

[Dr P. Subbarayan.]

that would devolve upon him. He would also be competent to deal with the P & T matters on behalf of the other appropriate wings of the Finance Ministry. The Ministry of Home Affairs have also agreed to confer on the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs such powers as may be needed for the efficient functioning of the Board.

Further details as to the enhanced powers that will be exercised by the Board, the procedure which would be followed and other consequential matters are actively under consideration. As soon as that consideration is complete and the matter is finalised, the Ministry of Communications will issue final orders reconstituting the Board on the lines I have mentioned. I need hardly assure the House that every possible attempt would be made to bring the Board into being as early as possible. I am hoping that probably before, but in any case during the time, the next Session of Parliament meets, the Board shall have started to function.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati) Sir, the powers given to the representative of the Ministry of Finance on this Board are likely to over-weigh against the collective powers enjoyed by the Board itself, because where there is a difference between the representative of the Ministry of Finance and the rest of the members of the Board, the representative of the Ministry of Finance has the power against the wishes of the other members of the Board, to bring the matter to the Finance Ministry. Therefore, this representative is put there as a check-post, and the powers given to the Board are all neutralised by the over-weighing powers that are given to the Member from the Finance Ministry.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: As I have mentioned already, if the Financial Adviser differs from the majority of the Board, the matter would be referred through the Secretary, Ministry of Communications, to the Minister of

Communications and his order will be final; but if the Financial Adviser feels that it is not correct, he could refer the matter to the Minister of Finance.

12.15 hrs

MOTION RE REPORT OF THE STATE TRADING CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will now take up the next item. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta may move his motion.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta (Mahendragarh) Sir, I beg to move

"That this House takes note of the Second Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited for the period ending the 30th June, 1958, laid on the Table of the House on the 29th April 1959."

मिस्टर डिप्टी स्पीकर मर, यह जा दूमरी रिपोर्ट हाउस के टेबिल पर रखी गई है इसका दखने से पता चलता है कि इस साल के अन्दर काफी से ज्यादा तरफकी हुई है। हालांकि रास्ते में बहुत सी डिफिकल्टीज भी आयी जिनका कि रिपोर्ट में खास तौर पर जिक्र किया गया है। उममें कहा गया है

"In the second year of its existence, your Corporation has had to face heavy odds. There was a world-wide decline in economic activity, initiated by the recession in the United States."

Then it says

"The set-back in industrial activity, the decline in purchasing power and the deterioration in the terms of trade placed serious impediments in the way of the country's effort to augment export earnings."

मेरे, कहने का मतलब यह है कि इतनी दिक्कों के बावजूद भी जब हम अपनी

साल की रिपोर्ट का इस साल की रिपोर्ट से मुकाबला करते हैं तो पता चलता है कि आर्थिक दृष्टि से काफी से ज्यादा उन्नति हुई है ।

पिछली साल जब कि पहली रिपोर्ट पर बहस हो रही थी तो श्री मोरारजी देसाई ने जो कि उन दिनों इस मुहकमे के मिनिस्टर थे उस बहस का जवाब देते हुये यह फरमाया था :

"I think that it will be possible to give a better account next year."

और इस रिपोर्ट को देखने से पता चलता है कि यह बात काफी हद तक पूरी हो गई है क्योंकि इस साल के काम का एकाउंट पिछले साल से काफी बेहतर है । मिसाल के तौर पर जहां तक ग्रास प्राफिट का सवाल है वह सन् १९५६-५७ में इसी पीरियड के अन्दर ३५.४२ लाख के करीब था, जो कि इस साल दो करोड़ से भी ज्यादा है । इसी तरह से टोटल टर्न ओवर में भी आज काफी इजाफा हुआ है । डिविडेंड का जहां तक सवाल है, पहले साल यह सिर्फ ६ परसेंट दिया गया था, इस साल ७ फी सदी कर दिया गया है । सीमेंट के इम्पोर्ट में पहले साल में भी काफी कमी हुई थी लेकिन इस साल यह तकरीबन तमाम बन्द हो गया है । यही नहीं हमने एक्सपोर्ट भी शुरू कर दी है । तो इन तमाम बातों से यह कहा जा सकता है कि इस साल में पिछले साल से काफी से ज्यादा उन्नति हो चुकी है । लेकिन अगर हम तमाम देश के अन्दर जो पिछले साल इम्पोर्ट और एक्सपोर्ट हुआ उसका इससे मुकाबला करें तो मैं यह कहे बगैर नहीं रहूंगा कि जितनी तरक्की होनी चाहिये थी उतनी तरक्की नहीं हुई है । मिसाल के तौर पर सन् १९५७-५८ में कुल इम्पोर्ट १३१५ करोड़ से ज्यादा थी, इसी तरह से एक्सपोर्ट भी ६०३

