

for that purpose, after introduction of MODVAT, while fixing the rates of duty, because of the duty imposed on final product, the prices of some products have gone down and the prices of...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is telling "some".

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : For example, laundry soap, we have not touched. The price has come down. but in order to naturalise it, after all we have to get resources for the developmental activities. Hon. Members always say, while taking up the cause of Tamil Nadu, this that they want more money for more developmental works. For that, more money is required also.

SHRI P. KALANDAIVELU : But then, are you taxing...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : We have to get revenue for naturalising it. We have imposed some duties. Here, the hon. Member has stated.....

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I asked about power tillers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He asked whether you will exempt power tiller. That is the only point.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am making it very clear. It is not a criticism of the hon. Member only because there has been criticism, I am answering to that. Coming to his suggestion, we are noting it.

DR. K.G. ADIYODI : Is it not a fact that the general price increase is due to the administered prices ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is it related to MODVAT or you are raising some other thing ?

Next—Shri Jhansi Lakshmi,

Action against hoarders of coins and
Currency notes.

**559. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have advised States to deal firmly with coin and one rupee not hoarders ;

(b) if so, the results of this directive so far ;

(b) whether similar directives have been given to the Union Territories ; and

(c) and number of cases in which hoarders of coin and currency notes were detected and punished in the Union Territories, especially in Delhi Union Territory ?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) There have been reports of hoarding of coins. Accordingly, attention of all State Governments/Union Territories has been invited to the provisions of the Small Coins (Offences) Act 1971, which *inter alia* empowers the Government to take legal action against any person who is in possession of small coins substantially in excess of his reasonable requirements for the purpose of melting or destroying. Four States have so far reported successful raids against the hoarders of coins. The details are as follows :—

| Name of State and Place. | Amount |
|---|--|
| (i) Meghalaya at Shillong | Rs.2688.20 |
| (ii) Rajasthan at Barmer | Rs.939.40 |
| (iii) Maharashtra at Jalgoan, Akola and Bombay city. | Rs. 20512.74 |
| (iv) Uttar Pradesh at Kanpur. | 13.5Kg. of coins of denomination of Re. 1,50 paise and 25 paise. |

(d) No cases of hoarding of coins or currency notes have been reported in the Union Territories including Delhi.

SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : I Would like to know from the hon. Minister whether existing laws are sufficient

to punish the coin hoarders and whether the Government is considering to amend the laws for the rigorous punishment of the coin hoarders.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far only four cases have been reported and four State Governments have taken action and whether it is sufficient or not will be made known after going to the court when they are prosecuted and when they are tried.

SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI: I would like to know whether the Government is aware that lot of coins and one rupee notes are deposited in the Hundis of various temples in the country. Can the Government take them in exchange and re-circulate through the banks ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Whenever the notes which are found in Hundis are brought to the bank for exchange, definitely the banks are taking action on that and they are exchanging.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what has happened to the proposal of using the stainless steel from Salem as a raw material for making coins.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : That proposal is under consideration.

Opening of branches of Regional Rural Banks in West Bengal

*560. **DR. PHULRENU GUHA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of Regional Rural Bank opened in West Bengal so far and locations thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to open more branches of Regional Rural Bank in West Bengal during 1986-87; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

Statement

(a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that 639 branches of 9 Regional Rural Banks were functioning in West Bengal as on 1.12.1985. District-wise distribution of these branches is as under :—

| District | No. of Branches |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Purulia | 22 |
| Bankura | 59 |
| Midnapore | 64 |
| Malda | 48 |
| West Dinajpur | 46 |
| Birbhum | 62 |
| Coochbehar | 39 |
| Jalpaiguri | 39 |
| Darjeeling | 22 |
| Nadia | 38 |
| 24-Parganas (North and South) | 72 |
| Burdwan | 49 |
| Howrah | 36 |
| Hooghly | 16 |
| Murshidabad | 27 |
| Total | 639 |

(b) and (c) The current branch licensing policy aims at achieving a coverage of atleast one bank office for a population of 17,000 in rural and semi-urban areas of each development block. The policy also aims at elimination of spatial gaps so as to ensure that atleast one bank office is available within a distance of 10 Kms. from each village. The Reserve Bank of India will issue licences for opening additional bank offices on the basis of these norms. In the districts covered by the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) preference