

of shortage of small coins has been somewhat relieved as a result of improved supplies during the last one year. The situation is expected to further improve in the near future. The following table shows the supply of coins and notes of Re. 1/- denominations from 1982-83 to 1985-86 (upto October, 1985) :

Coins	(In million pieces)
1982-83	660
1983-84	1063
1984-85	1356.7
1985-86 (upto Oct., 85)	1071.49
estimated for 85-86 full year :	2000
Re. 1/- notes	
1982-83	450
1983-84	225
1984-85	485
1985-86 (upto Oct., '85)	255
estimated for 85-86)	500

The target for 1985-86 is 900 million pieces.

(b) The Government have taken a number of steps for easing the shortage. These are :

- (i) production incentive schemes have been introduced in Mints and Presses to encourage increased production;
- (ii) working hours have been increased;
- (iii) it has been decided to expand and modernise the Mints and Presses by replacement of old machines with new modern machines and also to install new lines of machines;
- (iv) it has been decided to set up a new Mint at NOIDA and work on it has started;

(v) it has also been decided to set up a new Bank Note Press; and

(vi) to overcome the shortage of small coins and one-rupee notes it has been decided to import 1000 million pieces of one-rupee coins, 750 million pieces of 50 paise coins and 250 million pieces of 25 paise coins, deliveries of which are expected to be completed by 30-6-1985.

[Translation]

Export of Cotton

*95. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the stock of cotton left with farmers and cooperative societies due to non-consumption of cotton last year and whether Government have received some suggestions in this regard;

(b) the number of cotton bales exported and the number out of them exported through the Cotton Corporation of India and cooperative societies, separately; and

(c) whether small staple cotton bales have been imported and if so, the rates thereof and the reasons for their import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). The reported carry-over stock at the end of 1984-85 cotton season i.e. as on 31st August, 1985 with the Cotton Corporation of India, the State Cooperative Marketing Federations of Maharashtra and Gujarat, Cooperative Societies in Gujarat, the mills and trade was about 24.40 lakh bales. The Government have been receiving suggestions, inter-alia, for release of cotton for export and stoppage of further imports.

2. A quantity of 2.95 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton was released for export during 1984-85 cotton season. The break up of the said quota

allotted to the various agencies and their performance is given below :

Name of the exporting agency	Qty. allotted (in lakh bales)	Export contracts registered with Tex. Commissioner upto Aug, 85 (in bales)
1	2	3
1. Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.	1,50,000	85,085
2. Maharashtra State Co. op. Cotton Growers Marketing Federation	95,000	65,930
3. Gujarat State Co. operative Cotton Federation	40,000	30,000
4. Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation	10,000	5,040
Total	2,95,00	1,86,055

A quantity of 75,000 bales of medium staple cotton had been imported to meet the shortage in this variety estimated at that time. The price paid for the imported cotton was 41.90 US Cents per pound F.O.B., equivalent to about Rs. 3,885 per candy F.O.B.

[English]

Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference

*96. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether to Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference was held at Male on 1st and 2nd October, 1985 to discuss the question of protectionism by rich countries and improvement in market access to developing countries; and

(b) if so, the outcome of this Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference, *Inter alia* expressed concern at the intonsification of protectionist pressures and called for rapid and substantial progress on outstanding issues in GATT concerning safeguards, non-tariff barriers, agriculture and textiles which could assist in rolling back protectionism. The Conference also called for additional concessional flows, increased flexibility in debt servicing arrangements and freer market access to exports from developing countries.

Visit of Economic Mission to Japan

*97. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM :

SHRI T. BALA GOUD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a 25-Member Economic Mission headed by Shri L.K. Jha visited Japan recently to explore the possibility of improving Indo-Japanese economic relationship; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the visit ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A 22 member Indian Economic Mission led by Shri L.K. Jha visited Japan from 11th to 18th September, 1985. The Mission was deputed as a return Mission to an economic delegation of Japanese industrialists which had visited India in November-December, 1984 and as part of a continuous exchange of ideas for increased economic co-operation between the two countries. It was warmly received by leaders of Japanese Government and industry. The Mission successfully explained our policy regarding foreign investment in areas confirming to our plan priorities. It was exploratory in nature.

Steps taken to Increase Export of Iron Ore through Paradip Port

*98. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp