

of India, will the Government take care to have them screened in the schools and colleges free of charge?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: The suggestion will be considered.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: What were the reasons for asking for a revised script from the producer and for the delay in the production of this film?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: The original script was not satisfactory and the Government gave a directive that a revised script must be sent by the producer.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether in the film there will be scenes of inter-caste marriages between Scheduled Caste boys and non-Scheduled Caste girls and *vice versa*? May I know whether that will be a part of the film?

Mr. Speaker: That is giving information. Next question.

State Trading Corporation

*632. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have analysed the causes of the very negligible profits made by the State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, what are they;

(c) what are the various branches of activities of the Corporation; and

(d) in what way, if any, its scope of activities is proposed to be expanded?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The decline in profits inspite of increase in the total trade in attributable to several factors. The important of these are:

- (i) higher procurement cost of ores on certain sectors involving road transport.
- (ii) disposal of high priced stocks of Manganese Ore.
- (iii) increase in port charges.
- (iv) larger supplies to M/s Hindustan Steel Ltd., at a nominal margin.
- (v) reduction in the margins allowable to the Corporation under the various Joint Marketing Arrangements.
- (vi) general reduction of margins in the interest of export promotion.
- (vii) subsidizing the loss in export e.g., Cement.

(c) The State Trading Corporation has directly handled exports of about 36 commodities including iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, salt, cement, tobacco, woollen textiles, shoes, coffee Mosoor dal, Jute goods etc. Some of the items like chemicals light engineering goods are in the nature of developmental items for which efforts are being made to find markets abroad.

On the import side the Corporation has helped to import of essential raw materials and capital goods e.g. non-ferrous metals, various chemicals and fertilizers such as caustic soda, soda ash, ammonium sulphate, raw silk, art silk yarn, newsprint and textile machinery.

The Corporation also arranges internal distribution of important industrial raw materials like Cement, Iron and Soft coke at equitable prices to the Producers as well as to the consumers.

(d) This question is constantly under Government's consideration and a greater emphasis will be put on promotion of external trade and exports.

Shri Maheswar Naik: The factors mentioned in the statement are more

or less present in the other trading agencies also. May I know whether the decline in profits in the State Trading Corporation is due to the fact that the overhead charges in the Corporation are much higher than in the other trading agencies?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is not the point. Actually speaking, the attention is more towards external trade and exports which are generally in a sellers market on the downward trend so far as prices are concerned. Therefore, the losses there have to be offset by profits gained in other agencies. Therefore, on the whole, even though the total has gone up, in comparison to the turn-over, the profits have not gone up proportionately.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know to what extent the State Trading Corporation has been able to have better working conditions than other trading agencies in the countries in respect of exports and imports

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is the position and we are going to make the State Trading Corporation as a principal instrument for export promotion and if necessary have more specialised State Trading Corporations for different bulk commodities.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether this State Trading Corporation trades with countries with a socialist economy and (ii) if it is trading with countries with a capitalist economy, does it not come into compensation with other export agencies and thereby the profits are reduced?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is not the reason. They are not only trading with the East European countries. That is one part of the work of the State Trading Corporation. They are trading with the whole world. As the House is aware, greater and greater emphasis is being put on external trade which is somewhat a less profitable than internal trade. That is why profits are not commensurate with the turn-over.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Now that there has been difficulty in export trade in tea, may I know whether this bulk commodity which earns such a big amount of foreign exchange is going to be taken up by the S.T.C. or will it continue under the Tea Board?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Presently, exports of tea are neither under the Tea Board nor any one agency. It is by all the traders and public auctions and exporters. As the House is aware, recently, the Finance Minister has announced certain concessions and we do not expect much difficulty in promoting exports of tea. Only yesterday I had a conference with several Tea traders and planters and we are quite hopeful that whatever we have lost, about Rs. 10 crores in the last 3 years will be more than regained.

Shri Venkatasubbiah: May I know whether the negligible profits derived by the S.T.C. is also due to the lack of business acumen in the officers who are manning the S.T.C. and also the inordinate delay that occurs in dealing with the S.T.C.?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is not so. That can be a matter of opinion. As I have already indicated, greater and greater emphasis is being put on external trade and the State Trading Corporation is not purely a profit making organisation. It is our aim make profits wherever we can to the maximum extent possible. But, the main purpose is to promote the external trade of this country where we have to bear the losses. Therefore, the profits go down.

Shrimati Sarojini Mahishi: May I know whether the negligible profits are also due to want of transport facilities?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I would rather now say that the word used by hon. Member in the beginning, negligible profits, is totally incorrect. I did not want to contradict it seriously then. The profit is Rs. 3 crores and 81 lakhs

during the year under reference which is higher than in the past and is not negligible.

Shri Manubhai Shah: When it started, it was Rs. 2.13 crores. So, they are not negligible at all. They are not as so much as one would desire them to be.

Mr. Speaker: Now, the Question Hour is over.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: May I know the percentage of profit to the total sales?

Shri Manubhai Shah: About 6 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have already said that the Question Hour is over, and even then I find that it is being continued.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Working Journalists' Wage Committee

*616. { **Shri Warrier:**
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the Working Journalists' Wage Committee; and

(b) the progress made thereto?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). The State Governments who are the appropriate Government under the Acts, are looking after the implementation of the Report of the Working Journalists Wage Committee. From the reports received from them it appears that most of the establishments covered continue implementing the Wage Committee Order. Appropriate action is taken by State Governments whenever any complaint is received.

Government of India Presses

*621. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts are being made by Government for making improvement in quality and effecting economy in production in Government of India Presses; and

(b) whether the Conference of the Managers of Government of India Presses has made any recommendations in this regard?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Efforts are being made in the following directions for improvement in quality and economy in production in the Government of India Presses:

- (1) Setting up of a Planning Section in major Government of India Presses.
- (2) Introduction of the Incentive Bonus Scheme.
- (3) Introduction of a job costing system.
- (4) Laying down a 'drill' for operatives in the productive branches.
- (5) Standardisation of machines.
- (6) Preventive maintenance by setting up self-contained electrical-cum-mechanical Branches.
- (7) Training of operatives.

(b) The Conference of the Managers of Government of India Presses considered *inter-alia* technical aspects of these measures. It has not made any new recommendations.

Implementation of Mines (Amendment) Act, 1959

*622. **Shri Yallamanda Reddy:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Section 52 as substituted by the Mines (Amendment) Act, 1959 is being implemented