

out the causes of the losses. Before the committee reports, I cannot say whether it is due to corruption.

श्री शिव नारायण : जो कमेटी जांच के लिए एन्वायंट हुई है, क्या उस में कोई गजेटिड आफिसर भी जांच के लिए मुकर्रर है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam : I am sorry I do not have the personnel of the committee here.

Shri Joachim Alva : May I know what is the system of accounting in Hindustan Steel Limited and whether they have got sufficiently strong accounting unit who can go into the accounts and make it better year after year?

Shri C. Subramaniam : We are trying to make it better. But my own impression is we have got sufficiently strong accounting personnel and we are adopting proper methods. It should further improve, I agree. We shall try to improve it.

Shri Ramanathan Chettlar : The hon. Minister in reply to a supplementary question put by Mr. Hem Barua said that the sum of Rs. 19 crores is, the general loss of the company and the value of stores not being accounted for should not be included in that. Are we to understand that the losses incurred in not having proper accounts of stores is apart from the general losses that Hindustan Steel have incurred, which I understand is not Rs. 19 crores, but Rs. 40 crores?

Mr. Speaker : In this question we were only concerned with the restricted matter of losses in stocks and not all losses.

Shri Ramanathan Chettlar : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are not allowing us to put supplementaries on such important matters. I am only just referring to a supplementary question already put. I want to be enlightened and the House would also like to be enlightened as to whether the losses incurred by not keeping

proper accounts of stores is also included in the general loss or is it apart from the general loss of the company?

Shri C. Subramaniam : The total loss includes every loss which has happened in the factory.

Shri Ramanathan Chettlar : If so, what is the loss of stores due to not keeping proper accounts?

Mr. Speaker : Let us go to the next question.

Supply of Opium to Russia

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*1162. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti :**
Shri Onkarlal Berwa :
Shri P. C. Borooah :
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav :

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has entered into a contract for the supply of opium to Russia;

(b) if so, when and what are the terms of contract;

(c) whether 20 tons of opium have been despatched by plane on the 4th April, 1963, to Russia; and

(d) when the balance is expected to be sent?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The contract was concluded between the State Trading Corporation and V/o Madexport, Moscow on the 21st March, 1963 for the supply of seventy tonnes of opium valued at Rs. 47 lakhs approximately.

(c) A consignment of 20 tonnes of opium was airlifted in three equal lots on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th April, 1963.

(d) Of the balance 50 tonnes of opium, a quantity of 30 tonnes is to be despatched by the 30th June 1963 and the remaining 20 tonnes in the 3rd quarter of this year.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know what will be the expected earnings in foreign exchange from this deal?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is about Rs. 47 lakhs.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: What are the countries taking opium from India, and may I know how far the rates of the present deal compare favourably with the rates they pay?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Well, Sir, they are the international terms. We export over Rs. 4.5 crores worth of opium to practically every country in the world. This is only for about Rs. 47 lakhs.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether this deal opens up new avenues for development of trade between India and Russia; if so, what steps Government have taken to see that quality articles are sent to this country?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Every item adds to the trade; opium also does.

श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा : जो अफीम भेजी जा रही है उसका जो रेट है वह हमारे यहां के रेट से कम है या ज्यादा है और अगर कम या ज्यादा है तो कितना ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : वह फर्क तब पड़ता है जब इंटरनेशनल प्राइसिस का इन्वैल्युएशन होता है, कई बार दाम बढ़ जाते हैं और कई बार कम हो जाते हैं। वे बेरी करते हैं।

श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा : कितना फर्क रहता है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : साढ़े सात परसेंट का फर्क है। लेकिन कभी कभी पन्द्रह परसेंट ज्यादा भी आता है।

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether this opium export programme completely accords with the various international agreements into which we entered under the aegis of the former League of Nations?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In view of the fact that Soviet Russia in tune with the teachings of Karl Marx has banished religion as the opium of the people, is Indian opium meant as a substitute for that?

Mr. Speaker: That might be addressed to the USSR (*Interruption*).