करोड़ के करीब थी । लेकिन इस कारपोरेशन का तमाम टर्न ओवर एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट दोनों को मिला कर २८ करोड़ के करीब बैठता है, जो कि बहुत कम है । इसलिये मैं यह कहंगा कि हमें इसके काम को बढ़ाने की पूरी कोशिश करनी चाहिये और इसके लिये यह जरूरी है कि और भी बहुत सी चीजों के अन्दर स्टेट ट्रेडिंग इंट्रोड्यूस की जाये ।

इस साल के अन्दर जो खास एचीवमेंट हुये हैं उनमें सबसे ज्यादा जरूरी बात यह है कि न्यू मारकेट्स को तलाश करने के लिये बहुत ज्यादा कोशिश की गई है । एक्सपोर्ट को भी बढ़ाने की कोशिश की गई है और इसके साथ-साथ जो जापान के साथ दो मिलियन टन आयरन और देने के लिये नया एग्रीमेंट किया गया वह इस कारपोरेशन का बहुत बड़ा एचीवमेंट है । मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि इन तमाम बातों के होने के बावजूद भी इसके काम को बढ़ाने की और भी ज्यादा कोशिश की जायेगी । इसके लिये मैं दो चार तजवीज हाउस के सामने रखना चाहता हूं और मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि उन पर पूरा विचार किया जायेगा ।

जैसा कि मैंने पहले कहा था, हमारे तमाम देश की जो एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट है उससे जब हम एस० टी० सी० के काम का मुकाबला करते हैं तो वह बहुत कम मालूम होता है । इसके लिये मेरी तजवीज यह है कि दो चार चीजों के अन्दर तो खास तौर पर इसको इंट्रोड्यूस किया जाये । सबसे पहली मेरी तजवीज मँगनीज और के बारे में है । मुझे यह देख कर बड़ा दुःख होता है कि पिछले साल कारपोरेशन ने कुल ४४ लाख टन मँगनीज और एक्सपोर्ट किया जब कि टोटल एक्सपोर्ट १३ या १४ लाख टन के करीब था । इसको बढ़ाने की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत है ।

[Shri Ram Krishan Gupta]

इसी तरह से फिल्म इंडस्ट्री है जिससे कि बहुत ज्यादा फारिन एक्सचेंज मिल सकता है। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि इसके अन्दर भी इस स्कीम को लागू किया जाए। मेरा ख्याल है कि ऐसा करने से देश की आमदनी बढ़ेगी और उसको देश की तरक्की के कामों में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकेगा।

12.21 hrs.

[SHRI BARMAN in the Chair]

इसके साथ साथ दूसरी बात मैं पेट्रो-लियम प्रोडक्ट्स के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। इसके मुतालिक दो तीन दफा पहले भी हाउस में जिक्र आया है और थोड़े दिन हुए इस बारे में एक सवाल किया गया था। उस सवाल के जवाब से पता चलता है कि फारिन कम्पनीज जिन्होंने इस काम के अन्दर हिन्दुस्तान में मानापली हासिल की हुई है सालाना कितना ज्यादा मुनाफा हासिल कर रही है। मेरी यह खास तौर पर अपील है कि इस काम को जरूर स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन अपने हाथ में ले। अगर मैं उस सवाल का जवाब हाउस के सामने रखूँ तो आप इसका अन्दाजा लगा सकेंगे। सितम्बर सन् १९५६ में ही यह सवाल हाउस के सामने आया था। उसका जवाब जो दिया गया उससे पता चलता है कि सन् १९५७ में जो पेट्रो-लियम कम्पनीज और रिफाइनरीज यहाँ हैं उन्होंने करीब १४६२ करोड़ मुनाफा हासिल किया। पिछले साल भी इसकी तादाद १२०० करोड़ के करीब है। मेरी यह अपील है कि इस काम को जरूर स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन अपने हाथ में ले और मैं ऐसा महसूस करता हूँ कि ऐसा करने से देश को बहुत ज्यादा फायदा होगा। यह सवाल कई दफा पहले भी उठाया गया है कि इस तमाम काम पर फारिन कम्पनीज ने मानापलीज हासिल की हुई है।

