को स्वीकार कर के यह कानून बनाया। छोटे सिक्कों की कमी आज भी देश में है।

आप ने कहा है कि हम ने बहुत से केसेज चलाये हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितने लोगों पर आप ने किस चलाये और कितनों को सजा दिना सके। ऐसा लगता है कि इस कानून में लुटिया हैं जिस की वजह से अभी तक आप किसी को सजा नहीं दे पाये हैं, और मोन छूट जाते हैं। सिक्के ऐसी धातु के होने चाहिये जिस के प्रति लोगों में आकर्षण हो। आज सिक्के इतने हल्के हैं कि हथेली पर रख कर और आँख मीचिये तो पता नहीं लगेंगा कि हैं कि नहीं। फूस मार बीजिये तो उड़ जाये। हमलिये सिक्के में आकर्षण होना चाहिये। देश के अन्तर सिक्को की कमी है इस को कैसे दूर किया जाय इस बारे में शासन को गम्भीरता से सोचना चाहिये। आज हालत यह है कि मोट बीजिये चाहे स्टेशन हो, बाजार या होटल हो, कोई बैंक वापस नहीं करता है। लोग कह बेटे हैं कि रेजगारी नहीं है। इसलिये सिक्के का अधिक फँसना हो। आज जमी सिक्के बड़ी मात्रा में चल रहे हैं, क्या आप के पास क्वी कोई मशीनरी है जिस के धरिये आप धीरे धीरे कर सकें कि वर्तमान का सही सिक्का

पया। प्रायः कुछ लोगों का जालं. सिक्के बनाने का धरा बन क्या है और नकलें सिक्के बाजार में फैलती हैं। इस तरह के कानून में नूपाइश होनी चाहिये कि जो नकली सिक्के बनाकर बाजार में लाते हैं उन के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जाये।

मुझे से पूर्व कस्ता ने उदाहरण दिया कि कुछ जाली नोट बनाये जा रहे हैं। यह बात सही है, प्राये दिन समाचार-पत्रों में ऐसी बाने पढ़ने को मिलती हैं। इस धोर भी प्रायः कदम उठाये। देश के अन्दर लोगों में सिक्के के प्रति अच्छी भावना हो, सिक्के में कुछ विशेष-पता दिखे ऐसे सिक्के बनने चाहिये। हल्की धातु का सिक्का न हो जिस की कोई वैल्यू न हो। पहले लोग सिक्के को जमीन में गाड़ दिया करते थे और वह खराब नहीं होता था। ऐसे ही आज के सिक्के हाने चाहिये मिट्टी में गिर कर भी उसकी धातु खराब न हो। धर खराब धातु कर के भी सिक्के को बेचा जाय तो उस की कुछ वैल्यू वापस मिलनी चाहिये। आज जो सिक्के बन रहे हैं उस की धातु अच्छी नहीं है। यही मुझे कहना है। मुझे आशा है कि जो मैं ने सुझाव दिये हैं वह प्रायः स्वीकार करेंगे।

श्री एच० एम० बनर्जी (दानपुर)  
 डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ। लेकिन कुछ चीजें सरकार के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ? मुझे यह गदा है कि एक रुपये का नोट चिद्रङ्गा कर के उस के बजाय एक २० का सिक्का चलाया जायगा। मुझे मालूम नहीं है कि यह कदा तक सही है। जो एक रुपये का सिक्का चलाया जायगा उसकी क्या धातु होगी मुझे मालूम नहीं। लेकिन अगर ऐसी धातु होगी जिस को खरा कर सिक्के से ज्यादा कीमत मिश्र सकती है तो जो लोग सिक्के खरीदने का धरा करते हैं वह जरूर उस को खलावेगे। इसलिये धातु ऐसी होनी चाहिये जो खलती न हो सके। मैं सरकार चाहता हूँ कि एक २० का नोट बाजार में लाया जाय जो खल न सके। हमारे देश में वैधानिक हैं, नकलीय

चलाया जायगा? क्या बाकई में वह सिक्का सरता होगा उससे जिस कीमत पर नोट छापे जाते हैं?

