

Page 9, line 38,

for "five" substitute "eight". (5)

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I shall put the amendment to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

"That Clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 16 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 17 to 134 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Sir, I move:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.59 hrs.

PERSONAL INJURIES (COMPEN-  
SATION INSURANCE) BILL

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman):** Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to impose on employers a liability to pay compensation to workmen sustaining personal injuries and to provide for the insurance of employers against such liability, be taken into consideration."

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** You may continue your speech tomorrow. We shall take up the next business now.

15 hrs.

MOTION RE: REPORT OF STATE  
TRADING CORPORATION OF INDIA

**श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :** (हमीरपुर) :  
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह प्रस्ताव सदन के सम्मुख प्रस्तुत करता हूँ कि यह सभा भारत के राज्य व्यापार निगम लिमिटेड नई दिल्ली के वर्ष १९६१-६२ की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट पर लेखा परीक्षक लेखे और उस पर नियंत्रक और महा लेखा परीक्षक की टिप्पणियों सहित जो ४ दिसम्बर, १९६२ को सभा की टेबुल पर रखी गई थी, विचार करती है ।

स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन एक ऐसी संस्था है जिसे हम ने इस लिये स्थापित किया था कि वह इस देश में ऐसे लोगों के लाभ को कम कर दे जो पूंजी के आधार पर आयात-निर्यात का काम करते थे या दूसरे व्यापार करते थे और अत्याधिक मुनाफा उठाते थे । स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन का जहाँ तक अर्थ में समझा हूँ वह यह है कि राज्यों की ओर से व्यापार चलाया जाय । राज्य हमारा कैसा है ? हमारा राज्य एक मंगलकारी गणराज्य है । इस में जन-साधारण के हितों को ध्यान में रखना अति आवश्यक है । इस लिये इस कारपोरेशन का यह कर्त्तव्य था कि वह केवल इस दृष्टि से अपना काम नहीं चलाता कि मुझे मुनाफा अधिक करना है जिससे लाभ की भावना उतनी न होती जितनी कि हम कारपोरेशन के द्वारा की हुई देखते हैं ।

इस सदन को मालूम है कि जितना आयात बाहर से होता है, स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने उस में बहुत सी सामग्रियों का और बहुत सी वस्तुओं का एकधिकार प्राप्त कर रक्खा है और बाकी चीजें जो मंगाई जाती हैं उनका मूल्य जो यहां लिया जाता है वह उतना नहीं होता जितने पर कि हम बाहर से उनको मंगते हैं अपितु उन पर मुनाफा बहुत ज्यादा लिया जाता है । तर्क यह दिया जाता है कि चूंकि

## [श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी]

इस देश में बढ़े हुए दामों पर चीजें बिक रही हैं इस लिये यदि उन्हीं दामों पर स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन इन वस्तुओं को बेचगी तो लोग उसका नाजायज मुनाफा उठायेंगे। मेरे खयाल में यह बात सही नहीं है क्योंकि जब थोक व्यापार आप करते हैं तो जो वस्तुएं बाहर से आई हैं, उन्हें देश में सस्ते दामों पर वितरित करने की मंशा यह होगी कि देश भर में दाम गिर जायेंगे और जो लोग दाम बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर लेते हैं उनको भी सस्ते दामों पर बेचने पर मजबूर होना पड़ेगा लेकिन स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने यह हीं किया है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारी संसद् की प्राक्कलन समिति (एस्टीमेट्स कमेटी) ने अप्रैल १९६० में इस विषय पर विचार किया था और स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन के सम्बन्ध में अनेकों बातें इस प्रतिवेदन में दर्ज हैं। आज वह रिपोर्ट १९६१-६२ की हमारे सामने प्रस्तुत की गई है। सदन में दिसम्बर में हमारे सामने आई थी। उस में एस्टीमेट्स कमेटी की रिपोर्ट और उन की सिफारिशों का कोई जिक्र नहीं है। यह बात सही है कि तत्कालीन व्यापार मंत्री ने एक घोषणा की थी और उस घोषणा का अर्थ यह था कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन के कार्य में कुछ वृद्धि कर दी गई। एक नीति की जो नई घोषणा की गई उस के अनुसार वे बातें भी उस वक्त व्यापार के अन्तर्गत शामिल कर दी गईं जिन का कि अधिकार उस को पहले पहले प्राप्त नहीं हुआ था। यदि एस्टीमेट्स कमेटी की रिपोर्ट को हम ध्यान से देखें तो उस में शुरू शुरू में उल्लेख किया गया है। शुरू शुरू में स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन के आयात सम्बन्धी कार्य क्रम का जो प्रश्न रक्खा गया था उस में यह बतलाया गया था कि उस की गतिविधि कुछ आवश्यक वस्तुओं तक ही सीमित रहनी चाहिए थी, जैसे सोडा, कास्टिक सोडा, सोडियम बाई कारबोनेट, सल्फर और कच्चा

रेशम आदि। इसी तरह जहां तक निर्यात का प्रश्न था यह कहा गया था कि इस बात की जांच कराई जाय कि कारपोरेशन लाभ-प्रद ढंग से लैमन, घास का तेल, काली मिर्च और कुछ धातुओं के कच्चे माल आदि के निर्यात पर विचार करे। यह देख कि कारपोरेशन क्या लाभप्रद ढंग से इन वस्तुओं का व्यापार कर सकता है? लेकिन स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन विगत वर्षों में घोषित नीति के विरुद्ध आचरण कहता रहा है। जैसा कि एस्टीमेट्स कमेटी के छयासिवें प्रतिवेदन के पृष्ठ ३ पैरा ११ में लिखा है कि कारपोरेशन व्यापार के ऐसे क्षतों में भी प्रवेश करता गया जहां उस की कोई आवश्यकता न थी और अपने इस कार्य से कारपोरेशन ने ऐसे निजी उद्योगियों को काम से बाहर खदेड़ दिया जिन्होंने वर्षों के परिश्रम और रुचि के कारण अनेकों वर्षों में व्यापार स्थापित किया था, उसी स्थान पर स्टीमेट्स कमेटी के सम्मुख यह तर्क रखा गया था कि नीति की स्पष्ट घोषणा के बिना कारपोरेशन ने अपनी गति विधि का वृत्त बढ़ाया है और अपने मौलिक उद्देश्यों से उस ने बहिर्गमन किया है। उदाहरण के लिये जिस नीति की घोषणा प्रारम्भ में की गई थी उस में मँगनीज और का जिक्र नहीं था और साथ ही साथ सीमेंट के व्यापार का, भारत के अंदर वितरण करने के लिए या उस में व्यापार करने के लिए घोषणा नहीं की गई थी। लेकिन शनैः शनैः कारपोरेशन ने मँगनीज और का काम भी किया और आज देश के व्यापार का लगभग पचास प्रतिशत: उस के हाथ में है।

जहां तक व्यापार को हाथ में लेने का प्रश्न है हम स्वागत करते हैं। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ऐसे कामों को साथ में ले रहा है जिस से राज्य के लोगों को, हमारे देश के लोगों को लाभ हो। लेकिन जब हम इस बात को देखते हैं कि इन कामों में, मँगनीज और के सम्बन्ध में महसूस करते हैं, कि कुछ निजी

उद्योगपतियों को अपना काम बंद कर देना पड़ा है। राज्य के हित में यदि यह है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ऐसे कामों को ले तो हमें इस का स्वागत करना चाहिए लेकिन साथ ही साथ हर समय हमें यह बात देखते रहना चाहिए कि जो लोग काम कर रहे थे उन्हें हम ने विस्थापित तो नहीं किया, उन का रोजगार बंद तो नहीं कर दिया है। विशेष कर जब यह कहा जाता है लोगों द्वारा कि उन्होंने ने वर्षों पूर्व इस काम को स्थापित किया था और जब काम जम गया तो उनके हाथ से हमने छीन लिया। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में मंत्री महोदय प्रकाश डालेंगे और बतलायेंगे कि इन कामों को लेने के पीछे क्या उद्देश्य था। पहले इस की घोषणा किये वगैर यह क्यों हाथ में लिये गये? अब जो उद्देश्य बतलाया गया है उस में यह बतलाया गया है कि निर्यात का कार्य कारपोरेशन के सिपुर्द कर दिया जाय। ऐसी वस्तुओं का जिन में ऐसे देश व्यापार करते हैं, यह स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन में विश्वास रखते हैं जैसे कि कम्युनिस्ट देश, इत्यादि, साथ ही साथ दूसरे देशों से भी व्यापार करने की छूट इसे दी गई है। ट्रेडिशनल क्मोडिटीज के वितरण के क्षेत्रों को भी निकालने का काम इस के सिपुर्द कर दिया गया है। निर्यात के नये केन्द्रों को भी खोजने की बात कही गई है। सरकार की प्रेरणा पर, और ऐसी वस्तुओं के मूल्यों को स्थायी बनाने और उस के व्यवस्थित वितरण की व्यवस्था को दृष्टि में रखते हुए आयात करना अथवा देश के भीतर वितरण की व्यवस्था भी इस के सुपुर्द क दी गई है। जनहित की दृष्टि में उन विशेष वस्तुओं के आयात, निर्यात अथवा आंतरिक वितरण आदि की व्यवस्था करने का काम भी सरकार ने उसे दिया है, यदि सरकार उसे निर्देश दे। सरकार ने कुछ सीमा तक उन सट्ट वाली वस्तुओं का व्यापार भी कारपोरेशन के सुपुर्द कर दिया है और साथ ही साथ यह व्यवस्था की है कि ऐसी वस्तुओं का भी काम उसे दिया जाय कि जिन का निर्यात करना आन्तरिक मूल्यों के बढ़ने

के कारण कठिन हो गया है।

मैं देखता हूँ इस सम्बन्ध में एस्टी-मेट्स कमेटी ने जो सिफारिशें की थीं उन को बहुत अंश तक मानते हुए नये उद्देश्य घोषित किये गये हैं। लेकिन साथ ही साथ बहुत सी ऐसी बातें रक्खी गई हैं जिन से जाहिर होता है कि कई सिफारिशें एस्टीमेट्स कमेटी की बाकी रहती हैं जिन को कि पूरा नहीं किया गया है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा मंत्री महोदय से कि उन ऐन्स्टिमेट्स कमेटी की सिफारिशों में से कौन-कौन ऐसी हैं जो कि उन्हें मान्य हैं और कौन-कौन ऐसी हैं जिन्हें वे नहीं मानेंगे और नहीं मानेंगे तो उन का कारण क्या है ?

अब मैं स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन के सम्बन्ध में एक दो बातें कहना चाहता हूँ। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने जो काम किया है और जैसा कि १९६१-६२ की रिपोर्ट से मालम होता है और उस ने लाभ के लिए काम अधिक करना प्रारम्भ कर दिया है और जनहित की ओर ध्यान नहीं रक्खा है जिस का कि फल होता है कि यदि कारपोरेशन ने ६ करोड़ का लाभ दिखलाया है लेकिन दूसरी तरफ़ जब हम देखते हैं तो मालम पड़ता है कि उसे ६ करोड़ में से ४ करोड़ की रकम अर्थात् दो तिहाई हिस्सा उस ने अपने ही कामों में व्यय कर डाला है। केवल २ करोड़ का लाभ यानी एक तिहाई लाभ ही हमारे हाथों हाथ में आया है। यदि यह काम निजी हाथों में होता था तो ज्यादा लोग फ़ायदा उठाते थे। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि अब स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन के बनने के कारण सरकार को जो लाभ हुआ है क्या वह इतना अधिक है कि उस के कारण अधिक लोग लाभ उठा रहे हैं या क्षति उठा रहे हैं? और जो २ करोड़ रुपया है उस का विवरण भी ठीक तरीके से समझायें कि वह किन किन कामों में व्यय किया गया है या वह राज्य के कोष में आया है? आयात की हुई वस्तुओं को बढ़ा चढ़ा कर देश के भीतर बचा जाता। यह

[श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी]

शिकायत की गई है। कहा यह जाता है कि देश में मूल्य वस्तुओं का अधिक है इसलिए उन्हें उन दामों पर बेचना मनासिब है लेकिन स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन का जहां तक मैं अर्थ समझा हूं वह यह है कि वह देश में मूल्यों के नियंत्रण करने के लिए है। प्राइवेट सैक्टर के कार्य में सहायता पहुंचाने के लिये है। और मांग और पूर्ति के बीच में जो गंभीर है, कमियां हैं उनकी पूर्ति के लिये यह काम हाथ में लिया था। मुनाफ़ाखोरी उस का लक्ष्य नहीं था। यदि मुनाफ़ाखोरी उस का लक्ष्य था, तो यह बात उस के उद्देश्य में कहीं नहीं दी गई है। जब मंत्री महोदय ने स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को बनाने के सम्बन्ध में घोषणा की थी, उस समय भी उन्होंने ने इस का जिक्र नहीं किया था कि मुनाफ़ाखोरी भी उस का लक्ष्य है।

मेरा कहना यह है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को निजी उद्योगपतियों की नकल नहीं करनी चाहिए, क्योंकि निजी उद्योगपतियों का व्यापार में केवल एक ही उद्देश्य होता है कि वे अपने निजी लाभ को ही बढ़ायें। संसद ने स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन की स्थापना की स्वीकृति इसलिए दी थी कि वह वस्तुओं के थोक आयात का काम इसलिए करे कि वह सर्व-साधारण को मूल देशों के भावों पर आयात की हुई वस्तुओं को वितरित कर सके। कारपोरेशन निजी पूंजीपतियों का स्थान ले, ऐसी हमारी इच्छा कभी नहीं थी। यह कहा गया है कि चूंकि अमुक वस्तुएं देश में ऊंचे मूल्य पर बिक रही थीं, इसलिए कारपोरेशन ने भी उन्हें ऊंचे मूल्यों पर ही बेचा। यदि कारपोरेशन थोक आयात कर के कम मूल्यों पर वितरण कर दे, अथवा लागत मात्र के मूल्यों पर पूर्ति करे, तो क्या यह सम्भव नहीं है कि उन वस्तुओं के मूल्य स्वयं गिर जायें और देश भर में सर्व-साधारण को वे वस्तुएं, या उन से बनी हुई वस्तुयें, उचित दामों पर मिल सकें। ऐसा न कर के कारपोरेशन ने जो रास्ता अपनाया है, वह अत्यन्त विवादा-

स्पद है और सदन को यह सोचना पड़ेगा कि सरकारी ढंग से जो व्यापार चलते हैं, क्या हम ने उन को केवल मुनाफ़ाखोरी के लिए काम चलाने की अनुमति दी थी। यदि मंत्री महोदय हमें इस बात का आश्वासन दें कि लाभ के लिए जो काम किया जाता है, उस से देश को अधिक लाभ पहुंचा है, तो वह बात तो मानने लायक हो सकती है। (Interruptions) वह कारण बतायेंगे और सदन उस पर विचार करेगा।

स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को केवल ऐसी वस्तुओं को बाहर से मंगाना चाहिए, जिन को हम पैदा नहीं करते, या पैदा नहीं कर सकते। इसलिए यदि कुछ ऐसी वस्तुएं हैं, जिन को हम किसी देश के कोलंबोरेशन से, या सहायता से, या तकनीकी जानकारी प्राप्त कर के, बना सकते हैं, तो उन वस्तुओं को बाहर से नहीं मंगाना चाहिए। लेकिन बहुत सी वस्तुएं ऐसी हैं, जिन को कारपोरेशन बाहर से मंगाना है, हालांकि हम उन को देश में उत्पन्न कर सकते थे। मैं आप को सिनेमा कार्बन की पेंसिल का उदाहरण दूंगा। वे साढ़े बीस करोड़ रुपये की बाहर से मंगाई जाती हैं। (Interruptions) सरकार के प्रतिवेदन में केवल ३३ हजार की संख्या दी गई है, लेकिन मंत्री महोदय सरकारी कागज़ों की जांच करें। मझे विश्वस्त रूप से पता चला है कि साढ़े बीस करोड़।

**वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्रालय में अन्तराष्ट्रीय व्यापार मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शाह):** माननीय सदस्य लाख के बजाये करोड़ कह रहे हैं।

**श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी:** साढ़े बीस लाख।

**श्री मनुभाई शाह:** वह ठीक है।

**श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी:** अगर हम यहां पर कार्बन बनाने का कारखाना खोलना चाहें, तो खुल सकता है और खोलना चाहिए। अगर हम यहां पर कार्बन बना सकते हैं और उस के लिए हम को फ़ारेन कोलंबोरेशन मिल सकता है, तो फिर हम बाहर से क्यों आयात करते रहें ?

