

(b) The Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation has been placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha (on the 21st November, 1957 vide Library No. LT-378/57)

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether priority is given to the State Trading Corporation over the private firms in the matter of allotment of railway wagons etc.?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): It is natural that the State Trading Corporation should get priority in this matter, because it represents all the people, whereas the private traders represent only themselves.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: As regards quotas, where they are given on the basis of established previous export and import business, what basis is adopted for giving quotas as to the State Trading Corporation?

Shri Kanungo: Wherever extra routes have been opened, the State Trading Corporation gets preference. Otherwise, 70 per cent. of the quota is allotted to established importers.

Shri Damani: May I know whether the Minister has received complaints from mercantile organisations in connection with this preferential treatment?

Mr. Speaker: That is quite natural.

Shri Kanungo: Complaints have been received, much of which has no substance.

Export of Cotton Waste

*390. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the position of the export of hard and soft cotton waste as a foreign exchange earner since 1st April, 1957?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 52].

Shri Damani: May I know how our export compares with that during the corresponding period of last year?

Shri Kanungo: The statement shows that. It is almost steady, I should say.

Shri Damani: In view of this, may I know whether Government will consider the question of giving some export duty relief with a view to promoting more exports?

Shri Kanungo: This question is constantly under review, and I cannot answer this question unless a decision is taken.

Cotton

*391. **Shri Balarama Krishnaiah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased

(a) the steps Government have taken to make the country self sufficient in the production of cotton;

(b) the quantity of cotton being imported into the country annually;

(c) whether Government have entered into a long range agreement with any country for importing cotton; and

(d) through what channels Government have been importing the cotton into the country?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure 53.]

Shri Balarama Krishnaiah: In view of the shortage of cotton, may I know whether Government have got any proposal to encourage the ryots in the States to grow more of cotton to feed the textile industry?

Shri Kanungo: The statement shows the steps that have been taken, and the results have been very encouraging. Since Partition, the production has increased to more than double.

Shri Tangamani: From the statement, we find that 600,000 bales of staple cotton is being imported each