हल्के सिक्के के बारे में मुझे यह कहना है, उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे मालूम नहीं प्रायः के प्रायः सिक्का है कि नहीं, लेकिन मेरे प्रायः है 10 पैसे का सिक्का है जो इतना हल्का है कि बाकई में यह उड़ जाता है। 50 पैसे के सिक्के की धातु बहुत अच्छी है, लेकिन 5 पैसे और 10 पैसे के सिक्के की धातु खराब है। साथ ही इतना बजनदार भी न हो कि जब फट जाये। जो लोग जाली सिक्के बना रहे हैं उन्होंने एक काटेज इन्स्ट्री शुरू कर दी है। मेरे प्रायः तीन 10 10 पैसे के सिक्के से टेलीफोन करने में नये सिक्के ही डाले जाते हैं, दो सिक्के तो डाल दिये लेकिन तीसरा सिक्का फस गया तो सम्भवतः जाली सिक्का था। इसलिये कि मोटाई नाप और मोटाई तो कम से कम बराबर हो। आज अगर प्रायः को दो, पैसे तीन पैसे का छोटा सिक्का वापस लेना हो तो प्रायः को वापस नहीं मिलेगा क्योंकि छोटे सिक्कों की बेहद कमी है। साथ ही जब से डिमार्निशन हुआ एक २० के 100 पैसे हो गये तब से निखारियों को भी एक २० के सिक्के बना करने में काफी दिक्कत प्राती है। पहले तो 64 पैसे में एक २० बन जाता था, लेकिन आज 100 पैसे में बनता है और लोब दो पैसे, तीन पैसे ही भीख में देते हैं। एक २० का नोट बन्धे बाजार में ले जाते हैं तो उन को छोटी चीजें वापस नहीं मिलती।

अन्त में मैं फिर मन्त्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या बाकई में प्रायः एक २० के नोट को सिक्के में बदलना चाहते हैं? कहीं ऐसा ब हो कि एक २० का नोट भी न रहे जो और जो सिक्का प्रायः चलावे उस को खोय नला सके? इसलिये प्रायः को तोरकवा पड़ेगा कि सिक्का ऐसी धातु का चलाया जाय जो खल न सके। हमारे देश में वैधानिक हैं, नकलीय

[श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी]

समर गुह खुद साइटस्ट है, कोई ऐसी चीज अगर मिल जाय जो गलायी न जा सके तो अच्छा रहेगा और तब न कोई गलाने की कोशिश ही करेगा। (अध्यापक) चमड़े के सिक्के चलाने वालों ने चला दिये थे। आप भी वही करने वाले हैं। इसलिये अखिर में मैं फिर जानना चाहता हूँ कि एम० रुपये वा सिक्का बनेगा कि नहीं? और अगर बनेगा तो ऐसी धातु वा होना चाहिये जिसको लोग गलाया न जा सके।

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी (गोपालगज)  
सिक्के गलाने के सशोधन विधेयक को सीमित काम के लिये लाया गया है और वह यह है कि भविष्य में सिक्को को गलाए जाने से रोका जाए। मैं समझता हूँ कि एम० सिक्का चलाना चाहिये ताकि लोगों को उसको गलाने के लिए कोई उत्साह ही न, मिल इस काम में कोई लाभ ही न हो। इस वास्ते सिक्के की जो वैल्यू है उसमें कम कीमत वा वह सिक्का होना चाहिये। यह 56 करोड़ वा दश है। अगर आप ऐसा नहीं करते हैं तो आप किस किस को रोकेंगे। सिक्के की जो असली कीमत है वह उसकी निर्धारित कीमत से इस वास्तव में होनी चाहिये। यदि ऐसा नहीं होता है तो कानून से सिक्का चलाना आप बन्द नहीं कर सकेंगे।

कुछ माननीय सदस्यों से कहा है कि सिक्का हटवा नहीं होना चाहिये भारी हानि चाहिये। अगर बहुत भारी हाया तो वह गलाया भी जा सकेगा और गलाने वा काम कानून में नहीं हो सका। जब सिक्का भारी होता, अच्छा हीगा तो उसको गला कर ज्यादा वैल्यू देने की कोशिश हो सकती है। इस वास्ते सिक्के की असली वैल्यू ही है वह नई होनी चाहिये उसकी फे वैल्यू से।

सिक्के इसलिये चलते हैं कि उनके पीछे गवर्नमेंट की गारन्टी होती है। इसीलिए उनकी वैल्यू होती है। इस वास्ते नहीं होती है कि वह अधिक वैल्यू का है या कम वैल्यू का है। महत्व गवर्नमेंट की गारन्टी का होना है। लोग को पता होना है कि जब चाहे उस सिक्के पर लिखी कीमत की चीज उनको मिल सकती है। सुना जाना है कि पुराने जमाने में चमड़े के सिक्के भी चलते थे। क्यों चलते थे, इसलिये कि उनकी वैल्यू तो नहीं थी लेकिन गवर्नमेंट की गारन्टी उनके पीछे थी, इसलिये चलते थे—