इसी तरह से हम ने करीब करीब छः करोड़ रुपये का न्यूजप्रिंट इम्पोर्ट किया है। हम जानते हैं कि हमारे देश में न्यूजप्रिंट बनाने का सभी कच्चा माल मिलता है। यदि हम यहां पर नये कारखाने खोलें, तो शनैः शनैः हम न्यूजप्रिंट में आत्म-निर्भर हो सकते हैं। जब हम छः करोड़ रुपये न्यूजप्रिंट को इम्पोर्ट करने पर खर्च करते हैं, तो कोई कारण नहीं है कि हम अपने देश में और कारखाने न पदा करें और धीरे धीरे इस काम को आगे बढ़ायें। १९५६ में यह कारखाना स्थापित हुआ और आज हम १९६३ में हैं। इतने वर्षों में सरकार बराबर कागज का निर्यात करती रही, लेकिन हमें अफसोस है कि आत्म-निर्भरता की दिशा में हम ने पर्याप्त कदम नहीं उठाए। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि जो चीजें हमारे देश में बन सकती हैं, उन को बनाने की दिशा में कदम उठाये जायें और उन के सम्बन्ध में आत्म-निर्भरता प्राप्त करने का यत्न किया जायेगा, ताकि ये इम्पोर्ट्स बन्द हो जायें।

15.14 hrs.

[SHRI THIRUMALA RAO in the Chair]

मैं सदन का ध्यान इस तरफ दिलाना चा ता हूँ कि इस कारपोरेशन के प्रतिवेदन इतने कागज पर छापे जाते हैं। इन को साधारण कागज पर भी छपा जा सकता है। आज हम इमर्जेंसी के बीच में से गुजर रहे हैं और इस लिये ऐसे अच्छे मूल्यवान कागज को सालाना प्रतिवेदन के लिए प्रयुक्त करना कहां तक लाभदायक सिद्ध होगा? (Interruptions)

श्री बाजी (इन्दौर) : प्राइवेट सैक्टर से कम्पीट करना है। प्राइवेट सैक्टर के बलेंस-शीट भी ऐसे अच्छे कागज पर छपते हैं।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : सरकारी काम में, और निजी उद्योग में, यही तो फर्क होना चाहिये कि सरकार चाहती है मितव्ययिता करना और निजी उद्योग नहीं करना चाहता।

१३५(Ai) LSD—7.

यदि हम यह कर के दिखायेंगे, तो इस बात में कोई संशय नहीं है कि . . . .

श्री इशाम लाल सराफ (जम्मू तथा काश्मीर) : न्यूजप्रिंट नहीं मिलता है, यह कागज मिलता है।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : यह कामज भी इम्पोर्टिड है। यह भी वाहर से मंगाया गया है।

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): That is its only attraction. Good paper is its only attraction. Why are you against it?

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : हमारे देश में भी इतना ही अच्छा कागज बन सकता है। एक बात मेरे सुनने में आई है, वह कहां तक सही है मुझे नहीं मालूम। यूगीस्लाविया से कुछ टायर, ट्यूब मगाये गये थे।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : (कानपुर) : चैकोस्लोवाकिया से।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : जी हां, चैकोस्लोवाकिया से कुछ टायर, ट्यूब मंगाये गए थे, जोकि सेना के वाहनों के काम में आने थे। उन के बारे में हमारे देश के एक व्यापारी, बजाज इलेक्ट्रिकल्स के मालिक ने कहा कि यह टायर, ट्यूब एक ऐसे देश से आये हैं कि यह शंका हो सकती है कि ये टायर, ट्यूब अच्छे होंगे या नहीं। इस पर उन की जांच पड़ताल करवाई गई और सेना के बड़े विशेषज्ञ ने बताया कि ये टायर ए-वन हैं, अब्बल नम्बर के हैं और उन का प्रयोग किया जा सकता है, लेकिन उन का प्रयोग नहीं किया गया और असैनिक कार्यों के लिये उन को बिकवा दिया गया। मालूम नहीं कि उस में किसका कितना लाभ हुआ, कितना नुकसान हुआ, लेकिन यह बात सही है कि वे सेना के काम में नहीं आ सके। अगर यह बात सही है, तो आशा है कि मंत्री महोदय इस बारे में प्रकाश डालेंगे।

जहां तक फर्टीलाइजर्स का सम्बन्ध है, करीब साढ़े चार लाख टन फर्टीलाइजर

[श्री मा० ला० द्विवेदी]

बाहर से मंगाये जा रहे हैं। फर्टीलाइजर्स के कारखाने हमारे देश में खुले हैं और हम अच्छे किस्म के फर्टीलाइजर्स बनाने लगे हैं। मेरा विश्वास है कि यदि हम इस बारे में थोड़ा सा सतर्क रहें, तो जो फर्टीलाइजर्स हम बाहर से मंगाले हैं, वे भी हम खुद बना सकते हैं और उस के लिये हम को कदम उठाने चाहियें, ताकि यह आयात भी बन्द हो जायें।

इस बारे में सब से बड़ी बात मुझे यह कहनी है कि कुछ ऐसा हो रहा है कि हम ने कुछ वस्तुओं के व्यापार करने का एकाधिकार इस कारपोरेशन को दे रखा है। हम समझते हैं कि एक ऐसे राज्य में, जिस में हम समाजवादी व्यवस्था और समाजवादी ढांचा चालू करना चाहते हैं, यह बात सही नहीं बैठती कि हम किसी कारखाने को, चाहे हमारा सरकारी कारखाना ही क्यों न हो, किसी वस्तु का एकाधिकार दें, क्योंकि जिस समूह एकाधिकार दें दिया जाता है तो लाभ और हानि का ठीक पता नहीं चलता है। यदि मुकाबले में दूसरे लोग भी उस वस्तु का आयात करें और उस को बाजार में बेचें, तो कारपोरेशन को मुकाबले में बाजार में झाना पड़ेगा और उस को अपने मूल्य ऐसे निर्धारित करने पड़ेंगे कि वे मुकाबले में सही सही बैठ सकें। एकाधिकार में किसी दूसरे को व्यापार करने का हक नहीं होता है। हमें मालूम है कि इंग्लैंड में एकाधिकार को संप्राप्त करने के लिये बड़ी जद्दोजहद और झगड़ा हुआ और अन्त में उस को समाप्त कर दिया गया। इसलिये उस समय, जब कि हम एक मंगल राज्य और समाजवादी व्यवस्था की स्थापना करना चाहते हैं, क्या एकाधिकार स्थापित करना उचित होगा? यदि हाँ, तो माननीय मंत्री हमें उस के कारण बतायें।

इस रिपोर्ट के बारे में एक बड़ी विशेष बात यह है कि जो वस्तुयें बाहर से आयात की

गई, उन की एक लम्बी-चौड़ी सूची इस रिपोर्ट में दी गई है। जिन चीजों का निर्यात किया गया, उन का भी जिक्र किया गया है। लेकिन इस रिपोर्ट में, अथवा किसी और रिपोर्ट में, इस बात का कोई विवरण नहीं है कि किन दामों पर यह चीजें मंगाई गई, उनको मंगाने में कितना खर्चा पड़ा और जब वे बेची गई, तो उन के मूल्य क्या थे। मेरा विश्वास है कि यदि यह नक्शा हमारे सामने आयेगा, तो मालूम पड़ेगा कि यह व्यापार केवल लाभ के लिए किया गया है, या इस दृष्टि से किया गया है कि इस में थोड़ा सा ही मुनाफा कमाया जाये, ताकि कर्मचारियों के वेतन आदि चुकाए जा सकें। यह बात इस प्रतिवेदन में नहीं है।

मैं मांग करता हूँ कि आईन्दा जो प्रतिवेदन आया करें, उन में इस बात का भी जिक्र रहे कि जो जो माल बाहर से मंगाए गए, वे किन दामों पर मंगाए गए, उन को मंगाने पर क्या खर्चा हुआ और कस्टम ड्यूटी चुकाने के बाद उन का मूल्य इस देश में कितना पड़ा और बाद में कारपोरेशन ने उन को किस मूल्य पर बेचा। यदि ये विवरण सदन के सामने होंगे, तो एक सही स्थिति हमारे सामने आयेगी।

हमारी इच्छा यह थी कि हमारे देश के निर्यातकों को अधिक से अधिक दाम मिल सकें और अधिक माल बाहर जा सके। इस सम्बन्ध में ठीक आंकड़े हमारे सामने नहीं हैं। हमें यह तर्क दिया गया है कि चूंकि निर्यात की वस्तुओं का उत्पादन-व्यय हमारे देश में अधिक है, इसलिये हमें विदेशों में अच्छे ग्राहक नहीं मिलते हैं। हमें इस बात की जांच करनी चाहिये कि क्या कारण है कि हमारे देश में जो वस्तुयें उत्पन्न होती हैं, उन के उत्पादन पर अधिक खर्च होता है, बमुकाबले दूसरे मुल्कों के। जब जापान, इंग्लैंड और अमरीका आदि मुल्कों में उत्पादन सस्ता हो सकता है, तो फिर हमारे देश में उत्पादन क्यों नहीं सस्ता

हो सकता है, ताकि हम अपना निर्यात बढ़ा सकें ?

एस० टी० सी० को कई मामलों में सरकार ने इनिशिएटिव लेने के लिये यानी स्वयं अपनी मर्जी के काम करने और नया रास्ता सोचने के लिये कहा था। लेकिन इस प्रतिवेदन से मालूम होता है कि जहां तक इनिशियेटिव का सम्बन्ध है, कारपोरेशन ने बहुत ही कम मामलों में इनिशियेटिव लिया है। इस के दो कारण हो सकते हैं। एक तो यह हो सकता है कि काम करने की क्षमता, नई नई बात सोचने . . .

श्री मनुभाई शाह : नई बातें तो सारी हैं।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : सब सरकार के कहने से की हैं, कारपोरेशन ने स्वयं अपनी मर्जी से नहीं की हैं। इस का एक कारण तो यह हो सकता है कि सरकार ने नियंत्रण उस पर ज्यादा लगा रखे हैं और दूसरा यह हो सकता है कि जो काम करने वाले हैं, उन में नई नई बातें सोचने की क्षमता कम है। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं समझता हूं कि कारपोरेशन के प्रबंध में उचित मात्रा में मूझबूझ वाले आदमियों को पहुंचाने की आवश्यकता है ताकि वे कारपोरेशन को उस की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार चला सकें। यह सही है कि सरकार एक दूसरा कारपोरेशन खोलने जा रही है जो कारपोरेशन लोहे के कच्चे माल और मैंगनीज और आदि को मंगाने और भेजने आदि का व्यापार करेगी। लेकिन इस के साथ साथ यह भी आवश्यक है कि जो कुछ काम शेष रह जायेंगे, उन के सम्बन्ध में मूझबूझ वाले आदमी उन में हों जो कि काम को ठीक तरह से चला सकें। यह जो पहलू काम का है, इस की ओर भी आप को विशेष तौर पर ध्यान देना चाहिये।

अन्त में मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि और भी बहुत सी एस० टी० सी०

बननी चाहियें। लेकिन शर्त यह है कि हम जनहित को ध्यान में रखें, भारतीय जनता की आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखें और इन कारपोरेशनों को विशेष रूप से इस बात पर ध्यान देना चाहिये कि स्वयं लाभ की बात ज्यादा न कर के जनता को अधिक लाभ पहुंचाने, उपभोक्ताओं को अधिक लाभ पहुंचाने और कम से कम मार्जिन में काम करने, को सर्वोपरि महत्व दें। इस तरह से अगर काम किया गया तो अन्ततोगत्वा देश के लोगों के हाथ में अधिक पैसा आएगा और इन के कार्यों की लांग प्रशंसा करेंगे। तब यह बात हम लोगों के दिमाग से हट जायेगी कि निजी उद्योगपतियों की तरह से ये कारपोरेशन भी फायदा नहीं उठाते हैं और तब यह कहा जा सकेगा कि जो रास्ता इन्होंने अपनाया है वह सही रास्ता है और मंगलमय राज्य की स्थापना की दिशा में एक सही कदम है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस प्रतिवेदन को सदन के विचाराय प्रस्तुत करता हूं।

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That this House takes note of the Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1961-62, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, laid on the Table of the House on the 4th December, 1962."

There are a large number of speakers and the time allotted for this discussion is only two hours.

Shri Nath Pai: Two and a half hours.

Mr. Chairman: Here it is put down as two hours including the time for the reply to be given by the hon. Minister concerned. Probably he takes half an hour. But if the House desires to sit for a longer time, it can sit for another half an hour at the most. It all depends upon the mood

[Mr. Chairman]

of the House then. I, therefore, request hon. Members to impose on themselves a severe restriction of time instead of my doing it. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** On a point of information. I want to know whether you have jotted down the names of hon. Members who are going to speak.

**Mr. Chairman:** Yes. The hon. Deputy-Speaker has noted down twelve names.

**Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun):** There are others also who are trying to catch your eye.

**Mr. Chairman:** It was all done before I came.

**Shri Tyagi:** I beg to submit that I take strong objection to this practice which is being encouraged by the Chair these days. Names or lists of names are received and the old practice of hon. Members trying to catch the eye of the Chair is practically given up. I do not believe in submitting my name in advance. I would, therefore, claim that the basic right of hon. Members must be upheld.

**Shri Sheo Narain (Bansi):** I support Shri Tyagi.

**Mr. Chairman:** Though I may not express concurrence with the hon. Member, I suggest that the matter may be put up to the Hon. Speaker and the hon. Deputy-Speaker who are really in charge of the business of the House. I am a stop gap who, of course, has a little flexibility and discretion of his own to exercise according to the situation. But still in view of the restriction of time that is given to this discussion I will try to exercise my discretion.

