

and functions of the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd.;

(b) if so, in what shape and form;

(c) what are the reactions of the business community in this regard;

(d) whether any representation has been made by the business community; and

(e) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amended clause III of the Memorandum of Association of the State Trading Corporation as approved by the Government of India is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 112.] It is yet to be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

(c) and (d). A notice under section 17(3) of the Companies Act was given to the creditors and share holders of the Corporation regarding the proposed amendments. This was also published in all the leading Newspapers, inviting objections from the general public by the 30th August, 1958 but no objections were received from any quarter by that date.

(e) Does not arise.

Caustic Soda

*858. **Shri Oza:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what arrangements have been made for the equitable distribution of Caustic Soda among large scale manufacturers and small non-motive power manufacturers of soap;

(b) whether complaints have been received against the method and manner of present distribution; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A state-

ment is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The indigenous manufacturers distribute their caustic soda to consuming industries on long term arrangements. Caustic soda imported by the State Trading Corporation is distributed through their agents to individual units having regard to their consumption and off-take from indigenous production. Arrangements for *ad hoc* allotments to small non-motive power soap units are also under consideration by the State Trading Corporation.

(b) No, Sir. There have, however, been some representations regarding difficulty in obtaining stocks due to shortage.

(c) Government have already licensed new schemes and the additional capacity is expected to materialise in the near future. Meanwhile, it is proposed to import larger quantities of caustic soda and build up a buffer stock.

Textile Machinery Manufacturing Concerns

*859. { **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:**
Shri Prabhat Kar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1063 on the 9th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several manufacturers of textile machinery are facing closure due to lack of orders within the country;

(b) whether the Machinery Manufacturers Corporation Ltd. is contemplating closing down;

(c) the concerns that are booked up with orders for four years;

(d) whether Government propose any diversification of the products made by the units facing closure; and