मैं समझता हूँ कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन इसलिये कायम किया गया था कि जो देश

के एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट से प्राइवेट लोगों को बड़ी आमदनी हो रही है उसको यह कारपोरेशन हासिल करे और उसको सोमाइटी में सोशललिस्टिक तरीके से बांटा जाए। अगर आज हम इस दृष्टि से इस सवाल को देखें तो मैं यह कहे बगैर नहीं रहूँगा कि हमें इसमें ज्यादा कामयाबी नहीं हुई। दो साल पहले जबकि यह कारपोरेशन कायम नहीं हुआ था उस वक्त के हालात का अगर हम आज के हालात से मुकाबला करें तो मैं यह कहे बगैर नहीं रहूँगा कि हमें पूरी कामयाबी नहीं हुई। इसलिये आज सबसे बड़ा सवाल हमारे सामने यह है कि वह कौन से कारण थे जिनके कारण हमें पूरी कामयाबी नहीं हुई। कारपोरेशन का जो मैमोरेण्डम आफ एसोसिएशन है उसके मुताबिक हम हर किस्म के काम में एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट कर सकते थे। इसके अन्दर कहा गया है :

"The objects for which the Company is established are to organise and effect exports and imports from and into India of all such goods and commodities as the Company may, from time to time, determine, and the purchase, sale and transport of and general trade in such goods and commodities in India or anywhere else in the world, and to do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects".

मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि एस. टी. सी. के काम पर कोई रेस्ट्रिक्शन नहीं है। बल्कि मैं तो यह कहूँगा कि बहुत सी फ्रैसिलिटीज जो कि एस. टी. सी. को मिली हुई हैं, वे प्राइवेट कम्पनियों को नहीं मिली हुई हैं। इसके बावजूद भी काम में जितनी तरक्की होनी चाहिये थी, वह नहीं हुई। उसका क्या कारण है? हमें आज उस बात का पता लगाना है। मैं तो यह कहूँगा कि इस का सबसे बड़ा कारण यह है कि इप का

एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट ट्रेड को रेगुलेट करने का जो तरीका था, वह बहुत ज्यादा डिफिकल्ट था। मैंने इस रिपोर्ट को गौर से पढ़ा है और उसमें मुझे यह पता चला है। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि एक तरफ तो सरकार ट्रेड को अपने हाथ में लेती है और दूसरी तरफ उसकी डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन का काम उन्हीं इम्पोर्टर्स और मशहूर एजेंट्स को दे देती है, जिनमें कि उसने काम हासिल किया है। मैं यह बात जानना चाहता हूँ कि ए० टी० सी० का क्या फंक्शन है। क्या उसका काम महज कमीशन वसूल करना ही है, या इस काम को एक अच्छे ढंग से एक अच्छे तरीके से चलाना है? इसी बात में यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसका क्या रिजल्ट हुआ, जो हमारा यह सफासद है कि हम ए० टी० सी० को इसलिये इंट्रोड्यूस करना चाहते हैं कि देश की आसानी से देश को फायदा हो सके और स्टेट का एक्सचेन्ज बड़े। उसमें हमें इती लिए ज्यादा कामयाबी नहीं हुई क्योंकि तमाम प्राफिट, तमाम मुनाफा वदस्तूर उसी तरीके से चन्द बड़े बड़े कॅपिटलिस्ट्स के हाथ में, इम्पोर्टर्स के हाथ में जमा हो रहा है, जो कि पहले भी इस बिजिनेस को कंट्रोल करते थे। इतना फर्क जरूर है कि थोड़ा बहुत कमीशन इस कम्पनी को मिल जाता है। इसलिये मेरी अपील है कि सारे सिस्टम को री-ऑर्गनाइज करना चाहिये, ताकि एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट पर हमारा ज्यादा से ज्यादा कंट्रोल बड़े और उसमें हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा फायदा उठा सकें।