**Shri Daji:** May I submit that this practice was introduced at the suggestion of Shri Tyagi himself. Shrimati Savitri Nigam stole the eyes every time from him and he com-

plained. It was at that time that this practice was introduced.

**Shri Tyagi:** I have been sticking always never to give my name. I always take a chance and always expect that the hon. Speaker would take notice. I do not believe in lists.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shri Daji's memory is more keen than ours.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam (Banda):** Do we believe in the privileged classes?

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** If Shri Tyagi's suggestion is accepted, I wonder if I will catch your eye. So, at least our two names may be put down in the list.

**Mr. Chairman:** We will see how things develop. I cannot bind myself to any strict procedure. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South-West):** Mr. Chairman, since the time at my disposal is very little, I should only deal with a few broad questions. When discussing the State Trading Corporation and its activities, I think, there is a tendency, or a possibility rather, to fall into two misconceptions about it. One misconception, I think, is very deliberately being fostered in this country by at least certain sections of the private sector who do not like the idea of a State Trading Corporation at all. The idea put forward by this sector is that the State Trading Corporation is some sort of a huge octopus which has come into the field of trading and is gradually squeezing out all the private trade exporters, importers and everybody from it. This, I think, is a totally wrong conception and is a distortion of the reality because the actual facts are that out of a total overall trade which this country has of between Rs. 1,600 crores and Rs. 1,700 crores, the value of the overall annual trade, that is, exports and imports, that the STC accounts for is only 5 to 6 per



cent. So, it should be seen in its proper proportions. In 1961-62, the year with which this Report deals, we find that out of the total exports, the value of which was Rs. 600 crores to Rs. 700 crores, only Rs. 35 crores were accounted for by the STC. Therefore we should see this thing in its proper focus and proper proportion. I, of course, regret it very much but the State Trading Corporation is still playing a very, very minor and negligible part in the total volume of the overall trade of this country.

The other misconception which is fostered, may be sometimes from the other side, that is, from the Government's side is this. It is not only a question of beautiful quality of paper on which the Report is printed to which Shri Dwivedi has referred, but it is a question of some very beautiful self-congratulations also which tend to give the impression that the State Trading Corporation is a highly efficient, streamlined and dynamic organisation and which is working very, very satisfactorily. This also, I think, is somewhat of a misconception. It is true I feel that if the State Trading Corporation is really to fulfil its purpose, we would like to see it work and develop as a sort of a model enterprise. It should adopt modern methods of business administration, cost accounting, market research and all that and it should at least be relatively free in comparison with the other Government departments—of course, it is not a department; it is a corporation—from the type of topheavy administration, red-tape, bureaucracy, malpractices and corruption which unfortunately have become a distinctive feature of many Government ministries, departments and governmental agencies. But, I am afraid, it is a bit too early for the State Trading Corporation or the hon. Minister of International Trade to make any such claim on behalf of the STC, because it is a fact. Shri Dwivedi has dealt with it at great length and I do not wish to take time again on the fact that the private sec-

tor traders, shippers, exporters, importers etc. do have to suffer to some extent in the sense that the processes through which the State Trading Corporation takes them are really very tortuous. You talk to any importer, exporter or anybody like that who is dealing with the State Trading Corporation and it will be found that the same long zigzag rigmarole of bureaucratic procedure of endless references or a case from one file to another which take months on end before anything can be passed through, the same procedure, is repeated in the case of the State Trading Corporation also. There is a top-heavy administration. There is a bureaucratic red-tape procedure just as we find in other sectors of the Government. As for mal-practices, well, I have no time to go into various allegations and reports which are abroad in the country about the State Trading Corporation. But I would just like to mention two or three very disquieting types of reports which have come to my knowledge and I would like the Minister, if it is possible for him, when he replies, to try to allay some of those apprehensions and those anxieties. Well, he does not bother to listen to me at the moment.

**Mr. Chairman:** I think he has given you his ears.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes, sir.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I do not know how. Anyway, this is what I was saying. For example, this report has made a casual mention in one place of a very large export of sugar, export of sugar on a barter basis with the import of fertilisers. I have no time to go into the details of the report which have come to my ears. But I would just mention the essential part of it. Of course, I do not say that the State Trading Corporation was the sole agency concerned with it; there may be other Ministries of the Government which were involved in it. But it is reported and rumoured widely abroad that this sugar which was exported was not done so on

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the basis of the highest prices available which we could have got for this sugar. I want to know whether it is correct or not. I want to know whether an open tender was offered or not. I want to know whether in return for the sugar the fertilisers that we got were on a barter basis or not which has left us at a disadvantage. I want to know whether a particular firm was almost given the entire contract for the purchase of Indian sugar—it is a very well-known firm; the firm by the name of Rionda—as against the import of fertilisers by the firm Interorr which is a well-known firm. I am referring to the specific deal. I want to know whether it is a fact or not that this deal was carried out without any open tender but with consideration of something else. The whole of this huge amount of sugar was sold and exported to this firm of Rionda and the result was that the best available price in the world sugar market which we could have got on the basis of open tenders was not available to us. If that is so, the country has suffered a big loss and we should know exactly what the position is and what role the S.T.C. played.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I have to finish. I have not yet begun.

**Mr. Chairman:** That is the difficulty.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Then, there is the rumour about the tyres. I do not want to go into details. It is a very old story. Everybody knows about it. I do not know what the present position is. I want to know whether huge stocks of tyres are lying in the open somewhere and I am told that there is a very similar state of affairs in regard to groundnut oil. There is an explanation given here of a loss suffered on groundnut oil. But I think it hides the truth, which was that a very vast quantity of groundnut oil was purchased by the

State Trading Corporation for export purposes on the basis of a totally wrong assessment—and I do not know who was responsible for that—and it was found later that it was not possible to dispose of these huge stocks of groundnut oil and as a result of this too the country has suffered a big loss of several crores of rupees.

Anyway, these are some things in which it is necessary for everybody who has the concern of this country's interest at heart to look into them. My main quarrel—I would try to dispose of this point in a few minutes—with the State Trading Corporation is that it has not played the positive role which it should play and which it is capable of playing in the context of the national economic planning policies of this country. At present, the position is that there is a tremendous fragmentation of import licences in this country. Everybody knows it—quotas on the basis of small units of imports are distributed over a large number of importers. So, fragmentation takes place and the cost per unit is much higher than what it would otherwise be. Secondly, there is the total absence of channels, if I may say so, for newer types of export commodities which we require because a mention has already been made of the fact that we cannot go on depending on traditional channels, traditional exports and traditional markets for ever. Therefore, new export commodities, new channels and new markets have constantly to be sought. Those channels are normally missing unless some form of State trading takes place. . . .

**Shri Ranga (Chittoor):** Why?

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Shri Ranga wants to know why. The reason is that private traders are not willing to take the risk of embarking on new channels.

**Shri Ranga:** So, the STC takes the risk and loses crores of rupees.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Then, the established importing houses are making by all accounts a very huge profit by inflating the prices. We do not know the wholesale rates at which they import, but we do know this much that by the time those imported commodities reach the hands of the consumers, there is a tremendous price inflation. There is a multiplicity of exporters in this country, whereas I think that the trend in the world to-day is that at the other end, that is, at the consumers' end, the end-users are tending to come together in purchasers' cartels or consumers' cartels. These consumers' cartels are being formed abroad. But in this country there is a huge multiplicity of exporters. I believe that before the STC appeared on the scene in this country there were 830 exporters of iron ore and 260 exporters of manganese ore. But purchasers at the other end are forming themselves into cartels and combines, and are thus able to beat down our prices. But this is the pattern along which our export trade used to go on and it still goes on in very many commodities.

Then, there is the question of the very high profits which are earned by the foreign-owned export houses. For all these reasons, it is my contention that the STC should play a positive role. It must lead gradually, and step by step, in my view, to the total nationalisation of our export-import trade. The State Trading Corporation should be the first step towards that. My main grouse is that the STC is not playing that role. It is inhibited to some extent by this tremendous volume of criticism by Shri Ranga and his friends who constantly try to obstruct it at every step, and Government in their usual weak-kneed fashion succumbs somewhat or surrenders before that pressure, and thus the STC is inhibited in its outlook, in spite of the fact that the Minister may be a very dynamic and forward-looking person. I am afraid that the STC is not doing the job that it is called upon to do. I do not agree with my hon. friend Shri M. L.

Dwivedi that profit-making should not enter into the State trading corporation, because if it is a trading corporation, then it has to pay its way, and it cannot run on a loss.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** I have already mentioned that it should not make exorbitant profits.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** It is to be used as an instrument also. In these days, we are looking frantically and desperately everywhere for budgetary resources, and the STC and the gradual nationalisation of import and export trade are very valuable weapons for getting resources for our planning, for our development and for defence purposes. Therefore, the STC should go in that direction.

Then, it is necessary also for further diversification of trade. It is necessary also for another reason. When you get capital goods from abroad, it becomes more and more necessary to finance those imports by our exports. The STC is a necessary instrument for correcting chronic imbalances in the adverse trade balance that we have. It is necessary also for introducing bulk buying and selling, because that is the best method by which we can get the best prices, and the prices also can be stabilised. It will also ensure reasonable prices of imported goods for the consumers. It can also become a very powerful weapon and instrument for combating this evil of under-invoicing and over-invoicing which is taking place, as everybody knows, in our country.

These are the main targets which the STC should keep before itself. My complaint is that it is still working in a very simple and a very narrow and restricted way. It suffers from gross inhibitions. It does not look upon itself as an instrument of national policy and planning. Therefore, I think that the Government and the Minister particularly should show a little more courage and boldness and initiative in this matter, and they should not be discouraged or in-

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

timidated by the private sector's propaganda against the STC. Though I agree that Government should try to get rid of the other things which have been mentioned such as a top-heavy administration, bureaucracy and corruption and so on, basically I feel that the STC must be developed as an instrument of policy both for increasing our budgetary resources and for putting our export and import trade on a stable basis, and I hope that it is with that outlook that the STC will mould its future activities.

**Mr. Chairman:** I would appeal to hon. Members to co-operate with me. It is very difficult to control hon. Members, because everybody has got so many points to make. Let them not be redundant, and let everybody who wants to make a few remarks get a chance. That is the appeal that I would make to hon. Members.

**Shri Tyagi:** It is a surprise that sometimes my Communist friends on the other side speak so patriotically that they touch my sentiments and I am entirely in agreement with what my hon. friend has said.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** In that case, it would be better if the hon. Member sits down and allows others to speak.

**Shri Tyagi:** You, Sir, will remember that you and I had been trying, since the Constituent Assembly days, to avoid under-invoicing and over-invoicing and other malpractices in the foreign trade, and we were urging that a State Trading Corporation should be established with that end in view. It was after repeated attempts over a period of several years that at last the STC ultimately got established in 1956. Its functions mainly were to take over trade, particularly the bulk of the trade. Unfortunately, that idea seems to have been skipped over altogether. We never thought that the STC will be a Government Department. Even the

Estimates Committee had once made a recommendation that it must be registered as a regular corporation.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It is registered as a separate corporation.

**Shri Tyagi:** No. The Estimates Committee had stated that:

"To invest the corporation with necessary autonomy and flexibility, it is desirable to organise it as a statutory corporation. In this connection, the Committee would invite Government's attention to the Canadian Commercial Corporation...."

This was the recommendation made. The latest reply given by Government is this. I hope my hon. friend the Minister will correct me if I am wrong. The latest reply given by Government is that Government would like to gain more experience before deciding on this issue, and they have also stated that the general question is being considered separately in the light of the recommendations made in the Eightieth Report. The committee wanted to invest the corporation with the necessary autonomy and flexibility. But that has not been done. I feel that Government cannot run such a big affair by having it as a Government Department. I do not want to dilate on this point further.

The main purpose of the STC was to take over the bulk of the trade which is still going on as merrily as before, as my hon. friend has said, with all the under-invoicing and over-invoicing and other malpractices in foreign exchange etc. I think that the STC must expand its activities to cover the bulk of our trade with foreign countries.

I must congratulate my hon. friend the Minister because he has found out a good way and a good method of establishing some good trade relations with the East European countries, with a view to push up our exports to those countries, because they were

really not being touched formerly. The difficulty in the case of those countries was that they were not very happy to deal with individual traders, and they wanted to have only State-to-State transactions. From that point of view, the hon. Minister has done well. But there are certain defects which I want to point out, not by way of criticism but just to highlight certain points which have occurred to me after reading this report.

The latest turnover, as mentioned in the report, has been as follows: Direct trade: Rs. 77.9 crores; Indirect trade Rs. 48.4 crores. The net profit is mentioned to be Rs. 2.02 crores. It is a good thing that profits are made. The trade with the East European countries has no doubt gone up, but mostly it is diversion of old trade, to some extent. My hon. friend the Minister may correct me if I am wrong. The traditional items like jute, tobacco, tea, goat skin, shoes etc. were items which could be exported elsewhere too.

But one great defect which has come in is that the STC has not succeeded in exporting substantial quantities of manufactured articles, which, my hon. friend, of late, has been trying to ensure. Some incentives have also been offered. But in the case of some of the commodities, the difficulty that my hon. friend had to face was in the face of competition, as for instance, in the case of manganese ore, he could not beat the trade, because our prices were rather high.

What I object to seriously is that actually most of the trading activities even now are being carried on by private parties, although the STC are the guardians of the trade, it is the private parties which are doing the whole trading in export and import. Those private parties are asked to under-invoice, in a way, I shall say in my own terms, in regard to manganese ore or something else. They show less price than what actually they cost here, and the loss is made good

by the STC by issuing to them come import licences on certain commodities, and on the basis of those import licences, they import things, and they are then free to sell them at any price they like in India, so that they could make good their losses. This is a malpractice which the STC or any organisation associated with it shall not be allowed to do. It deserves prosecution; it is a very serious affair, if it is true. Of course, I would like to be corrected. But private parties are asked to export to foreign countries things at lesser cost than what they buy and the losses are made good to them by allowing them to import. The consumer ultimately suffers because he has to pay a very high price. Levy of an import duty would be a better way of earning profit than this, what I would call, malpractice.

Again, licences are issued to STC. STC gives permits to individuals to import. What is the meaning of it? It is only just earning some commission. So, STC is mostly doing a commission agent's work. Take, for instance, cement. The whole monopoly of distribution is vested with STC. What does it do? It does nothing except earn some profit. The old agencies are distributing the cement as they were doing in the past. STC has nothing to do except of course register them. It only draws a commission of 60 nP. per ton or so. But the trade is going on merrily. All the trade is done by the private parties, those agents who were already in the trade. STC has not taken over even that distribution.