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : यह जो ७० टन अफीम रशिया को भेजी जा रही है और इस में से २० टन भेज भी दी गई है और यह जो समझौता हुआ है स्थायी रूप से हुआ है या यह केवल अभी के लिए है, अस्थायी है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : यह तो अभी के लिए है। यह आइटम हमारी एक्सपोर्टबल आइटम है। पैदावार इसकी यहां होती है, इस्तेमाल हम यहां घटा रहे हैं; इसलिए बाहर एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं।

डा० गोविन्द दास : क्या पुराने चीन के म्वाफिक रूस ने भी अफीम खाना शुरू किया है और क्या ऐसी हालत में पुराने मालवा के इलाके में जो अफीम की खेती होती थी, उसको फिर से करना शुरू कर दिया गया है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दोनों के स्वभाव का मुकाबला करना चाहते हैं।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जो बड़े बड़े देशों में नेगोशियेशंस होती है, तो उसको जरा सीरियसली लिया जाना चाहिये। इससे एलक्लाइड बनता है, ड्रग बनता है। अफीमची जिस तरह से अफीम का इस्तेमाल करते हैं, उस तरह से वे इसका इस्तेमाल नहीं करते हैं।

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if it is the policy of the Government to progressively reduce the land which is used for cultivation of opium; if so, what has the Government done to stop people from drinking opium? Also, if opium is in sufficient quantity to be exported out of the country,

may I know why opium is being smuggled into our country?

Mr. Speaker: They are not connected with the main question.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : रशिया से इस तरह की कोई गारंटी क्या ली गई है कि यह जो अफीम हम भेज रहे हैं यह रशिया के रास्ते चीन तो नहीं चली जाएगी ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर ।

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : यह जो अफीम भेजी जा रही है यह गाजीपुर की अफीम फैक्ट्री से भेजी जा रही है या रा अफीम भेजी जा रही है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : अलग-अलग जगहों पर सेंट्रल बोर्ड आफ रेवेन्यू के कंट्रोल के नीचे बहुत सी फैक्ट्रीज हैं और रा अफीम भी कोलैक्ट की जाती है खेटों में से । सब को मिला कर भेजा जाता है ।

Serajuddin & Co.

*1164. **Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 731 on the 5th April, 1963 and state:

(a) whether Serajuddin & Co. was one of the firms which was in any way connected with eleven barter deals valued at Rs. 17.33 crores and link deals valued at Rs. 6.24 crores in 1962-63;

(b) if so, what was the amount of money involved in the commodities for which this firm was permitted and what are the commodities concerned; and

(c) whether this was the only firm that was given preference for manganese ore and if not, which are the other firms?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir. Serajuddin & Co. were not connected with any barter or link deals in 1962-63. The firm, however, shipped in 1962/63 certain quantities of Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore against some barter deals and cash

sales approved prior to 1962-63. On behalf of two firms, Messrs Serajuddin & Co. shipped 10,799 tons of Manganese Ore valued at Rs. 13.5 lakhs.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Out of the export of manganese ore worth about Rs. 5.31 crores, which was made by the STC in the year, may I know whether the bulk purchase for this export was made from Messrs Serajuddin & Company?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is what I have explained. That firm is not directly connected with any barter sale as such, which was the hon. Member's question, for 1962-63. Also, in the link deal, even though they are not directly involved, the total purchases made by the third party, namely, two firms, comes to 10,799 tons of manganese ore valued at Rs. 13 lakhs.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: May I know whether it is a fact that in the East European countries this firm was allowed to trade in manganese ore, although it is the monopoly of the State Trading Corporation?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is quite a different question. Manganese ore is fully allowed to be sold by anybody, including private shippers. There is no monopoly as such. But, in recent years, due to the world price of manganese ore sagging, most of the transactions are registered through the State Trading Corporation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know the comparative trading capacity of Messrs. Serajuddin & Company? Is it not one of the biggest manganese ore companies in India? Is there any manganese company bigger than this in India?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Messrs. Serajuddin & Company is one of the companies. One need not pin-point on this particular company.

Mr. Speaker: Shri S. M. Banerjee.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether the Minister . . .

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Sir, my question has not been answered.