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We had  
colours

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी एक रुपये के सिक्के की बात कही गई है। इन नोटों की वैल्यू क्या है? चार छ हाया में चला जाना है तो वह खराब हो जाता है। इस वास्ते रुपये का सिक्का बनना ही चाहिये। नोट चार छ हाया से गुजरना है तो गन्दा हो जाता है, खराब हो जाता है फट जाता है। बहुत से नोट तो लोग के घर में रह जाते हैं, च न हो नहीं पाते। अब एक रुपये का नोट रिजर्व बैंक में बदलने के लिए कौन जाएगा। नो को न 881 और 90 खर्च हो जायेंगे। इस वास्ते एक रुपये का सिक्का तो बनना ही चाहिये ताकि लोगों के पास जो एक रुपये के नोट होने हैं वे गल न जाए, फट न जाए, खराब न हो जाए और उनका नुकसान न हो। एक नम्बर के कई नोटों का पता चला था। रिजर्व बैंक का क्लेरिफिकेशन भी निकला था कहा गया था कि गलना हो गई। एम० गलना हुआ नहीं होना चाहिये। इससे लोगों के मन में भ्रम पैदा होता है और गवर्नमेंट के सिक्के बनाने के जो कारखाने हैं उन से विश्वास उठना है।

\*SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER  
(Nilgiris) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir,  
on behalf of my party, the Dravida  
Munnetra Kazhagam, I rise to say a

few words on The Small Coins (Offences) Amendment Bill, 1974

Though this is a small piece of legislation, yet it concerns a vast majority of our rural people in our country. The hon. Deputy Minister in her introductory speech stated that during 1974-75 the production of small coins would be of the order of 22.30 crores. In 1973-74, the production of small coins was 21.65 crores. Yet, we find that in all the rural areas of our country there is acute shortage of small coins. It is common knowledge that the vast majority of our people are harassed for want of small coins. In these circumstances, I wonder whether the availability of small coins was increased by 21.65 crores during 1973-74. I would also urge upon the Government that the targeted production of 22.30 crores of small coins should be achieved at all costs during 1974-75.

The hon. Deputy Minister in her introductory remarks stated that the melting of small coins continues unabated in spite of the fact that the metal has been substituted. I would like to know from the Government what concrete steps have been taken to curb this tendency of melting small coins by the undesirable elements.

Sir, we find that the hoarders of small coins are being proceeded against under the Defence of India Rules. I wonder why the provisions of the Small Coins (Offences) Act have not been made applicable in the cases of hoarders of small coins. I do not also know whether under the D.I.R. the hoarders are being adequately punished. The hon. Deputy Minister of Finance should in her reply to the debate state what prevents the Government from extending the provisions of the Small Coins (Offences) Act to the hoarders of small coins.

Sir, there is a system in the Reserve Bank of India of weighing the small coins and handing them over to the customer. In this system there is a drayback. If there is some shortage

in the value of small coins received by the customer and when he approaches the Reserve Bank of India authorities, they refuse to accept his pleas and make good the shortage. I suggest that this system of weighing the small coins should be replaced by a foolproof system under which the customer is not made to lose for no fault of his. I hope that the Government would take necessary steps in this direction.

Some days back there was a question in this House about the printing of several one rupee notes with a same number. The hon. Minister of Finance replied that on account of some mistake in the numbering machine this kind of printing of several one-rupee notes with the same number had taken place. Does this not show the inefficiency and negligence on the part of the Government in the matter of handling the currencies of this country? Such small mistakes affect greatly the economy of the country. Similarly, counter-feit coins are also circulating in the country. I do not think that effect steps have been taken by the Government to eradicate this evil, which also adversely affects the economy of the country. On account of this wide-spread malady, the gullible rural people are the worst affected. I suggest that the Government should exercise the greatest caution in the matter of printing small notes like one rupee notes and the small coins which are handled by the largest number of our people throughout the countryside.

Finally, before I conclude, I would point out that some years before the small coins used to have their denominations embossed on them in all the official languages of the country. I regret to point out that only English and Hindi language denominations are embossed on the regional languages. In view of the fact that the small coins are used by the vast majority of our rural people knowing only the languages spoken in those regions, it is