There are many other cases. Take groundnut oil. According to my information, the local price of it is Rs. 1900 per ton. Freight etc. comes to Rs. 80, f.o.b. charges to about Rs. 120; in all it comes to about Rs. 2100. But it is being sold to foreign countries at a loss of Rs. 600 per ton. Our trade is going on, but this is not the proper method, selling goods at this loss and again making good the loss to those parties by

[Shri Tyagi]

giving them an incentive by way of licences to import sundry things. Then again those people either import or sell those licences here in the market. They need not import. I would insist on one thing. Anybody who has been given a licence to import anything should not be allowed to transfer or sell the permit. Sometimes it is more profitable to sell it than to import. So it must be considered criminal if somebody does that. If he does not want to import, he must surrender it.

**Shri Ranga:** Then a number of our friends will be unemployed!

**Shri Tyagi:** My hon. friend knows more about it.

As regards this link deal and barter system, it must be looked into to find out how much profit the third parties are earning through this.

I have only two more points. There is the case of tyres. It has upset us us altogether. Tyres worth Rs. 2 crores were purchased. My hon. friend came to the rescue of tyre users because tyre prices were going very high in the black market. I can well understand the good spirit in which he made immediate arrangements for import of tyres. Unfortunately, either they were not properly examined, or the Indian agents of the foreign country played the trick, because they were found useless on arrival in India. On test it was found that they were 12 to 15 per cent inferior to the quality of tyres produced in India, with the result they were not used. I understand those tyres were offered to Government departments, but they did not come forward to take them. The Indian agents were permitted a commission of 11.5 per cent, which included their expenditure also. I may inform my friend that these Indian agents have corrupted quite a few of the purchasing agents of the Government, meaning thereby officers who had the right to place orders. But the worst

part of it was that, knowing that the tyres were defective, 12 to 15 per cent inferior in quality, quite a lot of those tyres were transferred to defence. This is most objectionable.

**Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana):** Shame.

**Shri Tyagi:** If the defence convoy to the front lines goes with these defective tyres, and the tyres burst, the whole convoy stops. That is something very serious. I would like the hon. Minister to enquire as to who in the Defence Ministry purchased those tyres, and what incentive was given to that party.

**Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur):** Were the tyres sent to the defence lines with the full knowledge that they were defective?

**Shri Tyagi:** My hon. friend the Minister will be in a better position to explain.

The purpose of organising the STC was to take over important trade, and so I think the time has come when it must be organised as a regular independent body, working independently, manned by persons who know the job.

15.52 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

The hierarchy in the STC is of those who do not know anything of trade. Further, they have no agents in foreign countries. My hon. friend is thinking of splitting the STC into two. I do not think it is justified. We cannot incur this extra expenditure on top-heavy establishment in creating two bodies. What is the STC doing? Mostly, it is the private agencies that do the job. They only come in to issue permits. They must have some direct agency to find the available markets. I suggest it must be taken up seriously. I hope the hon. Minister will take the benefit of

the advice of the Members of this House at least on some occasions.

**Shri Nath Pai:** The report that we are discussing, I should be permitted by the Minister to say, is full of calculated evasions and camouflaged misstatements, and it therefore conceals more than it tells, and misleads more than it enlightens. If we tear away the bandages of doctrinal clichés in which it is swathed and shrouded, we find underneath the bare and ugly skeleton of business incompetence, economic ineptitude and managerial inefficiency. I think the time has come to have a close and hard look at the working of this Corporation.

For too long, the House has extended benign indulgence to this rather pampered and fondled baby, it being a State enterprise, but unfortunately, the STC is like a rickety child which goes on consuming the best of baby foods without showing any sign of health or growth. I feel that the very rosy picture of a very prosperous and ever-expanding enterprise which is painted in this report is not warranted by the close scrutiny to which we are going to submit it now.

Owing to paucity of time, I shall try to raise only a few questions. In the first place, we should have liked the requirements of the company law being fulfilled by this STC like any other company. Because, ultimately it is not under an umbrella of our patronage that we can judge its functioning.....

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** For the information of the hon. Member, I may say that it is just like any other company registered under the Company Law, subject to all disciplines.

**Shri Nath Pai:** I was talking about the articles and memorandum; it includes everything under the sun without specifying what exactly its functions and powers were or the countries or the items it will deal with and if we are going to rectify these lapses none will be happier than myself. I shall take some specific

lacuna in the working of this Corporation and here again I would like to claim the indulgence of the Minister who has somehow miserably failed in transplanting some of his own efficiency on the working of this Corporation. The STC has changed the country's profitable export trade into a losing one, has seriously hampered the mineral production and by an unrealistic and arbitrary price policy. I will give statistics for all this—causing enormous loss to our valuable foreign exchange earnings because of the poor quantity of its exports and reduced price. It is this Corporation which has been to a certain extent responsible for the evils at Durgapur and Rourkela steel plants. It undertook to supply large quantities of iron ore of certain specifications but it failed several times both in respect of quantity and quality which resulted in increased production costs as well as serious mechanical troubles in the plants. The quantity it promised could not be brought because the price the STC offered was lower than the price offered by the other private companies; naturally it had to haul larger quantities for longer distances—certainly not an example of sound economics.

I shall now try to show that the figures that are given are likely to mislead and one would feel on seeing them that we are doing very well. A note which was circulated this morning for the benefit of Members of Parliament says on the first page that the STC exported iron ore valued at approximately Rs. 19 crores during 1962-63 as against an export of Rs. 16 crores during the corresponding period last year. It never tells us the quantity exported. What is happening is this. They are exporting larger quantities at lower prices but are not giving the detailed break up and then they tell us that we are doing very well. What is the danger about it? I will tell you. The whole object, why you received enthusiastic support when you proclaimed Government's intention, or when your predecessor or the Government pro-

[Shri Nath Pai]

claimed the intention to have this State Trading Corporation was that it would channelise profits which went into private pockets into nation-building activities and put an end to malpractices. What has happened is this. The malpractices in which the Corporation, it is said, has been indulging are so glaring that a very unscrupulous type of businessman points out in his defence at the nefarious activities of the State Trading Corporation, the recent unedifying example being, not to say unholy and unseemly spectacle, to which we were subjected regarding the cars sold by foreign diplomats. I know you will have a reply to it. It became a kind of mutual benefit club. I am sorry to use harsh language particularly when the Minister happens to be one for whose efficiency and intelligence there is general regard in this House. But these bargains generated into a kind of mutual benefit club between Ministers and officials and it was after some public criticism that the cars have been offered to the public by open tenders.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Shri Nath Pai:** I have hardly covered one tenth of what I wanted to say. Now, I will give some statistics: how this so-called increases in trade have been manipulated in statistical terms. We are selling iron ore to Japan. Last year the price was Rs. 81 and now we will be getting Rs. 73. But we are told that we are actually boosting up the trade. Are you succeeding in fulfilling the targets of export? Let me quote the figures.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** They are international prices; prices cannot be dictated by us.

**Shri Nath Pai:** About international prices, may I give him a reply? Recently research was conducted by the London *Financial Times* in international prices of primary products.

They have shown—you can refer to it with the help of your experts....

16 hrs.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Not for iron ore.

**Shri Nath Pai:** They have shown that the index of prices is upward whereas what you have got is a downward trend and we are being exploited by every country in spite of the fact that the quality of the Indian export is very high, particularly of iron ore.

Before I sit down may I point out some very relevant figures as to how, in spite of all that is done, all the patronage and all the monopoly that the State Trading Corporation enjoys, you have miserably failed either in boosting up your export or enhancing our internal production of these commodities. Permit me to finish this paragraph. The export performance in regard to other commodities is equally disappointing. Exports have been either stagnant or visibly poor. Here are my figures. Export of iron ore was only 31.05 lakh tons in 1961-62 against 30.72 lakh tons in 1960-61. What a tremendous leap forward it is? Manganese ore: 7.44 lakh tons against 8.65 lakh tons—actually a decline. Manganese dioxide: here again there was a decline—1,162 tons against 1,840 tons. Chrome ore: 30,903 tons against 36,654 tons. Every year there is a decline. In the years in which we are living, I am pointing out by the figures published by his Ministry, there has been a fall in the export. Kyanite ore: a mere 95 tons as against 1,144 tons in the previous year. Salt: 21,798 tons against 3.27 lakh tons. Thus we find that export earnings have been very small, because, apart from the decline in quantity, the price secured by the Corporation has been very low.

Then there is this much-boosted up, so-called rupee transaction, which is a mystery to us—this link-up and this barter. You never disclose to us the



exact price which you pay for the machinery that we buy for it, and very precious resources which are scarce to this country are sold at prices which are lower than international prices. And what happens? What we sell to this country is resold in the hard currency markets. I would like to know from him whether it is a fact.

Since you have been ringing the bell—the time is short—I would like to ask him one thing: you went into the jute market under the pretext of bringing price stabilisation. You purchased at the prevailing price of Rs. 30 a maund, 55,000 to 56,000 maunds of jute. I would like to know whether it is a fact or not: that till a week ago not one ounce of this jute was sold. Maybe I am wrong. I would like to know also whether it is not true: I do not want private businessmen to profiteer at our cost, but what knowledge does an Under Secretary have as to what is the quality of the jute? It is a fact, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, and the House will be shocked to know that the 50,000 maunds of jute which they have put into their godowns is such that no other businessmen would buy. And when they release it, I would like to know who is going to buy it, because already it has deteriorated in its quality.

Finally, may I say that this State enterprise will have to give up its crutches; it will have to give up working on the artificial blood transfusion which you infuse from time to time in terms of subsidy, and it will have to justify itself purely on the only criterion of efficiency, economy and utility to the society.

**Shri B. K. Das (Contai):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have very little time and so I shall.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Five minutes each. I am calling on the Minister to reply at 4.30.

**Shri B. K. Das:** I am only mentioning one or two points.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur):** The time is 2½ hours for this discussion.

**Shri Nath Pai:** The time may be extended, and if you extend it, I should like to continue.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** Those hon. Members who have already given their names must be given a chance.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If there is time, I shall see. I can extend the time up to 5:30 which is the maximum that can be given. If the House is willing to sit till 5:30, I will extend.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** We have already agreed to sit till then.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Not more than five minutes each.

**Shri B. K. Das:** Since the previous speaker has just now mentioned about jute, I will take that first. The STC, as a part of its price support policy, enters the market and makes purchases to have a buffer stock. In the past, it has done so in the case of lac and now it is purchasing jute, especially in the jute growing areas of our country. What we find today is that though the price fixed at the mill-head is Rs. 3, the primary growers are getting very much less. Therefore, the STC should assume greater responsibility in the matter of helping the primary producers and also in the matter of grading of jute. Otherwise, the very purpose of the price support scheme will be lost. If the growers do not get a proper price, if the jute passes through many hands who pocket the profit, in spite of the STC assuming some responsibilities, our objective will not be served.

Then, I find that the STC is exporting rice, and it is on the increase. In 1962-63 we exported rice to the value of Rs. 16,23,000. In 1963 between January and June, in a period of six months, we have exported rice to the tune of Rs. 16 lakhs. So, the export of rice is increasing. I think it should be stopped. I do not know the pur-

[Shri B. K. Das]

pose of our export of rice, because we are not on the look-out for a market for our rice. In fact, we want rice from other countries, because we are so much short of rice. So, we have to preserve all the rice that we produce in this country.

Another field in which the STC functions is in the matter of export aid to small-scale industries. It promotes exports by giving credit facilities and other concessions to the manufacturers. We do not know what exactly is being done in this field. We feel that the STC should take up this role more actively so that our industries are helped in every way to improve their exports.

The Estimates Committee has made some pertinent remarks about the role of the STC and if only Government had accepted and implemented the recommendations contained in that report all the points which have been raised today could have been avoided. The report says:

"The Committee considers that it would be very desirable for the Government to make a clear declaration of the policy in regard to the functions and the activities to be entrusted to the Corporation in the light of experience gained so far, more or less on the lines similar to that declaration of the industrial policy."

I think the Committee also wanted a re-organisation of the Corporation on those lines. Even though some of the points made in that report have been accepted and Government is trying to develop STC on those lines, still a declaration of policy is better.

What we find is that the STC is trying to find out new markets. But, instead of taking up trade in traditional items, it should find out new fields. So far as monopolist countries are concerned, State trading is the only means and STC is doing business in those countries. But I think that if

more new fields are found out, it will be all the more better for the STC.

**Shri Ranga:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir; I have no time to cover all the points raised by various hon. Members of this House, notably by my friends. Shri Nath Pai and also by Shri Tyagi. First of all, I wish to warn the House against the text-book maxims that have been read out by our friend from the Communist side in support of State trading and the principles behind it. It is all very well to go on thinking of an ideal thing, but it is quite different to fall in love with an ugly thing. The STC has certainly disappointed many people who in the beginning were in favour of its foundation.

Secondly, we do not want it to be the sole monopolist to develop or to thwart or throttle the import or the export trade.....

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Why not?

**Shri Ranga:**...make all the profits and utilise them for their own establishment expenses and joy-rides for their own various officers in their establishments and provide various other comforts also for all the other grandees running it. I do not know how far their barometer will go up—possibly upto the ministerial level.

It was first of all intended to help our country deal with the totalitarian countries where it is all State trading and with whom the small or individual importers and exporters would not be able to deal, it was thought, as competently as they should and draw for our country the benefits that we should derive from our export and import trade with those countries. So, we thought that the STC would come to play that role and help our country. Instead of that, just from the moment it was brought into existence, like the old giants, it began to develop all sorts of ambitions and those ambitions were furthered by the Ministers concerned also because the Ministers

began to fall in love with the controls, permits, licences and all these other advantages that go with them with all the hangers-on who are only too ready to appease or please the Ministers, these grandees of the STC and services in various other ways, various political interests. We are opposed to this kind of expansion.

What is the role that it has played except that we have clamped upon our trade in the country an additional middleman—an inefficient middleman, a costly middleman, a blind and deaf middleman also? It is said that so many private merchants and other people speculate. STC also began to speculate. If the others lose money, it is their own money or their friends' or shareholders' money, but when the STC begins to lose money how does it make up for all these losses? It does so by raising the prices of other commodities which are entrusted to it for internal trade or internal circulation. Did they not put unconscionably higher margins of profit upon cement when it was entrusted to them so far as the internal trade was concerned? Did they not make huge profits? How can they justify them? What did they do with that money except to go on wasting on such speculative things as they had wasted, over oilseeds, oils and so on?

**Dr. M. S. Aney:** Tyres.

**Shri Ranga:** Has it really succeeded? What we would like to see develop in this country is that the STC should be prepared to compete with private trade so that there would be some guarantee for efficiency. But there is no such thing at all. They simply come in as an additional appendix and then charge something more and make our things even more costly. The hon. Minister can go on nodding his head. I would rather that he uses his talents in order to see that STC works more efficiently than it does, loses less money, saves more and utilises those savings in order to develop our trade further and help our private trade also to develop their own capacity for

storing various commodities that have got to be exported, servicing also various commodities that have got to be prepared for exports. That they have not been doing.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member should try to conclude.

**Shri Ranga:** I am not going to stick to five minutes. I suppose, I am entitled to the time that my group can claim. I keep my eye on the clock. Therefore please do not try.... (*Interruption*).

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy** (Kendrapara): Better not have debates like this.... (*Interruption*).

