

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The total number of pieces is 2,000 million and the face value would be about Rs. 143.75 crores.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What are the names of the countries from where you are importing ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : U.K., South Korea and Canada.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : How much is the foreign exchange involved ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The amount of foreign exchange is about Rs. 64.96 crores.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is need to go into the root of the coin melting taking place today. As long as there is difference between the metal value and the face value, i.e., the metal value is more than the face value, the melting process will continue. Is there any proposal to issue coins whose metal value is less than their face value ?

[*English*]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, if you take into consideration the metal value, I can tell for the benefit of the hon. Member that the metal and manufacturing cost per piece of the coins minted in the Bombay Mint, is :

One-rupee coin	—	58 paise
50-paisa coin	—	48.42 paise
25-paisa coin	—	27.13 paise
20-paisa coin	—	19.10 paise
10-paisa coin	—	14.78 paise

If you compare the cost value and the face value, I do not think it is feasible for them to melt these coins on economic consideration.

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : Sir, it is admitted by the hon. Minister that there is a shortage of coins in circulation. But in

practice, coupons are given by hotels, restaurants and other business institutions in course of transactions or purchases. Those coupons become useless...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only at that shop he can use it. He cannot take that coupon to another shop. So, that is an assurance of business for the shop which has given that coupon.

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : So, the value of rupee is thereby reduced to that extent and people are put to more inconvenience. Hence, I want to know from the hon. Minister how does he propose to meet such a situation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has explained that he is taking steps but still shortage is there.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, we have taken steps to increase the production and also by importing the coins from foreign countries. The situation will be improved by March, 1986.

Scheme of Advance Import Licenses.

*379. **PROF P.J. KURIEN :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of misuse of advance import licenses issued on the condition that cent percent of the product would have to be exported, have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to review the scheme in the light of the experience; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir, Debarment action has been taken against 23 firms and investigations have been taken up in respect of

175 firms at the Headquarters Office of the CCI&E in the years 1983, 1984 and 1985 (uptodate), for violations in respect of Advance Licensing Scheme. The Regional Licensing Offices, at their end, have also taken action in some cases, the information about which is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). Advance Licensing Scheme is under constant review and a number of steps have been taken to minimise the scope of abuse of the scheme in the light of experience gained.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN : Sir, there is a lot of misuse of import licences and I am happy that the hon Minister is taking some stern action. But in the case of advance import licences, time limit is prescribed for fulfilling the export obligations. I understand that it is the policy of the Government not to extend the time limit for the export obligations. In spite of that is it a fact that extensions are given for fulfilling these export obligations in the case of advance import licencees? If so, on what grounds are these extensions given? Can you say to how many have such extensions been given during the current year?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : I entirely agree with the hon. Member that there have been some mal-practices in utilisation of advanced licences, but it is being monitored by the Ministry very carefully and every possible effort is being made to ensure that these advanced licences are not misutilised, and that they are utilised only by those who are its actual exporters. Therefore, a number of measures have already been taken. One such measure is to ensure that they deposit in advance 33 per cent of the custom value and value addition from fifty to 150 per cent.

I am sorry I have no figure of the actual number of licences which have been extended but I can assure the hon. member that we now give extension only when very valid and justified reasons are given. This is also done after a lot of scrutiny.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : I seems the hon. Minister did not hear my question. May be that he did not understand it. O.K.

I do not want to repeat that question again.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : You can repeat it.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : But you are not able to answer that.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : I will answer.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : My first question was on what grounds are extensions given?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Actually, whenever extensions are given they are given on the merit of the case.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In the beginning you have already appreciated that he is taking good action.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : I appreciate that and I have already said that he is taking very strong and punitive action and I support him also on that.

Now, I will put my second supplementary.

A lot of black-marketing and misuse has been going on in the matter of import licences. There are cases when import licences for a particular commodity are used for importing some other commodity. This can only be done with the connivance of the Customs officials. Government can only give instructions, but the Customs Officials in connivance with these importers are implementing it. Say for example ...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you want to know from the Minister?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : I am coming to the question ... they are using the import licence for industrial oil in order to import the odible coconut oil. Have you received complaints that in the garb of industrial oil, edible oil i.e the coconut oil has been imported? If such complaints are being received, I would like to know what action you have so far taken and what action you will take to see

that import licence for one item is not used for some other item ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The advanced licences are given for a particular item to be imported. Up to now these advanced licences were given to the manufacturers and others, but now a decision has been taken that the advanced licences will be given only in the name of the exporter and then the exporter will naturally import the requirement for his export purposes and there will be no possibility of importing some other thing.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : My question is : Have you received complaint that using the import licence for industrial oil, coconut oil has been imported ? If so, what action have you taken ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : I am not clear about the hon. Member's question whether it is about the advanced licences or about the general licences.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : You know how to answer it.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : But you have to tell me whether you want an answer for an advanced licence.

DR. K.G. ADIYODI : I would like to know whether it is a fact that our import has been alarmingly increasing while our export is stagnant, thereby a lot of change in the trade imbalance due to import subsidy.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Imports are definitely increasing but fifty per cent or more than fifty per cent of the import items in times of money like edible oils, POL, Fertilizers, etc. on which we have no control. Actually about ten per cent imports are linked up with the Aid. Therefore, only about thirty-five per cent items are there on which the Ministry can exercise some control. It is done according to the requirements. There is liberalisation of policy and capital goods are being imported.

Profits of MICA Trading Corporation and Bonus Given to Workers

*385. **SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the profit earned by the Mica Trading Corporation in the last three years and the percentage of the earning given as bonus to the workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that while the profit increased the bonus decreased; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The profit earned by the Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd., in the last three years and the percentage of earnings given as bonus to workers is as under :—

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
(1) Net Profit (before tax) (in lakhs Rs.)	46.26	52.25	55.40
(2) Percentage of bonus to profit.	11.07	8.83	9.62

(b) and (c). Bonus has been paid in all the previous three years to the extent permissible under the provisions of the Bonus Act, 1965.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : My question is about the profit earned by the Mica Trading Corporation for the last 3 years and the percentage of the earnings given as bonus to the workers. In part (b) I have asked 'whether it is a fact that while the profit increased the bonus decreased' and in part (c) I have asked 'If so, the reasons thereof'. He has given the answer that the profit has increased from 1981-82 to 1984-85. While profit increased the bonus has not increased, but on the other hand, it has decreased. So I want to know the reasons why more bonus could not be paid to the workers while the profit was increasing. He has not given this information in the statement.

(Interruptions).