[Shri J. Matha Gowder]

imperative that their denominations are embossed in other official languages also as was done some years ago. At present the people, especially illiterate people are greatly handicapped. I request that the hon. Deputy Minister will look into this and take necessary action immediately.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): I warmly support this Bill. The objective is good and I do not think it needs much discussion. But there are two or three problems, especially because people with smaller means who are in large numbers are involved and it is they who mostly utilise these coins. Talking of small coins, I am reminded of a quotation from Winston Churchill; once he said: it is only when small man with a small pencil goes to a small booth and puts a small cross on a small ballot paper, it makes a big democracy. After all small people produce wonderful results.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why not quote: Take care of the pennies and the Pounds will take care of themselves.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Although I agree with the hon. Minister when she says that the shortage has now become much less, I should point out that in the rural areas and even in some urban areas a large number of small people use small coins and they find it difficult to get the necessary change and for a man earning a rupee or two rupees per day, even a change of 10 paise constitutes a much bigger proportion than to a middle-class or upper class person. But for a small man who earns a rupee or two per day, to lose even 10 paise means losing a considerable part of his wages. I hope the minister will look after this problem of shortage of small coins.

I read in the newspapers that the minister or her colleague assured the

other House that Government are considering actively bringing out one rupee coins because the one rupee notes get soiled very soon. I hope the minister will give a firm reply today.

Often one finds that small changes are withheld not only by taxi drivers, rickshawallas etc. but even by government agencies like post offices, railways and other public corporations. Instead of small change, the post office gives you some stamps or postcards. I may be able to use the stamps, but a small man, he may require the balance change for going in the bus and the bus conductor will not accept the stamps. So, at least the government agencies should be well stocked with small coins, so that the common people are not put to any loss or inconvenience.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI (Jamshedpur): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Melting of coins is a crime and the Government should try to make research and make coins out of such a metal which should not fetch higher price than the actual value of the small coins when melted. Government should ask the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur, which is in my constituency, to take up research of such a metal, which should be equivalent to the small coins when manufactured, this would not only discourage the hoarders of small coins but would totally stop such melting of small coins. The Government should go to the root cause of this melting and destruction of small coins.

Everywhere in the country small coins are in short supply, especially in the northern part of the country. The one rupee notes we get even from the State Bank are rotten, torn ones and I want to know why.

What action has been taken by the the Government against such persons who are found hoarding and smug-



ging truck loads of small coins in the check posts at Delhi border itself which is the capital of our country? Everybody says, when it cannot be checked at the capital itself and its borders, by the Government, how can they check it elsewhere?

It is very difficult for the public to detect which of the small coins are counterfeit and which are genuine because of the short supply of small coins. People have no option but to accept even the counterfeit small coins which are very much in circulation in the country. What action is the Government going to take about it? This Bill is no doubt meant to check such illegal offences but unless the Government machinery is disciplined no Act would be useful. I have come to know that even the Government mints are making and indulging in these counterfeit coins.

Government should be very careful about one rupee coins which are likely to be reintroduced. I should say that the metal of the coin should be such that it does not pay more value when re-melted, and does not fetch less value when it is manufactured and then only re-melting and counterfeiting of coins would be stopped. If the Government is serious, I think they can produce such a metal in the metallurgical laboratory at Jamshedpur.

There should be a ceiling fixed on the amount of small coins which any person, a shopkeeper or hotelier can keep in his possession. This would check the hoarding and re-melting of the same. I had personal experience of this at Srinagar where old notes could be exchanged with new notes for a commission of 5 to 10 per cent. This sort of thing should be checked. With these words I support the Bill.

**श्री हरचारा सिंह (होशियारपुर)**

डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब मुझे इस बिल पर कोई स्पीच नहीं करनी है। मैं सिर्फ यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सिक्के कम मिलते हैं खाम कर

मरकारी इधारा में। दूसरी जगह तो व शायद मिल जाये लेकिन वहाँ बिल्कुल नहीं मिलते हैं। पार्लियामेंट हाउस के बाफो हाउस के सिवाये हमें यही सिक्के नहीं मिलते हैं। अगर किसी टैक्सी वाल की तरफ दस बीस या पचास पैस तक बचन है तो वह कहता है कि मर पाऊ नहीं है। मिनिस्टर साहब इस का इन्तजाम कर।

मरा खयाल है कि वे मन्बर बड़ी महर-बानी रंगेय अगर व सिक्का पर रिजलन लैब्रज के इन्समाल की भाग न रहे। अगर यही मिलसला चला ता सिक्का पर लोकल और कोनाक्विल लैब्रज के इन्समाल की धान बही जायेगी। इन सिक्का को सेट्रल गवर्नमेंट चलाती है। उन पर सब जवाना में नी लिखा जा सकता है। सबाल तो यह है कि आज सिक्के हमें नहीं मिल पाते है और इसलिए ऐसा इन्तजाम करना चाहिए कि व मिल पाये।