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi** rose—

**Shri Nath Pai:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I submitted naturally to your ruling because you are the presiding deity here, but I would like you to take up this thing that if debates like this are to be just like elocution competitions, that is, five or seven minutes to each speaker, we should better not have them.... (*Interruptions*) It is better to have a few speakers and give them proper time. I could not even say one-tenth of what I wanted to say.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The time that could be fixed for a motion of this kind is not more than two and a half hours. Two hours was the time fixed by the hon. Speaker. I have extended it by half an hour. The hon. Minister also wants some time.... (*Interruption*). To give as many hon. Members as possible an opportunity to speak, I am perfectly within my right to fix a time limit on speeches. So, I would request the Members not to take more than 5 minutes each.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** You can give even one minute. (*Interruption*).

**Shri Ranga:** I do not want to waste my time over this matter. Let me complete my point.

[Shri Ranga]

Now, we want the export trade to be developed and I would like to have the information from the Minister concerned to what extent our export trade has been specially developed by the S.T.C. For instance, they have made certain profits. How do they want to utilise these profits? They have themselves stated here that they have made so much profit and out of this they want to utilise Rs. 24 lakhs for building reserve and for the general reserve they have appropriated a sum of Rs. 80 lakhs; then for price fluctuation reserve it is Rs. 40 lakhs and only Rs. 49 lakhs are for trade development reserve and that is all. So, only Rs. 49 lakhs go to the trade development and all the rest goes away for all and sundry and they take pride in the fact that they earn crores of rupees. Therefore, they are not developing the trade as they should; they are not doing as much as they are expected to do in order to develop our export trade in other countries. As my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi has put it, it is really not in our interest to have to depend on those middlemen in those other countries in order to study the export possibilities there and advising and assisting us in that. We have got to develop our own capacity to study the situation there and advise our trade here. That we have not been doing.

**Shri Tyagi:** Supposing they expanded their activities, would you prefer that?

**Shri Ranga:** We should develop our machinery in order to gain more information, in order to establish more contacts and in that way it could help our own trade here. That is exactly the function of the S.T.C. and it has not fulfilled its purpose.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Shri Ranga:** Do you ask me to sit down?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** You have taken 8 minutes. The other Members have even taken 5 minutes each.

**Shri Ranga:** Do you not want me to complete my point? I am the leader of the group. I do not want to be reminded so often of this. Therefore, I sit down in protest. (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I had asked you to complete as early as possible.

**Shri Ranga:** This is not the way that our group should be treated. (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am treating every group alike, Mr. Ranga. The time on such discussion is not distributed partywise.

**Shri Ranga:** Do you want to treat the leader of a group, he being the sole speaker from the group, in this shabby fashion? I am extremely sorry. I protest against this.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad** (Bhagalpur): Has the time been allotted according to groups even in this matter?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is not a special debate.

**Shri Ranga:** This is a wooden way of doing things.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** No reflections on the Chair.

**Shri Tyagi:** I ask Prof. Ranga to make a humble submission to the Chair.

**Shri Ranga:** This is the third time, my friend. The decorum demands that the Speaker should show courtesy to us and we should show courtesy to the Chair.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am appealing to every Member not to take more than 5 minutes. The hon. Member has taken 8 minutes. Still he is making comments on the Chair.

**Shri Ranga:** Let it be known to this House that the Chair can deal with us in this way only. I am sorry to have chosen this time to get up in this House to speak.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Are you finishing your speech, or.....

**Shri Ranga:** I am sitting down in protest.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** All right; Shrimati Savitri Nigam.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath** (Hos-hangabad): I submit the time may be extended.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have extended it by half an hour.

**Shri Khadilkar** (Khed): Looking to the nature of the debate and the fact that he is one of the leaders of the groups, I feel it should not end in such an abrupt manner. Of course, I would request the Opposition Members not to be.... (Interruptions).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member does not want to continue. Shrimati Savitri Nigam.

**Shri Tyagi:** Sir, all Members whether in Opposition or on this side, must make it a point to see that the sanction of the Chair is established. If there is any objection to anything, I would appeal to Prof. Ranga and others that they must make a humble submission to you and I am sure you will always agree to do it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is the cooperation I have been appealing for from every Member.

**Shri Ranga:** You have reminded me three times. In the very beginning I had said that I did not want to take only 5 minutes. We must learn to respect each other from either side. (Interruption).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. Shrimati Savitri Nigam.

935 (A) LSD—8.

**श्रीमती सावित्री निगम :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्रीमन्, स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन की यह रिपोर्ट आज सदन के सामने विचार विमर्श के लिए उपस्थित है। मैंने इसके बैलेंसशीट को बहुत ध्यान से पढ़ा है और मैं इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंची हूँ कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन के सारे ही अधिकारियों को और उसके सारे ही कार्यक्रमों के लिए हम सभी को हृदय से बधाई और धन्यवाद देना चाहिये।

जितने थोड़े से समय में और जितनी सफलता के साथ और जितने कम खर्च पर जो टर्न ओवर हुआ है और जो प्राफिट दिखाया गया है, उसको यदि अपनी एस० टी० सी० और संसार की एस० टी० सी० से कम्पेयर किया जाए तो हमारी एस० टी० सी० को हम ही नहीं बल्कि और देशों के लोग भी बिना बधाई दिये न रहेंगे। इसमें कोई सन्देह नहीं कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने ६ करोड़ ६० का फायदा उठाया है वह देशहित में हुआ है, वह जनहित में हुआ है। और इस पर जो भी खर्च किया जायेगा वह देशहित में खर्च किया जायेगा। आज सदन में मैंने जो आलोचना सुनी स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन की उससे मुझे विश्वास हो गया है, ऐसा प्रतीत होने लगा है कि देश में समाजवाद की प्रतिष्ठा के लिये हम सब लोगों को जिन प्रतिक्रियावादी शक्तियों का, विरोधी ताकतों का, रिएक्शनरी फोर्स का, सामना करना पड़ रहा है उन्हीं शक्तियों का सामना स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को भी करना पड़ रहा है। इसकी कल्पना हम लोगों ने स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन की स्थापना के पहले ही कर ली थी, क्योंकि तमाम कैपिटलिस्ट, सर्टेबाज और व्यापारी लोग तथा उनके नुमाइन्दे जो कि इस सदन में चुन कर आये हैं, वे जब यह बनने वाला था, तब ही उसकी आलोचना करते थे। लेकिन जब मैं स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन की आलोचना में कुछ बड़े कंस्ट्रक्टिव व्यूज के लोगों को भी बहते हुए देखती हूँ तो मुझे दुःख होता है। मैं आपके द्वारा और सदन के द्वारा उनके

## [श्रीमती सावित्री निगम]

निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि जब कभी कोई नया काम हाथ में लिया जाता है तो उसमें थोड़ी सी गलतियाँ भी होती हैं, भूल भी होती हैं, लेकिन हमारी ऐप्रोच ठीक होनी चाहिये, कंस्ट्रक्टिव होनी चाहिये। यदि हम चाहते हैं कि देश के ट्रेड को नेशनलाइज किया जाय तो हम लोगों का एक छोटी सी २० करोड़ ६० का ट्रेड करने वाली संस्था की धज्जियाँ उड़ाना बमानी आलोचना करना उचित नहीं है। मैं आपसे कहना चाहती हूँ कि ६० प्रतिशत जो आलोचना हुई है वह आउट आफ इग्नोरस हुई है। आप को और स्वयं सदन को भी बाद में मालूम हो जायेगा कि नाबाकफियत की वजह से और भी आलोचना हुई है।

मैं एक बात कहना चाहती हूँ कि जब २० करोड़ ६० का व्यापार स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन अपने हाथ में लिये हुए है तब उसकी इतनी कटु आलोचना जो लोग आइडियोलॉजिकल बेसिस पर, सैद्धान्तिक बेसिस पर, करते हैं उनके से मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना है, उनका रास्ता और है, लेकिन कम से कम लोग जो चाहते हैं कि समाजवाद की प्रतिष्ठा हो। अगर उसकी आलोचना करे तो यह आलोचना कंस्ट्रक्टिव होनी चाहिये। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं थोड़े से कंस्ट्रक्टिव सुझाव भी देना चाहूँगी।

इसमें कोई सन्देह नहीं है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को न्यू मार्केट्स अवेल करने पर अधिक कंसंट्रेट करना चाहिये, नये नये विजिनेस हाउसेज इस्टैब्लिश करने चाहिये और विदेशों में जो जो विजिनेस हाउसेज हमारे इस्टैब्लिश्ड हैं उनमें रिपेअर शाप्स खोलनी चाहिये। अभी मैं अंकरा गई थी। वहाँ हमारे विजिनेस हाउसेज हैं। वहाँ को उषा के पंखे और मशीन लाखों की तादाद में एक्सपोर्ट की गई हैं, लेकिन वहाँ के लोगों ने कहा कि आपके पंखे और मशीन बहुत अच्छी हैं लेकिन मार्केट में उनकी खपत नहीं है, इसलिये कि वहाँ पर उनकी रिपेअर शाप्स नहीं हैं। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन का यह उद्देश्य है कि वह

नई नई मार्केट्स हमारे ट्रेडिशनल व्यापार के लिये पाये, इसमें कोई सन्देह नहीं है, उसका उद्देश्य यह भी है कि नये विजिनेस हाउसेज इस्टैब्लिश करे। इस दिशा में उसने कुछ काम भी किया है, लेकिन मैं चाहती हूँ कि वह इस दिशा में और ज्यादा काम करे।

एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन का कुछ कार्य ही नहीं है : वह तो केवल एक एजेंट है। क्या माननीय सदस्य चाहते हैं कि वह तराजू लेकर बैठे और वहाँ पर सीमेंट की बोरियाँ तोल कर दे ? यह उद्देश्य है स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन का कि लाइसेंस बिकने न पायें, यह उद्देश्य है कि डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन प्रापर हो। सोडा ऐश को ही ले लीजिये। यह उद्देश्य स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन का कि जो ब्लैक मार्केटिंग सोडा ऐश में हो रही थी, जो ब्लैक मार्केटिंग सीमेंट में हो रही थी, वह रूके। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को इससे अपनी आंख नहीं बन्द करनी चाहिये। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने इन चीजों में बहुत अच्छा काम किया है, सराहनीय काम किया है।

स्टेट ट्रेडिंग को स्टोरिंग फैसिलिटीज बढ़ानी चाहिये, क्लेम्स ब्यापारियों के जल्दी सेटल करने चाहिये और अपना व्यापार वहाँ से करना चाहिये जहाँ से रुपये में पेमेण्ट हो सकता है। हम बजाय डालर के रुपये में पेमेंट कर सकें। इस दिशा में भी स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को कोशिश करनी चाहिये। वैसे तो मेरे पास बहुत मसला है, लेकिन मैं एक बात कह कर समाप्त कर दूँगी। हम सब लोग चाहते हैं कि समाजवाद, की प्रतिष्ठा हो। जो लोग चाहते हैं कि इस प्रकार की मोनो-पोलिस्टिक टेन्डेन्सीज, जो कैपिटलिस्ट लोग, जो प्राफिटअर्स लोग, नाजायज काम इस तरह के करते हैं, वे रुकें, उनको स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को पूरा सपोर्ट देने की कोशिश करनी चाहिये और अब जो वह २० करोड़ ६० का व्यापार करता है उसके बजाय २०० का

३०० करोड़ रु० का व्यापार अपने हाथ में ले ।

इसके बाद मैं फिर एक बार स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को बधाई देती हूँ ।

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** I speak from a sort of disadvantage, speaking as I do after Shrimati Savitri Nigam who tried to combine charmingly persuasive advocacy with a wholesale approval and endorsement of the STC as an institution and as an agency for monetary policies and for increasing our trade. I am sorry that I cannot agree with Shrimati Savitri Nigam and her all too sweeping approbation of the goods, the STC is said to have delivered. I feel that the report which is before us is steeped in too much optimism, just as the condemnation has been too unrestrained.

I feel that this opportunity is valuable, although because of paucity of time, the opportunity is reduced greatly in proportion to the time-limit that is imposed yet, the opportunity is valuable because this is one of the most important agencies for our country and its economy, not because it represents doctrinal fulfilment but also because State trading is a vital part of our export programme.

Why was the STC established in our country? The Government was very cautious and hesitant in 1954. It was when they realised that free trade was not dynamic enough and was not willing enough to expand and diversify Trade that they had to undertake a policy of establishing a State trading agency. In theory, it is an extension of State capitalism, and in practice, it is only a little worse, if I may say so. I feel that the considerations which led to the introduction of State trading and the setting up of this institution in our country merit close scrutiny, and this is the time when we must do it. The Estimates Committee has mentioned four objectives, presumably on the basis of evidence made available to them,

as the considerations which led to the establishment of this corporation. The first consideration was 'the difficulties experienced in diversifying and expanding India's foreign trade, particularly with Communist countries'. On this, I would say that while the trade with the Communist countries has been expanded considerably, and one has reason to be satisfied with the progress already registered and the steps taken to further augment the volume of trade, one must also admit at the same time that the progress in the direction of diversification has not been very satisfactory. This is actually conceded in one of the replies furnished by the Ministry to the Estimates Committee. We can only hope that there would be a greater effort at diversification of trade, the progress in which respect has been lagging far behind what is required.

The second objective was: 'The need for maintaining a steady price level and sustaining equilibrium between supply and demand'. That is, of course, a tall claim, and I think that it would be conceded that only a small measure of this objective has been achieved.

The third objective was: 'To arrange for imports on bulk basis to bridge temporary gaps between supply and demand in essential commodities'. The fourth objective was 'To supplement private trade'. I think that the last one would not be conceded by anyone concerned. I am no advocate of unbridled private trade. As a matter of fact, I think that it is necessary and useful for the society to keep it within proper confines and bounds. But, instead of supporting private trade, the STC has tended to supplant it in a very large measure, and it is only as a token of their opposition to this institution and its practices that the Federation have time and again demanded a probe in the matter.

I feel that these basic considerations have to be kept in our view, and I should like to say here that a state-

[Dr. L. M. Singhvi]

ment made by the Minister of Commerce which is cited in this report was far from refreshing and instructive. I hope that the hon. Minister of International Trade, on whom now vests the overall responsibility for this corporation and all international trade activities would make a more comprehensive and a more satisfactory declaration of policy in the matter of State trading in our country.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member should try to conclude now.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** I have hardly begun my speech. At least, you must give me seven minutes which was the time given to the other Members. In this particular debate, you are not even making a distinction on the basis of allocation of time for the different groups. Shri Ranga had eight minutes before me, and still he went away unsatisfied. You must give me at least that much of time.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He may take just one or two minutes more and then conclude.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Shri Indrajit Gupta said that this corporation was greatly inhibited. I am so sorry I do not agree.

I think the inhibitions of any are entirely imaginary. There is nothing in the enunciation of policy, as accepted by this Parliament, which seeks to inhibit this Corporation; nor indeed would it be a justified inference that it is because of the inhibitions in the functioning of this organisation that it has failed to register sufficient progress. As a matter of fact, on the contrary, I think it has taken upon itself a musketeering role and it is necessary, therefore, that it is kept within confines.

