

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, November 29, 1985/Agrahayana 8,
1907 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : How is it that you are sitting all alone today Madhavji ?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : It seems I shall have to sit throughout the day to day.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it so ? I am at your service, you may utilize my service in whatever way you like.

We have a proverb in Bagri :

*Jiski khani bajri
Uski bajani haajri*

I eat your grains and thus I am at your service.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Circulation of Imported Coins

*161 SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of coins of Indian currency manufactured in foreign countries released and put in circulation in India from 1st October, 1985;

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(b) whether it was found to be cost beneficial to have the coins manufactured in foreign countries and

(c) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). A
statement is given below

Statement

(a) Orders have been placed for import of 1,000 million pieces of one-rupee coin, 750 million pieces of 50 paise coin and 250 million pieces of 25 paise coin. So far 223.88 million pieces of one rupee coin and 110.50 million pieces of 50 paise coin have been received. Out of this, 134.32 million pieces of one-rupee coin and 37.10 million pieces of 50 paise coin have been released by Reserve Bank of India through its counters/remitted to Small Coin Depots and Currency Chests.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The cost benefit per piece is 16 paise for one rupee of coin 13.5 paise for 50 Paise coin and 10 paise for 25 paise coin.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Bombay Mint used to mint foreign coins also previously. In 1982-83 and 1983-84 the C & A G has reviewed the working of mints at Bombay and Hyderabad. He has given clear indications as to why these two mints have failed to come upto the capacity. Has the Government of India reviewed the working of these mints and also other mints in India? Is there any attempt to make them upto date and see that they come to their original capacity and ability in order not only to fulfil the requirement of Indian Government but also get back orders from foreign countries ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
The Government of India has reviewed the

performance of the mints. About their capacity in the year 1982-83 the production was to the tune of 660 million pieces only. Last year they were able to produce more than 1355 million pieces. The target for this year is 2000 million pieces. On 24.11.85 I took another meeting of these people. Besides these 2000 million pieces I have also given them a further target of producing 210 million pieces more during the short span of four months. Not only that, we have increased the number of hours also from 54 to 60. Incentive scheme has also been introduced and as a result of all this, we have reached the maximum capacity. So, this is the performance. And not only that, every week we are monitoring the performance of these mints. I am myself daily monitoring and the Finance Minister is also monitoring the performance of these mints.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : It is stated in the reply that 1,000 million pieces of one-rupee coin have been ordered from foreign mints and 223.88 million pieces have been supplied and out of that only a portion has been released. Will the Hon. Minister kindly tell us whether it is not possible to have paper currency so far as one-rupee denomination is concerned, and why there has been the necessity to import 1,000 million one-rupee coins? Will he also please tell us why the entire quantity which has already been received by the Reserve Bank, has not been released?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : As far as the coins are concerned, the demand of the RBI for the current year is 3,200 million pieces and the production, as I have stated, would be 2,210 million pieces. Apart from that, we are going to import 1,500 million pieces by March 1986. So there will then be 3,710 million pieces as against the demand for 3,200 million pieces. The point that has been made by the Hon. Member is why can't we have more paper currency. We have gone in for more production of coins because the life of the currency notes is about six to seven months whereas the life of the coins is more than 25 years. Secondly, we have to see the capacity of the press also. The capacity of the press is to produce 500 million pieces of notes. So, it is not possible to meet the demand. We admit that there is a gap between the supply and the demand. Therefore, in order to meet the

demand, we are importing 1,000 million pieces of one-rupee coins. Steps have also been taken to improve the distribution. As I stated in the main reply, out of the 223.88 million pieces of one-rupee coin, the latest position is that about 139 million pieces have been distributed, 38.782 million pieces of 50 paise coin have also been distributed. Some constraints are there. Firstly, as soon as the consignment arrives at the port, that has to be immediately shifted to the 15 issue centres of the RBI and then from there it has to be distributed to the coin depots.

[Translation]

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM : Sir, will the Hon. Minister state as to what metal these coins are made of and what is the ratio of silver in them?

MR. SPEAKER : What is the ratio of silver?

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You seem to have a true fancy for silver.

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : There is no silver content in them.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no trace of silver in it.

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM : What metal these coins are made of; he has not stated that? (.. Interruptions...)

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing more left in this question for asking.

[English]

That is all. There is nothing in this question.

AN HON. MEMBER : How much is the foreign exchange involved in the import of these coins, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : That they have already said. The cost benefit it is about 16 paise per rupee.

AN. HON. MEMBER : What is the total amount, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : You can just count it. I cannot make him a calculator. That is all. There is nothing much in this question.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please get one calculator each issued to all by Raja Sahib.

MR. SPEAKER : Why ? Has Raja Sahib set up a factory to manufacture calculators ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : It will be about Rs. 64.96 crores.

Development of Kovalam Tourist
Centre and Thekkadi Wild Life
Sanctuary in Kerala

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*166. SHRI T. BASHEER
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have any proposal under consideration for the development of the Kovalam tourist centre and Thekkadi Wild Life Sanctuary in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Kovalam is already a major tourist centre in the country. As far back as 1970 the Central Department of Tourism initiated action to develop Kovalam as a beach resort with a total outlay of Rs. 221.58 lakhs. There is already a 5-star ITDC hotel for many years. I.T.D.C. also has a Transport Unit at Kovalam and the Kovalam Palace Hotel. In addition to this the Kerala State Government also maintains a good hotel at Kovalam beach. State Government also has plans to clean the beaches, to introduce

various life saving measures and also to introduce more water sport facilities.

For the development of Thekkadi, the State Government has a proposal to put up a few Watch Towers to enable the tourists to have a closer view of the flora and fauna. The Central Department of Tourism has a trekking route proposal connecting Thekkadi and Mangaladevi Temple in Tamilnadu border area and provision of more boating facilities at Thekkadi Lake under consideration.

SHRI T. BASHEER : Sir, even the Hon. Minister has said in his reply that Kovalam is a very important beach resort in the matter of international tourism. In 1983-84, the Kovalam ITDC hotel had made a profit of Rs. 1.35 lakhs and in 1984-85 it made a profit of Rs. 3.62 lakhs and the Budget profit for 1985-86 is Rs. 8.3 lakhs. While many ITDC hotels are running at a loss, this ITDC hotel at Kovalam is running at a profit. In spite of this fact, no proper care has been taken towards this tourist resort and that it requires renovation. Therefore, I would request that the Government must give attention to that.

The Hon. Minister in his reply says the ITDC also has a transport unit at Kovalam and the Kovalam Palace Hotel, but I received a reply from the Hon. Minister on 31st July, 1985 saying that ITDC Management has decided to close down this unit of Ashoka Travel and Tours at Kovalam and that steps are being taken by the ITDC to implement that decision. The Unit has a total strength of nine employees. When the Unit is closed, the staff will be transferred to other transport units within the region. To my information the unit is already closed, but here it says there is a unit. This is very misleading. I would like to know the exact position that exists now. My information is that it is closed. And if it is closed, I would request the Hon. Minister to take steps to reopen it and to see that it works properly.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I certainly agree with the Hon. Member that Kovalam is a very important tourist centre for the foreign tourists. It is good that the hotel at Kovalam has been making some profit, but it is not correct to say that all ITDC hotels are suffering some loss and that this