

year. May I know whether this import will be kept at this level or whether the quantity will be reduced in the future?

Shri Kanungo: This particular variety of long staple cotton is not yet grown in our country. When it is grown, then naturally the quantity will be reduced.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that a large quantity of long staple cotton is grown in the Punjab, and whether any new research schemes will be finished by Government so that we shall become self-sufficient in long staple cotton?

Shri Kanungo: That is constantly done by the Cotton Committee and the Agriculture Ministry. As a result of it, the production has improved. As regards very long staple cotton, I suppose it will take a little time to mature in the country.

Shri Tangamani: Is it not a fact that similar long staple cotton is being grown in certain areas in the South, and if so, what encouragement is being given to expand them?

Shri Kanungo: Very long staple varieties of cotton are not grown in the country as yet.

Shri Tangamani: In Rajapalayam, for instance, similar long staple cotton is grown.

Shri Kanungo: It may be so, but it is a very negligible quantity.

**State Trading Corporation of India
(Private) Limited**

*393. { **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:**
Shri N. P. Munisamy:
Shri Shivananjappa:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Bimal Ghose:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation propose to have private firms and companies as "Business Associates" in order to help

in its efforts to find new markets and to expand exports;

(b) whether the terms and conditions of the proposed association of private firms and companies with the Corporation have been worked out;

(c) the branches of export trade wherein the Corporation propose to have such associates; and

(d) the names of such firms and companies with whom the Corporation propose to have negotiations in this regard?

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

(b) The terms and conditions of association with business houses vary from item to item and are modified to suit the requirements of different commodities and different markets.

(c) Oils, soaps, pepper, textiles, hides & skins, cashewnuts, tea and any other items in which association with business houses is found to serve the object in view.

(d) No such list has been drawn up: the Corporation proposes to negotiate only with such firms as are willing, keen, experienced and capable of participating in the proposed joint endeavour to augment country's exports.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if Government propose to issue notices inviting companies to associate with them?

Shri Kanungo: No, we do not want to push out advertisements for that purpose.

Shri Heda: Press comments show that under the name of joint participation, most of the work, getting orders, packing and doing everything, is done by the private firms and only the name is used of the Corporation. To what extent is this true?

Shri Kanungo: It is not correct.

Shri Bimal Ghose: To what extent is there a market for soaps abroad for which private firms have been

called to associate with the Corporation?

Shri Kanungo: I do not know much about soaps, but these are the lines in which we would encourage association.

Shri Bimal Ghose: What I want to know is...

Mr. Speaker: He is not in possession of facts relating to soaps.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Am I not entitled to ask this? The STC has asked for associates for certain lines. Does it know whether there is a market for those items?

Mr. Speaker: There are a number of items.

Shri Bimal Ghose: For example, soap.

Mr. Speaker: It is only an example. The hon. Minister is not expected to know the details of every item with respect to which associates are being brought in. I am unable to follow the hon. Member's argument. There are a hundred items for which associates are called for. One is singled out and supplementaries are asked on that.

Shri Bimal Ghose: There are certain items for which there are no export markets.

Mr. Speaker: No, he wants notice relating to that particular matter.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): These markets are being explored. It does not mean that immediately there are markets. It ought to be known that export markets have got to be cultivated. In the beginning, we cannot give all the figures.

Mr. Speaker: I am on another point. The State Trading Corporation associates itself with various associations for the purpose of helping exports of different items. Is this question to be taken advantage of to ask the Minister to give details about each item? Some Ministry may take up soap,

some other Ministry may take up some other item.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I ask another question? It is an important question.

Mr. Speaker: No, next question. I have already seen the importance of the question that he has asked. I am satisfied that the other questions also won't be important.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Without hearing me, how can you say, Sir, that it is not important?

Mr. Speaker: I allow one question to an hon. Member. If I am not satisfied, I will go to another question.

Bicycles

*394. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the exact position as it obtains now with regard to the requirements and production of bicycles in the country;

(b) whether any portion of our requirements has yet to be imported from outside; and

(c) if so, how much?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The country's requirement of bicycles as assessed by the Tariff Commission, in their 1957 Report on the continuance of the protection to the Bicycle Industry, is 9,50,000 bicycles for 1957. Production of bicycles from the large scale sector is expected to be 8,00,000 bicycles in 1957 and the gap is expected to be met from production from the small scale sector and stocks of imported cycles in the market.

(b) and (c). Taking into consideration the anticipated indigenous production and stocks of bicycles, imports will not be necessary.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know if there is any phased programme for the development of this industry so that it may become self-sufficient in this respect?