I should like to add here that there are those who feel alarmed because of its great expansion. There are others who think that it ought to expand. Now, I think it is bound to expand;

it is inherent in our economic policy as accepted and permitted by this Parliament. I think it is necessary also to supplement these efforts by augmenting exports from this country or, to quote the words of the Minister, to 'inculcate export morality'. Sir, I would go further. I want the Government to provide for a compulsory export percentage in every industry.

I am concerned particularly to find that the liaison with the private sector, the Government and the Corporation has been far from satisfactory. It is true that there have been, as is alleged by so many of my hon. friends, who preceded me, illicit, nocturnal dealings between officials of the Corporation and someone or the other or that the Government have failed to give general or specific directives in a satisfactory manner. I would like greater liaison with the private sector to be fostered. I would also like that this Corporation is able to function within the framework of policy directives given by the Government, which unfortunately do not find a place in the annual report, as required by the Estimates Committee.

One word more . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am sorry There is no time.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** I would like to say that rather than being a rickety baby, it is quite often a bully, and it is necessary that the bureaucracy in this corporation, the delays in the functioning of the corporation, must be curtailed and checked; otherwise, this will also go the way of other unsuccessful public sector undertakings. I think the stranglehold of bureaucracy, of which the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries spoke the other day, also looks very large on this corporation. I express the hope that under the competent guidance and leadership of the Minister, who is now unfettered in the control of this corporation and its activities, it would be able to curtail delays. I would also



like to mention that greater negotiating skill must be imported into the dealings of this Corporation so that we do not suffer the kind of loss we suffered in negotiating the iron ore transactions.

There are many other points, but I would conclude by saying, that the deficiencies which confront this Corporation are deficiencies which afflict the nation . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Shri Kakkar.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** I am finishing. There is one thing I do want to say. When I am concluding, you interrupt me and because of that . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The time is very limited. It is not possible to give more time.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** I am finishing my sentence.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How am I to proceed at this rate?

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** He can conclude his sentence.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** With all respect, I think a mechanical policy in this matter has never paid any dividends, in making the debate very fruitful. I would pray that you be a little more considerate.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I would request all Members to co-operate with the Chair.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** I am prepared to bow to your ruling, but there is a limit to the extent to which you can control our right of speech. All I am asking is a fraction of a minute.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Ten minutes have already been taken.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** It is not my fault.

I would say that the dilemma that confronts us is that the private sector is not dynamic enough, is not vital enough and the public sector is not efficient enough. There is need in the case of this Corporation, as in every other case, to combine efficiency with dynamism. I hope this will be progressively accomplished by this Corporation.

**श्री गौरी शंकर कक्कर (फतेहपुर) :**

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपने बुजुर्ग द्विवेदी जी को बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने हम लोगों को इस विषय पर वाद-विवाद करने का अवसर प्रदान किया, किन्तु खेद है कि समय के अभाव के कारण इस विषय के साथ न्याय नहीं किया जा सकता।

मुझे इस बात का खेद है कि जिस लक्ष्य की पूर्ती के लिए इस स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन की स्थापना की गयी थी उसको य़ पूरा नहीं कर पाया। जो आंकड़े और रिपोर्ट मंत्री जी ने दी है उसको देखने से तो यही पता चलता है कि यह सफलता से काम कर रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसमें कुछ आंकड़े नहीं दिए गए। इसमें यह दिखलाया गया कि जो वस्तुएँ स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन के द्वारा खरीदी जाती हैं वे सीधे सीधे जो उत्पादन करते हैं उनके द्वारा खरीदी जाती हैं या कि मिडिल मैन के द्वारा खरीदी जाती हैं। मुझे तो लगता है कि अगर इस कारपोरेशन की स्थापना के पहले उत्पादन करने वाले को एक मिडिल मैन का मुकाबला करना पड़ता था तो अब उसे दो मिडिल मेंनों का मुकाबला करना पड़ेगा, अब उसके लिये दो मिडिल मैन क्लिएट हो गये हैं। सभी वस्तुएँ पहले ठेकेदारों के द्वारा खरीदी जाती हैं और फिर जब उनको बाहर भेजा जाता है तो दूसरोंको लाइसेंस और परमिट देकर उनके द्वारा उनको भेजा जाता है। तो जो इसकी स्थापना का उद्देश्य था कि जो चीजों का उत्पादन करते हैं उनको उसका उचित दाम मिले और उनका शोषण न हो, उस लक्ष्य को पूरा करने में इसको सफलता नहीं मिली है।

[श्री गोरी शंकर कक्कड़]

एक बात मुझे और कहनी है। इसके आंकड़े देखने से पता चलता है कि इसमें केवल मुनाफा ही किया गया है या उसमें धनराशि लिखी हुई है, परन्तु मूल्यांकन किसी का भी नहीं लिखा हुआ है। यह तो बहुत ही दुख की चीज है कि इस कारपोरेशन के द्वारा जो चीजें बाहर भेजी जाती हैं उनको सस्ते दाम में बाहर भेजा जाता है और हमारे देशवासियों को उन वस्तुओं का दाम कहीं अधिक देना पड़ता है। यह कहां तक न्यायसंगत चीज है।

इसी के साथ मुझे यह कहना है कि यह चीज मेरी समझ में नहीं आती कि जिन वस्तुओं को हम बाहर से मंगाते हैं उनको हम फिर बाहर भेजते हैं। इस संबंध में आपको चावल की मिसाल दूंगा। जो चावल हमारे देशवासियों को बहुत ऊंचे भाव पर मिलता है उसको हम सस्ते भाव पर वारटर व्यवस्था कायम करने के लिये बाहर भेजते हैं। इस प्रकार विदेशी मुद्रा कमाने के लिए या बढ़ाने के लिये देशवासियों का नुकसान किया जाता है। मैं खुद प्राइवेट सैक्टर के खिलाफ हूँ लेकिन उस सैक्टर की बुराइयों को दूर करने के लिये जो य. संस्था बनायी गयी अगर इसमें भी व्यक्तिगत रोजगारी की तरह अष्टाचार हो तो य. उचित नहीं है। यदि इसमें भी वहीं ब्लैक मेल और वस्तुओं की अशुद्धता हो जो प्राइवेट व्यापारी के द्वारा होती थी हमको इस तरह कोई सफलता नहीं मिली, ऐसा मानना होगा।

मैं समझता हूँ कि इसमें एक सबसे बड़ा दोष य. है कि सरकारी कर्मचारियों के द्वारा इसका संचालन होता है, जिनको व्यवसाय का कोई अनुभव नहीं होता है। और फिर जैसा अभी मेरे बहुत से मित्रों ने कहा, यह एक स्वतंत्र संस्था होने के बजाय एक सरकारी संस्था बन गई है जिसमें सरकारी कर्मचारी कार्य संचालन करते हैं और उनको अनुभव न होने के कारण मको उन वस्तुओं का उचित दाम नहीं मिलता है उससे कहीं ज्यादा दाम देना पड़ता है। मैं देखता हूँ कि हमारा जो समाजवादी अर्थ

व्यवस्था लाने का संकल्प था वह इसके द्वारा पूरा नहीं हो रहा है।

इस समय मैं देखता हूँ कि हमारे बुजुर्ग भी त्यागी जी और द्विवेदी जी ने भी इसके बारे में आलोचना की है। किन्तु आज सदन में कुछ ऐसा समय है कि बहुत से मंत्रियों के स्थान रिक्त हैं। इस कारण कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने इसका बड़े जोर के साथ समर्थन कर दिया। हो सकता है कि उनको कुछ आशाएं हों। उदाहरण के लिए, श्रीमती निगम ने जो अपना भाषण दिया उसमें संस्था की इतनी प्रशंसा की और बतलाया कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार में इससे ज्यादा सफलता और नहीं हुई है। तो मुझे केवल यह कहना है कि अगर य. संस्था स्थापित की गई है तो उन विषय पर माननीय मंत्री गौर करें कि जो उत्पादन-कर्त्ता हैं उनको उचित मूल्य मिले और जो मिडिलमैन बजाय एक के दो बन गये हैं इस संस्था के द्वारा वह चीज खत्म हो। मेरे पास आंकड़े हैं जिनको कि एक्सपोर्ट का लाइसेंस दिया जाता है या जिन के द्वारा खरीदा जाता है। अब अगर ऐसी सब चीजें होती हैं तो इससे कोई फायदा नहीं। मेरा य. सुझाव है कि उत्पादन करने वालों से सीधे सीधे इसमें लेनदेन का व्यवहार होना चाहिये। और उसकी क्वालिटी और शुद्धता की तरफ विशेषतौर से ध्यान देना चाहिए।

**श्री भगवत झा आजाद :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां मैं श्री नाथ पाई और श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त के इस विचार का समर्थन करता हूँ कि इस बात की आवश्यकता है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन को अधिक से अधिक कार्यकुशल बनाया जाय उसकी शासन प्रणाली में जो काम करने वाले हैं वे योग्य हों ताकि वे इस व्यापार के काम को ठीक व कुशलतापूर्वक कर सकें, वहीं मुझे इस बात का दुख होता है कि अब भी सदन में रंगा जी सरीखे लोग हैं जो कि उसका कतई समर्थन नहीं करते। वह कते हैं कि स्टेट कारपोरेशन की आवश्यकता

ही नहीं है और यह तो मैं समझता हूँ कि उनकी पार्टी के सिद्धांत के अनुरूप ही है कि इस देश में बिलकुल लैसे-फेयर की अर्थ-व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये, यानि हर एक आदमी को अधिकार हो कि जिसको जहां लूटना चाहें, लूट सके और अगर सरकार जनता के नाम पर, जन साधारण की सुखसुविधा के नाम पर स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन या ऐसे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र का विस्तार करना चाहिए तो वह उसका विरोध करे। लेकिन मैं उनकी ज्ञान-वृद्धि के लिये कहूँ कि उनके पूंजीवादी देशों में, अमरीका, ब्रिटेन और अर्जेंटाइना आदि में ऐसे व्यापार मंडल खोल दिये गये हैं। उदाहरणार्थ अभी भी अर्जेंटाइना में ट्रेड प्रमोशन इंस्टीच्यूट है। अमरीका भी में ऐसे मंडल स्थापित है। इसलिए उनको इस बात का जरा भी रंज नहीं होना चाहिये। रूस में जहां कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र का अविष्कार हुआ हो अथवा कहीं और हुआ हो, केवल वहीं नहीं अपितु पूंजीवादी देशों में भी उनका सिद्धांत मानने वाले देशों ने भी इसको स्वीकार कर लिया है और स्वीकार इस लिए किया है कि इससे जो हमें लाभ है वह बहुत अधिक है। यह तो सीधी बात है। सभी मानते हैं कि जहां पर पूंजीवादी अर्थ व्यवस्था में जो आमदनी होती है वह उन व्यक्ति विशेष के लिये होती है या मान लीजिए रंगा साहब की पार्टी के लिए होती है या किसी और पार्टी के लिए होती है जिसको कि वे देना चाहते हैं। लेकिन इस के विपरीत सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में जो लाभ होता है, भले ही वह थोड़ा क्यों न हो लेकिन उसमें जो लाभ होता है वह हम जनहिताय के लिए करते हैं। अधिक लोगों के लिए करते हैं।

यह बात ठीक है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने अपने पिछले कुछ वर्षों के इतिहास में जो कुछ किया है वह उसे हम संतोषजनक नहीं कह सकते हैं और न मंत्री जी कहेंगे कि हम ने सब कुछ ठीक ही किया है। लेकिन यह बात तो सच है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने अपने विगत कुछ वर्षों में ऐसे

एसे अनेक नये नये मार्केट्स, बाजार खोजे हैं जहां पर कि हमारी पुरानी कनवेंशनल और नई कनकनवेंशनल चीजोंको उन्होंने वहां दिया है। उदाहरण के लिए मास्को की प्रदर्शनी ले लीजिए। मास्को की प्रदर्शनी में हमारे बहुत से आइटम्स को बुक किया गया है। वहां पर करीब ८५ लाख रूपये के हमारे आइटम्स बुक हुए हैं। मेरा मतलब वही है कि यही है कि एसी चीज खोली गई है जिसके लिए यह कहना कि हम पूर्णतया सफल हो गये, उसकी बात हम नहीं कहते लेकिन यह अवश्य मानते हैं कि हमने उसे स्थापित करके सही दिशा में कदम उठाया जब ऐसे व्यक्ति जो कि कहते हैं कि यह होना ही नहीं चाहिए तो उसका मतलब हो जाता है कि हम बिलकुल यह कहें कि यह होना चाहिये और यह सही और दुरुस्त है। हमें ऐसा कहना पड़ता है। जिस तरह से अपोजिशन के दोस्तों ने नौ कोनफिडेंस मोशन लाकर हमें इस बात के लिये मजबूर कर दिया कि हम यह कहें कि सरकार की सारी बातें बिलकुल सही और दुरुस्त हैं, उसी तरह जब रंगा साहब ऐसे व्यक्ति कहते हैं कि यह बिलकुल बेकार है और इसकी कतई जरूरत नहीं है व हमें यह कहने के लिए मजबूर करते हैं कि साहब स्टेट ट्रेडिंग बिलकुल एक आयडियल और नमूना है जब हम एसा मजबूरन कहते हैं तो मेरे कुछ मित्र हमें यह कह कर डिमोरेलाइज करते हैं कि चूंकि मंत्रिमंडल में अभी जगहें खाली हैं इस लिए यह इसकी तारीफ करते हैं लेकिन मैं रंगा साहब व उन अपने मित्रों से कहना चाहूंगा कि एसी बात नहीं है। जहां हम इसकी स्थापना का समर्थन करते हैं और इसे आवश्यक समझते हैं वहां हम चाहते हैं कि इसका कार्य अभी की अपेक्षा अधिक सुचारू रूप से चले।

पिछले कुछ वर्षों से हमारा जो ट्रेड है, आयात और निर्यात का, वह बढ़ा है। उदाहरण के लिए हम और आप सब जानते हैं कि निर्यात की मद में स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने ३० नये आइटम्स अपनी सूची पर लाये हैं। आयात में भी एसी चीजें लायी गई हैं। श्री द्विवेदी ने

[श्री भागवत भा आजाद]