सिक्के एमे हाने चाहिए जा कही गिरने पर मिल जाये। आज के सिक्का की कोई आवाज नहीं हानी है। अगर कोई सिक्का गम हो जाता है तो उमका पता नहीं चलना है।

भाज नाटा की क्या हालत होनी है? उनकी बाकायदा मालिश होती है। लोग पान खा कर उनको हेडल करन हैं और वे खराब हो जात हैं। इसलिए खराब नाटां का रिप्लेस-मट करना चाहिए। जाली नोट छापने की तरफ भी ध्यान देना चाहिए।

**SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI**  
 Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members for the various suggestions they have made. At the outset, I would like to refer to the statement of Sardar Swaran Singh Sokhi that car-loads of these coins are available at checkposts. Even if in one



[Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi]

particular checkpost these coins are available to that extent we would take action under either the DIR, IPC or Small Coins Offences Act.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): The truck he referred to was the small car.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: So many truck-loads were caught at the check-post somewhere between UP-Delhi border.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Apart from that, some very relevant points have been raised. I am very happy that all the members belonging to the various political ideologies have agreed that this is a welcome measure. A point was raised about the weight of the small coins and the Jansangh member literally showed how a coin could be wiffed away. Well I do now know, even a whiff of the hon. Member like him can be a stormy whiff also. All the same, we have to take various factors into consideration. At no time should the metallic value of the coin be more than its face value. Otherwise, there will be a tendency to melt the coins for a more lucrative purpose. That temptation is always there.

So far as counterfeiting and other things are concerned, as I have stated already, that comes under a different Act, the Indian Penal Code and the D.I.R. also looks after it. As regards the melting of the coins, that temptation must always be checked. It depends on supply and demand. There is always a temptation that at some future date, it may fetch more value. That temptation is there and it must be checked.

At the time when this Act came into operation, there was a shortage of coins. Hence, this Act was put into operation. In the meantime, we have taken various steps to remove the shortage of coins. The Mint has

started a double shift. The production of coins has gone up from 12 lakh pieces which were being produced daily to 75 lakh pieces daily now. We want to increase it further. We want to achieve the target that is set by the R.B.I. I would like to quote the figures for the information of the hon. Members. The coinage programme for 1973-74, as it stood according to the RBI requirements was 2,400 million pieces. We have been able to produce 2,165 million pieces. There is only a small shortfall. But this year, the target for 1974-75 was 2,425 million pieces whereas we ultimately hope to produce 2,295 million pieces. So, we are coming nearer the mark. The gap is no longer there.

In case there is any shortage of small coins at certain places where the people are experiencing difficulty, they can be rushed to those places. The R.B.I. is thinking of opening new depots where the small coins can be taken and made available to the people in rural areas. At public places, institutions, at bus stops, hotels and other places, they are more available now.

Then, some hon. Members asked a specific question about the double numbers. I think, the hon. Member of the C.P.M. said that it happened in his constituency. The R.B.I. has gone into those cases. They have found that it is due to some mechanical errors. We have many old machines. We are thinking how these machines can be replaced so that these things do not recur in future.

About one-rupee note and its replacement by the coin, it is under the consideration of the Government. We are considering whether we can have one-rupee-cupro-nickle coins. Out of the entire circulation of currency 75 per cent are one-rupee notes. Within six months, they become very very dirty and it becomes a waste. Hence, the Government is considering whether one-rupee-cupro-nickle coins should also be issued.

Some Hon. Members have asked about the number of seizures, prosecutions and all that. I do not have all the figures. But I can say that in the first year of its operation, small coins worth about Rs. 80,000 were seized and a number of prosecutions launched.

The main fact before the House today is not the shortage of small coins. It is, more or less, over. There is no menace of shortage of coins nor there is a menace of counterfeiting of coins. That is also a very negligible amount. I would not say that there are these two menaces.

I think, I have covered all the points raised by the hon. Members...

SHRI P. G. MAVANKAR: Why can the Government agencies, the post offices, the railways, not make available small change to the people?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: The Reserve Bank has sent instructions to all the public institutions government institutions, hotels, banks etc., that they should have more of these, so that the public does not face any difficulty.

With these words, I commend the Bill to the House.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: The hon. Minister has not replied to one question as to what action Government is going to take where notes are exchanged with commission—if you give 100 old notes, 90 new notes are given.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: That is not done at the government level.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Small Coins (Offences) Act, 1971, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up clause-by-clause consideration. I think, I will put them all together.

The question is:

"That Clause 2, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

Clause 2, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is...

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Although it is a small Bill, let it be passed by a properly constituted House. Let it not go on record that it was passed by members below 53.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the Quorum Bell be rung...

Now there is quorum.

The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*