

Quantity of opium exported at 90° consis- tence in tonnes. (Calendar Year)			Foreign exch- ange earned (Rs. in thousands) (Financial Year)
1968	555	1968-69	4,77,29
1969	662	1969-70	6.63.04
1970	808	1970-71	8.03.35

(c) (i) The price of opium paid to the farmers for 1970-71 poppy season ranges from Rs. 40/- to Rs. 70/- per kilogram at 70° consistence depending on the average yield tendered by them.

(ii) Raw opium is transported to, and dried in Government factories. It is then sold to the foreign customers in the form of finished opium cakes (about 90° consistence); the present export price of this opium is U.S. dollar 1.80 per unit of morphine content, which works out to U.S. dollars 18.00 per kilogram equivalent to about Rs. 135/- per kilogram (as Indian opium generally contains about 10% morphine.)

(d) Price to be paid to the farmers is fixed every year a little before the commencement of the next crop season after taking into account all relevant factors, such as prices of other comparable crops in the area, export price of opium, general level of prices etc. The price for the next year will be fixed sometime in July-August, 1971.

डा. लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडे : मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि चूँकि अफीम से हमें बहुत मात्रा में विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त होती है इसलिए क्या सरकार अफीम कल्टीवेशन के एरिया को बढ़ाने का विचार रखती है? यदि रखती है, तो कितना?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : There is no proposal to increase the area of opium cultivation.

डा. लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडे : अग्नी माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि विभिन्न वर्षों में

सरकार ने कितनी विभिन्न विदेशी मुद्रा का अर्जन किया? हमारे किसानों को दिया जाने वाला मूल्य 70 डिग्री घनत्व वाली अफीम के लिये 40 से 70 रु. है। उन्होंने यह भी बतलाया कि वह प्रति वर्ष इस का मूल्य निर्धारित करते हैं। लेकिन वास्तव में ऐसा होता नहीं है। क्या मंत्री महोदय कोई ऐसी समिति गठित करने वाले हैं जो कि किसानों के उपयोग में आने वाली चीजों के बाजार मूल्य के आधार पर इस का मूल्य तय करें। क्योंकि किसानों की लागत अफीम की खेती में अत्यधिक होती है और उन्हें मूल्य कम मिलता है?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : There is no proposal to appoint any committee.

Hoarding of Small Coins

*737. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to overcome the difficulties experienced by the people regarding the small coins; and.

(b) whether some people have started hoarding the small coins for profit making?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) There is possibility of hoarding for profit making in such situations of shortages. Some seizures have been made in a few places. With increasing supplies, however, the tendency to hoard and the possibility of making a gain out of hoarding seem to be going down and they can be expected to diminish further in the next few months. The question of making melting of coins an offence in law is also being pursued.

STATEMENT

The various steps taken by Government to step up the production of small coins in the three mints of Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad were indicated in the reply given to Starred Question No. 147 and the supplementaries thereunder in the Lok Sabha on the 28th May, 1971. As a result of these measures, the daily rate of production had increased to over 50

lakh pieces as against about 12 lakh pieces up to October, 1970. The additional labour strength of 400 workmen sanctioned in the Bombay Mint is expected to be in position by the end of the current month and to contribute to an additional daily production of 6 lakh pieces by the end of the next two months by which time the new workers would have been adequately trained. As a result of the larger supplies made to the public during the last five or six months the situation has improved to some extent. Shortages are now localised specially in and in the States surrounding Delhi. This is being tackled by the Reserve Bank of India on an emergency basis. About Rs. 14 lakh worth of small coins have been rushed to New Delhi. Both the New Delhi and Kanpur offices of the Reserve Bank have been instructed to look into the requirements of small coin depots under their jurisdiction and to arrange immediately for despatch for additional supplies wherever necessary. Special arrangements have been made to meet the requirements of the Delhi Transport Undertaking so as to alleviate the difficulties that were being experienced by the travelling public.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time. You can ask only one question

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The reply of the hon. Minister is that time heals the wound. May I know whether he is aware that for long in Delhi or in any big city small coins are not available. Even in the State Bank in the Parliament House, it is not available. I would like to know whether it is a fact that some people are really hoarding and selling small coins at the rate of 70 p. or even 60 p. for a rupee. In the shops, the postage stamps are being given to the consumers instead of small coins. I want to know when the position is going to improve and whether more coins are being produced in our mints.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : It is a problem that is causing concern to hon. Members and the Government is also aware of it. We have increased the daily production of coins from 12 lakh pieces to 35 lakh pieces. The tempo of production has increased and it is now about 50 lakh pieces. The Government's intention is to increase it to 70 lakh pieces this year. Certain steps have been taken in Bombay and Alipore Mints. There is the question of the Silver Refinery. We are going to take a decision about the Silver Refinery so that

the Silver Refinery workers could be accommodated in the Alipore Mint and the production there also could be increased.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Have you arrested any person in the country ?
(Interruptions)

SHRI K. R. GANESH rose—

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over now.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : He was replying Sir. (Interruptions)

श्री बी. पी. शर्मा : मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। करेंसी बनाने का, नोट छापने का इस देश में सरकार के सिवा किसी को अधिकार नहीं है। लेकिन दिल्ली में डी टी यू नोट छापना शुरू कर रही है।

MR. SPEAKER : Not now. The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Interest charged by Nationalised Banks on loans to large and small scale industries

*723. SHRI S. N. MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of interest being charged at present on loans advanced to large scale and small scale industries by the Nationalised Banks; and

(b) the prevailing rate of interest before the Nationalisation of the Banks for similar advances ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). At present the banks are ordinarily charging 10½% to 12% and 9% to 10½% rate of interest on their advances to large scale industries and small scale industries respectively; though in some cases banks may be charging slightly higher rates depending upon the circumstances. The comm-