इस बारे में बतलाया है। मैं समयाभाव के कारण विस्तार में नहीं जा सकता और वह आयात की वस्तुओं की लम्बी सूची पढ़ कर नहीं सुना सकता जो कि इसके मातहत आ गयी हैं। आयात के सामान को स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन के अपने देश में ले कर किन चीजों को अधिक से अधिक मूल्यों पर बेचा जिसकी कि और उनका इशारा था। यह बात ठीक है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन के जरिये हमें आयात एसी चीजों का लेना चाहिये जिससे कि हम बाजार में मूल्यों की दर को स्थिर रख सकें। यह हमारा मुख्य उद्देश्य होना चाहिए। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि मुनाफा उसके द्वारा न कमाया जाय। कुछ न कुछ थोड़ा बहुत नफा तो उसे करना ही चाहिये। ताकि हम स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन की जो फंक्शनिंग है वह ठीक हो। उसका काम ठीक से चल सके। यह ठीक है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों में स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने अच्छा काम किया लेकिन वह संतोषप्रद नहीं कहा जा सकता है। क्योंकि जब हमारे देश में आयात और निर्यात का व्यापार १००० या १५०० करोड़ का है। तब स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन ने सिर्फ ६५,७०,५२ या ८५ करोड़ रुपये का ही व्यापार किया है इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन के अन्दर अधिक से अधिक इस व्यापार को बढ़ाया जाय और उसके वोल्यूम को बढ़ाया जाय। मेरा दूसरा निवेदन यह है कि इसको ऐसे व्यक्तियों के हाथ में दीजिए जिनके कि अन्दर सार्वजनिक काम के लिए एक भावना व रिसपैक्ट हो। इसमें ऐसे व्यक्ति मत रखिये जो कल तक तो देश की सरकार के अन्दर सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के चलाने के ठेकेदार थे लेकिन रिटायर होत ही किसी प्राइवेट स्थान पर ४,००० रूपया महीने पर चले गये। परिणाम यह होगा कि बराबर आपको उनसे कठिनाई होगी मेरा कहने का मतलब यह है कि टेक्नीकल पर्सनल ऐसा हो जो केवल रुपये के लिये नहीं बल्कि अपनी ईमानदारी के साथ भी आपका खर्चान करे। इन दो सुझावों को देते हुए

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन की दिनोंदिन उन्नति और प्रगति हो।

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Mr. Deputy-speaker, Sir, I share the criticism made by my hon. friends Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri Nath Pai. The question was raised by my hon. friend Shri Tyagi about the tyres. I would only confine myself, within the five minutes at my disposal, to that subject. I would like to get some definite answer from the hon. Minister. In 1959 there was a 'criminal' shortage of tyres in this country and the shortage was created by Dunlop, Good Year, Firestone and Premier Co., etc., to get more prices. Then, the State Trading Corporation decided to import tyres from those countries which were prepared to give us on rupee payment, and naturally, the tyres to the tune of Rs. 7½ crores were imported from three countries—Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. The State Trading Corporation was responsible for the distribution and it appointed three stockists—Messrs. General Industrial Stores Supply Co. Ltd., Calcutta, Khemka Agency and another firm in Delhi and authorised them to import to the tune of Rs. 2½ crores each from Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. The tyres reached this country in 1960 and when there was a question of distribution there was a stir in the country and the monopolists like Dunlop Good Year, Firestone, etc., wanted to create an unfavourable condition for the tyres and they wanted to give a feeling to this Government that these tyres were useless. Naturally, the State Trading Corporation took the responsibility for distribution and entered into a rate contract with the Director-General, Supplies and Disposals, for the supplying these tyres to Government departments and semi-Government departments.

I may add that the price of the imported tyre was Rs. 249 per tyre and the mileage guarantee was 40,000 miles and free replacement in the event of

premature failure. What was the price of Dunlop? Rs. 400 per tyre, with a mileage guarantee of only 20,000 miles, and there was no question of replacement. I was told last week that in March, 1963 one of the Members of this House who is connected with the automobile industry wrote a letter to the Prime Minister telling him that because of Chinese invasion we have to fight the Chinese—a communist country—and these tyres have been imported from communist countries—Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia—and the tyres are also short of specification and so they should not be used. I am shocked that this letter was sent to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister, as usual, did not take much notice of it, but he sent it for verification. The tyres were verified and inspected by the highest person in Defence, known as the DRD (Director, Research and Development) and I may tell you that in the report which he submitted he stated that these tyres were class one and could be used. Still, it was not done. In May 1963, I was surprised to know, instructions were issued by the Minister of Economic and Defence Co-ordination to the Director-General of Supplies and Disposals not to use these tyres. It is something surprising. I would request the hon. Minister to see kindly that a committee comprising Members of this House is appointed to see whether these tyres were really defective. I speak with authority and I would like to impress upon this House that this was done simply because a Member of this House, who had interests in the automobile industry and who took the side of those big monopolists wanted to sabotage the whole thing. I charge the STC who entered into the rate contract with the DGS&D, who were responsible for the distribution, for this muddle. Because of this action on the part of the STC and Government, now the tyres are rotting with some of the agents. Good Year, Dunlop and Firestone have issued instructions to their agents "Look here, if you purchase these tyres or distribute these tyres, your agencies will be cancelled". That was the bullying

tactic adopted by the big monopolists of this country in order to increase their own huge profits. So, I would request the hon. Minister to enlighten us on these points. We would like to know whether a Member of this House did write to the Prime Minister and, if so, why did he write so and whether he is connected with the automobile industry. I would even request that the full file dealing with this case should be laid on the Table of the House, because this is a big scandal. This was an attempt to sabotage our defence needs at a time when we want to have more tyres for the defence purposes.

Many of these tyres were used by the Defence Ministry and the Director-General of Ordnance Factories in Shaktiman and Nisan, the public sector trucks manufactured at Jabbalpur and were found to be excellent and class one. So, we would like to know who sabotaged all this. If the Members of this House, interested in furthering and strengthening the monopoly which is already sufficiently entrenched in this country, continue to act in this manner I shudder to think what the future of STC and the country is going to be. And all this is being done at a time when the very security of our country is threatened from outside. I am sorry, for want of time I could not supply more details. Therefore, I would end by saying that I would like to have a definite answer to this question from the hon. Minister.

**An hon. Member:** What is the name of the hon. Member of this House who wrote to the Prime Minister?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Shri Kamalayan Bajaj.

**An hon. Member:** Why do you mention names?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Because somebody asked for it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister.

Some hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am sorry, I have no time.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. Members for giving me this opportunity to discuss the annual report of the State Trading Corporation. May I request that in such interesting subjects in which the hon. House is very much interested, with your permission, the Speaker be requested to take the Business Advisory Committee into confidence and allot more time? Because, I consider it very fundamental to the principle of democracy that subjects on which we want the future of this country to be built, namely, the direction and expansion of State trading, must be debated to the fullest satisfaction, and that as much time as every hon. Member desires is given so that we can inform the country what and why we have to have State trading in this country and what it is.

As the hon. House is aware, I have been long associated both with governmental work as well as private work, and very few people in this country perhaps would have as much intimate knowledge of the private trading industry in this country as I may humbly claim sometimes to possess.

**Shri Nath Pai:** We concede that.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I am fully convinced that if this country is to increase foreign trade, particularly import and export there is no escape from larger and larger chunks of the trade coming into the State trading sector. If a few hon. Members are dissatisfied with one item or the other, because some information is lacking before them in one aspect or another, if they try to run down corporations after corporations in the public sector, which not only bring us nearer to socialism—that, of course is the ultimate objective, but more than anything else, to promote the foreign trade of this country in a scientific

manner, then, I am 'afraid, foreign trade will never expand.

We cannot rely on individuals who would neither have the wherewithal nor the efficiency or understanding of long-term contracts for bulk commodities and several other important items of import and export. We cannot depend upon their mercy, their rigging capacity, their collusion capacity and their capacity for making consortia in order to bring down prices. I was surprised when I heard my socialist friend, Shri Nath Pai, pleading for some interests which have no place in this country. As a matter of fact, I can quote to him the names of the capital..... (*Interruption*). He mentioned about iron ore. He was mentioning about manganese ore. They are vital to the country's interest and if I leave it to the private.....

**Shri Nath Pai:** I take strong objection to his saying that I have pleaded for someone. I said that our exports of these have fallen.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** They have not fallen. They have gone up considerably. They have gone up by Rs. 3 crores.

**Shri Nath Pai:** I gave your own statistics.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** He read out the figure of Rs. 3 crores. What he was objecting to was that the prices of per unit should go up. That is impossible. It is a common principle of trade that if you want to expand the trade, when the world is competing and everywhere the competition is so fierce that each country wants to sell more of those products, the commodity markets are bound to fall. That is the primary principle of trade.

**Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara):** Our manganese ore trade was in doldrums for some time.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes, it was in the doldrums. I am coming point by

point. What I would urge is that these are subjects of very vital importance and it is better that we get to know each other more on the principle of State trading so that the future of this country can be assured in the right direction.

I am coming to the bulk commodities first. My hon. friend, Dr. Singhvi, mentioned diversification. At the same time he was not satisfied with the diversification, that it was not adequate. I accept that much more diversification is necessary. But the corollary which he brought at the end of his speech to show that at the same time the function of State trading should be limited is something which is contrary to the spirit of diversification. I am pointing out these different types of contradictions in our approach to State trading. We have got to be clear in our minds. Today most capitalist countries, leave alone the Socialist countries doing work on the State trading basis, have found to their cost that in these types of trade instead of 5, 10, 20, 30 or 40 individuals collecting together and forming a consortium and rigging up the prices, it is better that the community does it on behalf of the country and stabilises the prices, as my hon. friend opposite mentioned, giving price support to the grower and to the producer.

Let us first take iron ore. If this country is to sell 25 million tons or 30 million tons, I have my own apprehension that if we do not go the right way in order to see that the State monopoly in iron ore trade is properly supported by this House and is completely understood in all the corners of the country, that no individual miner will get any support from any quarter because he wants Rs. 2 or Rs. 5 per ton more or he wants to mix up some other grade of iron ore and manganese ore and brings a bad name to the country or damages the image of the country abroad, we shall not be able to sell 25 million tons or 30 million tons. It is a colossal quan-

tity fetching Rs. 150 crores to Rs. 200 crores to this country. From whom is the competition? It is from the Soviet Union, Brazil, Argentina, the Congo, Australia, Venezuela, Sweden etc. Every country in the world is today trying to compete in the basic field of iron ore and even the private miners admit that it is impossible for them to collect together and enter into five or ten long-term contracts, arrange for road transport, truck transport, railway transport, shipping, transmission there, charter bulk iron ore carriers and carry on trade with Japan, the East European countries or the West European countries. Therefore in these commodities that I am enumerating State trading is inescapable, inevitable and most desirable if this country is to expand its foreign trade.

Then, the question of manganese ore came up. I may request any hon. Member who knows manganese miners to produce one single miner who will say that today he can export manganese ore without the help of the State Trading Corporation that is, the community. When I say "State Trading Corporation", it means this august House which represents the sovereignty of Parliament and of the whole nation. Unless and until we, as a State, can support this very, very falling line in a buyers' market, no manganese ore can be sold. It is they who have often come to us and have said, "Will you please help us and see that it is canalised properly and then it is sent out?"

My hon. friend, Shri Tyagi, was mentioning that some of the transactions of the State Trading Corporation were like that of a commission agent. I might request him to see that it is not purely commission agency. In many things they do direct trade, but even commission agency is not what it looks like on paper, that is, as if we mechanically transferred one commodity to another. There the price is properly regulated. If twenty people go to a foreign country, each under-

[Shri Manubhai Shah]

cutting the other in order to sell his goods in preference to the other, the country on the whole loses; whereas if you canalise it through the State mechanism or through the State Trading Corporation, we are in a position to bargain for the best price, get the longest possible contract and see that every private trader's interests are safeguarded because it is the national interest, unless it is contrary to national interest. We do not regard the personal interest as very important. But where we can protect the individual interest of the miner, get the best prices, is it not necessary to work even as a commission agent? After all, that commission agency is not there that I contract for 'A' stamp it and pass it on to 'B'. But it is to coordinate, to agglomerate, these various offers of 50 to 100 people, who if they are left to themselves to bargain in the world market will go and undercut the price of Indian goods and sell them at falling prices continuously and in the bargain lose the entire market and reputation of this country. That is also the function of the State Trading Corporation.

17 hrs.

Then, other items are mica, chrome ore, bauxite—various types of mineral ores. Before I go over that, I would like to mention about what the hon. Member, Mr. Tyagi, said regarding the constitution of the State Trading Corporation. It is true that there can be an opinion that a statutory corporation established through a regular legal piece of legislation can also be constituted and a corporation, such as this, can also be incorporated under the Indian Company law. Since we became more and more expanding in the public sector—and I think public sector will have to be doubled, trebled and quadrupled as we go along the line—it was found that the flexibility which we get by the Indian Company law, required some disciplines by any prudence of normal business,

that is accountability to Parliament, the proper valuation of prices and production the flexible working and the functioning of the public sector corporations like any other individuals in a most efficient manner so as to promote national interest. If these very objectives could be protected through the incorporation of a company or a corporation like that under the Indian Companies Act, there does not seem to be a very much difference of opinion whether it should take one form or the other. I can assure him—of course, I know he is very anxious to see that public morality and public accountability are properly protected—that we are all also of the same feeling, that we must remain the continuous guardian of the public accountability for whatever the State Trading Corporation does. But this has to be seen whether the constitution of a corporation as an Indian company under the Indian Companies Act makes any greater disability than the constitution of a statutory corporation. After having the experience of more than 65 public sector corporations of this country, I find very little distinction between the two. As a matter of fact, if we have more than one corporation—we are going to have another one; maybe in a few years we might have the agricultural credit corporation; if I can envisage, there may be another three or four corporations for trading—they might come up for specialised commodities and then it will be desirable for the hon. House to have some flexibility given to the State trading instead of strait jacketing in a manner that it loses the competitive capacity against the foreign buyers, against the foreign sellers and against mighty corporations both in the capitalist countries and in socialist countries with whom we have to compete. So, that is a matter of a shade of opinion here and there. But I can assure the House that from the practical experience we find that the constitution, as it is today, is fairly flexible, fairly efficient and strong in the trading strength.



Then, I would like to draw the attention of the House—I am rather sorry that because of the shortage of time, many Members did not go into the performance of the State Trading Corporation—to this. If this chart on these pages is seen—in a very scientific way they have done it—you will see how the turnover has increased from 1956-57, when it was hardly Rs. 9 crores, it has gone to Rs. 80 crores in 1962-63. There is another sum of Rs. 48 crores, which is indirect trade. Therefore, last year we traded on the State account for Rs. 130 crores. This year we are running at Rs. 150 crores or Rs. 160 crores, I would request my hon. friend Mr. Nath Pai to tell me of a single corporation in the country either in the public sector or in the private sector which with Rs. 47 lakhs of overheads, has a turnover of Rs. 130 crores or Rs. 140 crores. I am not trying to congratulate them, whether they are bureaucrats, this or that. They are public servants unheard, unsung and not seen by the people and to say they are inferior, as bureaucrats or belonging to civil service, to somebody in Birla's concern or Tata's concern is to my mind not proper. I have worked with both. I have found individuals quite competent in both the camps. I love the public sector camp because I know that they have at least the purity of heart, the accountability to this Parliament and all the profits that they make—some people may be corrupt here and there....

**Shri Nath Pai:** They should be the model to the private sector.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I am not pleading about the model....

**Shri Nath Pai:** The public sector should set an example to the private sector. That should be the aim.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I do not say that we are a model, but if I say that we are better, then also, perhaps, my hon. friend will not accept it. But I can certainly say that we are more publicly informed, and we are more

publicly accountable, and whatever result the public sector produces is for the benefit of the whole country and not for a few individuals who want to take the profits away and who rig the prices up and then put everybody to trouble. I am not saying this to castigate the private sector. What I say is that we have chosen this path deliberately, and I think that this path is the only correct path along which the country could progress, namely that the public sector will have to have a more and more dominating influence and a more and more dominating control on the economic apparatus of the country. If we merely leave it to thousands and thousands of traders, at least so far as foreign trade is concerned, I can say that we shall be the smallest and the weakest possible link in the world.

Even in the most advanced countries where free enterprise has been enshrined to a certain virtuosity, which we do not believe in, they have realised the usefulness of such an institution. For instance, take the case of the Commodity Corporation of the USA. The entire barter on ferromanganese ore or stock-piling etc. is done through them. As far as I am told, more than sixty corporations of that type operate in that country. Why do they do so? That is because when you have to handle such gigantic amounts, when you have to roll over crores and crores and billions and billions it cannot be entrusted to an individual enterprise, and it is beyond the capacity of an individual enterprise also to do it. There is also the jealousy which exists in the private industry. Competition when distorted into a sort of naked vice becomes jealousy and it tries to run down everyone; each person tries to run down the other, under-cuts the price and tries to sell each other out, tries to buy each other out, and so on; those vices will have to be avoided in foreign trade, if we have to expand.

I am not saying anything about profitability, but Shri Nath Pai was

[Sri Manubhai Shah].

rightly mentioning about the transaction in tyres, and Shri S. M. Banerjee also felt very much concerned. I may tell him that it is neither a Member of this House nor anybody else who has been responsible for anything of that sort. There was a real acute shortage of tyres in this country at that time. At that time, it was not this tyre company or that tyre company which came forward. We were short of foreign exchange, and we got it from the East European countries. We do not certify that everything that we buy from every country is going to be actually according to standard. The Indian roads as a whole are some of the roughest roads in the world, and therefore, the Indian tyre specification has been the strongest possible tyre. Those countries from which we generally used to import—there are several of them—are familiar with our road conditions. In this particular case, I think, we imported 60,000 or 70,000 pairs of tyres from one country, namely Hungary; I do not remember exactly the total quantity that we imported from Poland, but from both of them, tyres not exceeding a crore and a half or two were imported, of which 70 or 80 per cent has already been sold. The prices then were absolutely going up and they were going sky-high. And the consumer was protected by these imports. My hon. friend Shri Khadilkar is not here. He will confirm me when I say that in those days, even though I was not personally looking after the STC, I used to get requests from so many people, saying 'Release 200 pairs of tyres or 400 pairs of tyres, for this co-operative transport company or that transport corporation' and so on, and the tyres were released to them. It is true that those tyres were not as good as we wanted. Once, we bought some tyres from China also, which just tore off. And similarly we had bought from other countries also, and sometimes they were good, and sometimes they were bad. Similarly, here also, they were not of the same standard; they were not either too good or too

bad, but they were not of the same strong standard as we produce in our own country.

**Shri Tyagi:** Were they regularly examined and found to be lacking?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** About 12 or 15 per cent was inferior as compared to the local make. I shall explain the position to my hon. friend. In this instance, while most of the things got distributed, some of the tyres still remained, about 25,000 pairs or 40,000 pairs still remained between the two people or two parties who imported. I may straightway tell my hon. friend, Shri Nath Pai that they were not functioning as if they were the agents of the STC, but they were direct importers who undertook to import the tyres on their own behalf and on their own account. If a private importer is allowed to import, only because he imports from a rupee-payment country, the STC cannot be held responsible for that transaction. If they want to make a profit of a reasonable nature, they will have to take also all the risk antecedent to that trade, and if they lose the money, we cannot weep for them, and we cannot compensate them for that because we never wanted to compensate them for that. They traded for profit on their own responsibility.

I have also heard something about distribution to Defence. The STC does not come in that picture. The Ministry of Economic and Defence Co-ordination, who, perhaps, looks after the supplies part of it might have thought that the few tyres that remain....

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Was it a rate contract?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There was no rate contract at all. This was pure import from the Communist countries on rupee payment, and most of the tyres has already been sold out, and only a few remain, and the reason for that is this. By that time, in two

years, our production had soared up, and, therefore, there was not that much of demand for tyres as in the past. So, they found that selling those tyres was very difficult. Perhaps, they approached some of the people in Defence as they buy various other goods, and they might have found out whether the tyres were suitable to them or not. I am explaining the position only for this purpose that in the STC they had no direct hand in the disposal of the balance of the tyres which were not sold by the private importers who imported, when the scarcity was too great.

May I tell the House that if these public sector corporations have to function, then I would crave the indulgence only to the extent of one per cent of the indulgence which we give to the private sector? So far as the private sector is concerned, no accounts of theirs are known, and nobody knows what purchases they make and what sales they make, and this House does not come to know any of these things. If your own corporation which has to do such work under an enormous amount of limitations, whether it is in this trade or the other, has to do that, in that we should not take an unduly a serious view of it. If the price of lemon grass oil is falling, Members from Kerala write to me saying that it should be supported. If jute price is falling, Members from the four States where it is grown ask for the same price support. And when we support it, my hon. friend, Shri Nath Pai, comes and says: 'You bought this jute and this is what has come of it'. I can assure him that every single bale of it will be sold. The Indian jute industry is buying it. And we will give that support of Rs. 30 per Bengal maund, delivery at Calcutta. I can tell him that it was only a limited operation we had last year, only 60,000 bales or 3 lakh maunds. Next time it may be a million bales. We are prepared to buy more than a million bales. If the jute growers in Orissa, Bihar, Assam and Bengal are to be supported—people

who work in the worst possible conditions; there is no agricultural production or trade that I know of which is as difficult as that concerning jute; the men have to work in fields full of water for 8, 10 or 12 hours a day, take out that fibre which is so difficult to cut, then ret it, wet it, purify it and dry it and then take it out—it will be done. If the STC do not come to their assistance, what is the STC meant for? What is it meant for if we cannot help the lowliest of the low in this country? This is a product which earns Rs. 150 crores of foreign exchange for us. If farmers are supported and if I have with me 20 or 100 bales left over, what does it matter? I am prepared to buy 1,000 or 10,000 bales or 10,000 bales in that manner, because it is done for the good of the producer, the grower. I would crave the indulgence of my hon. friend who is very progressive in his outlook to see that activities like this are most sympathetically considered.

Certainly, if the Corporation makes a mistake—we all make mistake—it must be pointed out. If any official of the corporation is guilty of nepotism—because there is nepotism—if there is corruption, all that must be looked into and those responsible caught. There have been wrong types of transactions which must be checked. But we should not judge by 10-20 transactions. Does the House know how many transactions they put through in one day? I have transacted on behalf of private industrialists Rs. 10 crores—Rs. 20 crores worth of business and I know how difficult it is. In these transactions, the price is something today but after three days it is changed. We do not know what the background was.

My hon. friend referred to the sugar transaction. I can assure him that but for that transaction, we would not be earning so much foreign exchange that we are. India is earning Rs. 30 crores foreign exchange from sugar. In all our history, when did we export so much sugar at the best international price: the London daily price plus the premium of \$19.00

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for Canada, if it is for Japan another premium, if it is for UK or USA, another premium and so on. Everywhere, the best price has been earned because we sold it. Today uniformly we are able to get the London daily price. If a ship from India is leaving today, it will be at today's price, if it leaves ten days after, it will be at the price ruling then.

This is one of the best transactions. I can assure the hon. House that that is why we have now got a foothold in the sugar market of the world. Our export is 5 lakh tons this year; it may be 7½ lakh tons if the production is good next year. In this way, we want to reach upto a million tons, if we can afford to produce more sugar, so that we earn more foreign exchange.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Was there any open tendering for prices?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes. There were many offers. Barter firms gave their quotations and we selected the best one which was in the national interest. After all, we have to go by the stability of the firm, their experience in the field and the price that we get per ton, how much is the price another firm is quoting etc. We took the highest price.

In regard to the fertiliser also, it was at internationally competitive price. Only 50 per cent was taken on barter, the rest was on cash.

We are glad that today, we have come to know that there is an increase in foreign trade to the extent of Rs. 55 crores. This is not just a miracle; it is all work done by the various officials in different parts of the Ministry in connection with small, small items, a little bit of sugar here, a little bit of iron ore there, a little bit of engineering goods etc. All these have been increased, and I am not sure whether this rate can be maintained, because I

am myself surprised that in seven months this year we have increased our exports by Rs. 55 crores, an average of over Rs. 8 crores per month. I cannot forecast what will happen in future, but even if we can maintain Rs. 40 to Rs. 45 crores extra, which is the national target, we should be thankful for that in the present state of intense competition in the world market, when our local demands are rising because of the population increasing faster than our national production. I need not elaborate on that now.

The State Trading Corporation has been doing work in different directions, and I am glad to have the benefit of the advice and observations of the hon. Members. I shall be grateful if they take continued interest in this activity, not only once in six months or a year when the debate comes up.

**Shri Nath Pai:** I have also referred to the car deal. Please give a fair deal without twisting what I said. We want the STC to succeed, not to fail, and that is why we are offering criticism.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I really welcome your suggestions and with the greatest humility accept the comments you have made. I believe you have a living interest in this matter, and that you are offering constructive suggestions.

Coming to the car question, this is something which is not really the function of the State Trading Corporation. The House was raising this question often and was even angry that those cars coming from various sources should be sold at such high prices in the country. It was a two-fold loss. The gentlemen who used to bring the cars because of certain international obligations, used to sell them at three or four times the price. All that money used to go away again in foreign exchange. Because of their immunity, we lost both the rupee and the foreign exchange. I can assure

the House that all these malpractices have been put an end to. They are sold to the highest tenderer, and only those who can afford can buy them. We are not giving them to Ministers, officials or even Members of Parliament. Even though requests came, we said that there would have to be bid for the cars and buy them at the highest price. We are doing this not because we want to make a profit.

**Shri Nath Pai:** You said you are not giving. I said you were giving. I know today the practice has changed, but in the initial stages when the STC took over this business, it was a closed shop, the cars being sold only within certain circles. Am I not right?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** In the early stages, one of the understandings with those people was that we would not sell the cars. Then we had to explain to them that this would not work. We had to go gently and gradually. I can assure the hon. Member that even at that time, excepting one or two cases, the cars were sold to the Tourist Department, Raj Bhavans, Rashtrapati Bhavan or Ministries of the Government of India and the State Governments. About two to three hundred cars have been disposed of, as I said in answer to a question tabled by an hon. Member. It was not our function, but we have taken it up because your friends desired it, because the public in this country wanted it, wanted that the profiteering, racketeering and black marketing should be stopped. We have put a total stop to that. It is quite possible that the vested interests who have been hit hard will come and complain to you, but I am prepared to look into every individual case that you may bring to my notice. After all, I cannot vouch for every officer. If there is collusion, I may assure you that, whether it is in this car deal or anything else, he will not remain there. When we entrust them with so much public money, they cannot dare flout the opinion of this House or this Government. I have been watching the disposal of cars

even personally, and I have not come across any instance of malpractice or collusion.

However, this is not a subject to be too much debated about, because it was a complicated job which we have taken up in the national interest, to remedy the harm it was doing. If any improvement in the procedure can be suggested, I shall be grateful.

**Shri Tyagi:** I had posed a question which has not been answered yet. May I remind the hon. Minister of a serious allegation against the STC? The STC exports things at a much lower price and the exporter is given a licence in exchange for import so that he can sell those commodities in the market at a higher price and thus cut his losses. Is that practice carried on or not?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Sir, I had missed that point. What the hon. Member says is different. I will explain it. Suppose manganese ore is exported. The price of ore in this country according to the lowest price of the miner would be, let us suppose, Rs. 120 or 24 US dollars. The world price is today 17 to 19 dollars or Rs. 80-95. On this there will be a loss of 5 dollars per ton; he cannot afford to sell ore like that. It is no use if we do not give him the minimum reasonable profit which could keep his labour going and his mind working. There is in such cases what is called the counter patronage of barter. We allow him to import something at a fixed premium. It is not an import licence or profiteering at the cost of the consumer nor is it allowed in foreign exchange. Since he suffers a loss of Rs. 25 per ton, to that extent from the goods that may come maybe some machinery or certain things like chemicals etc. he is allowed to make good that loss. The price is absolutely competitive; not one rupee more is allowed to him and then he gets this in terms of India rupees to the extent of Rs. 20 or 25 when he transfers the goods to the actual users or people who actually consume it. I can

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assure the hon. Member that there is no blackmarketing or profiteering.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is the sale price fixed and does he sell at that particular price?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes, Sir. If any transaction like that comes to the notice of the hon. Members I request them to write to me. There is the price fixed; he cannot charge more than that legally. This is the common practice all over the world. One-third or one-fourth of Japan's whole foreign trade is based on barter like this or link deals. There is no hanky-panky about it. These link deals are based on well-known business principles and they do not smack of any type of corruption or malpractice.

**Shri Nath Pai:** We raised the question whether it is not profitable to get these licences and sell them in the open market in Bombay or Ahmedabad? What they do is that they sell it out rather than import it and they find it lucrative.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It does not concern the STC but as a general question concerning import-export trade, I can certainly answer it. It is true that sometimes in this scarcity market such things happen even in respect of actual users' licences who have no corresponding obligation to export. That is why we penalise them, we have taken people to court under the Indian Sea Customs Act and under the Export Control Act. But the malpractices wherever they are, are far more exaggerated than they really are. Our imports are Rs. 1,250 crores and exports, Rs. 750 or 800 crores altogether about Rs. 2,000 crores a year and we have more than 7-8 lakhs of export-import licences. If some few of them are trading in a bad way, I can only ask the forgiveness of the House. We can catch a few but we cannot put a policeman behind every citizen of this country. I do not think that my country is so untrustworthy. Shri Indrajit

Gupta may say that the whole trade should be nationalised. But we can trust the men of this country; they are trustworthy. In the past they traded all over the world, from generation to generation, from grandfather to father and from father to son; the plighted word of the forefather was honoured and respected by the son or even the grandson without any written documents—only the word of mouth. Goods from this country reached across the seven seas; they traded and never faltered in payment or in deliveries or in quality of goods. That is the tradition which you have to bring back. And, therefore, good mixture of social discipline in terms of State trading in the public sector and a regulated private sector is the only answer to a mixed economy which this country has accepted, which this hon. House has approved, and which this Government is permitted to adopt as a policy, and within that framework the State Trading Corporation functions.

**Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk):** Shri B. K. Das referred to the export of rice by the State Trading Corporation. Will the hon. Minister throw some light on it?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It is a little delicate matter, but we are producing some basumati rice, very high in quality, which fetches Rs. 2 to Rs. 3, and we export it at 14 annas, 12 annas, or even 10 annas. It is good to forgo a little luxury and earn some foreign exchange and get three times the rice of the same value. It is the only economics.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is that Dehra Dun rice?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes.

**Shri Tyagi:** Then you can go ahead.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Does Shri M. L. Dwivedi want to reply?

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** No. (Interruption).