इस सिलसिले में मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस काम को चलाने वाले जो आफिसर्स हैं, वे बिजिनेसमैन की तरह से इस काम को नहीं चलाते हैं। जिस तरह से एक बिजिनेसमैन अपने काम को खुद चलाता है, उसके नफा-नुस्मान का ह्याल रखता है, उस लिहाज से यह काम नहीं किया जा रहा है। अगर इस तरीके से काम किया जाता, अगर हर एक काम में मामूली सी भी अकल-

मन्दी से—प्रडेंस से—काम लिया जाता, तो हालात और भी अच्छे होते। उसके लिये मैं दो चार मिनटों इस हाउस के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ।

इस साल मेट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने जो एंवा-प्रिगेशन एकाउण्ट्स की रिपोर्ट पेश की है, उनमें इस किस्म की दो तीन बातों का सफाहा १९ पर जिक्र है और आप को यह मुन कर हैरानी होगी कि बाहर जो हमारे डेलीवेशन जाते हैं, या शो-रूम बगैरह बनाये जाते हैं, उन में कितनी लापरवाही से काम लिया जाता है। सबसे पहली बात जो मैं इस बारे में हाउस के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ, उसका जिक्र उस रिपोर्ट के सफाहा १९ पर किया गया है—

“Avoidable double expenditure on rent of a showroom and a residential flat abroad: With a view to expanding the market for Indian goods, Government decided in February, 1957, to open a showroom in a foreign country. Some premises were taken on lease for one year on 2nd November, 1957.... But the showroom actually opened on the 30th October, 1958”.

आप अन्दाजा लगा लें कि मकान कब किराये पर लिया गया और शो-रूम कब खोला गया। इसमें कोई ज्यादा खर्च नहीं हुआ, लेकिन यह एक उमूल की बात है। आज हमें इस बात पर सोचना है, क्योंकि यह सवाल बड़ा अहम है और इस किस्म के रेजोल्यूशन हाउस में बहुत दफा आते हैं कि जिस काम को स्टेट अपने हाथ में ले, जिस अंडरटेकिंग को अपने हाथ में लिया जाये, उस को किस तरीके से चलाया जाय और मेरी यह राय है कि इस तमाम मामले पर नीरियसता विचार होना चाहिये, क्योंकि हम चाहते हैं कि जिस काम को भी नैशनलाइज किया जाये, जिस ट्रेड में भी स्टेट ट्रेडिंग इंट्रोड्यूस की जाये, वह कामयाब हो, क्योंकि उसकी कामयाबी पर देश की तरक्की का दारो-मदार है और जो हम मॉनोलिस्टिक

[Shri Ram Krishan Gupta]

पैटर्न आफ सोसाइटी कायम करना चाहते हैं, उसका दारोमदार है।

इस रिपोर्ट में आगे चल कर कहा गया है कि एक अफसर के लिये एक रेजीडेंशियल फ्लैट १ अप्रैल, १९५८ को लिया गया, लेकिन वह अफसर साहब फरवरी, १९५९ तक बाहर नहीं गए। इन तमाम बातों को हाउस में रखने में मेरा मकसद यह है कि हमें इस बात की तरफ पूरा ध्यान देना चाहिये कि जिस काम में भी स्टेट ट्रेडिंग इन्ड्रियस की जाये, उस को ऐसे ढंग से चलाया जाय, जैसे कि एक आम आदमी, एक आम दुकानदार अपना काम अपने तरीके से चला सकता है, वरना हमें इस में ज्यादा कामयाबी नहीं होगी।

इसके बाद मैं ट्रांसपोर्ट के बारे में भी कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। इस किस्म का एक सवाल हाउस के सामने जो आया था और वह सवाल यह था कि बाहर से जो माल स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कार्पोरेशन मंगवाती है, वह अपने जहाजों में—हिन्दुस्तानी वैसलज में नहीं मंगवाती, बल्कि वह ज्यादातर बाहर के जहाजों से आता है। इस बात की तरफ भी ध्यान देने की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत है और मेरी यह अपील है कि कम से कम स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कार्पोरेशन को तो तमाम माल हिन्दुस्तानी जहाजों में मंगवाना चाहिये। मैंने इस बात का पहले भी जिक्र किया था कि अगर सरकार वाकई यह चाहती है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कामयाब हो, एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट बढ़े, तो जैसे जो कमेटी १९४७ में मुकर्रर की गई थी और उसकी यह रिपोर्ट थी—

“The Commerce Department should take over the administration of the Transport Department to some extent.”

हमें उस तरफ कार्यवाही करनी चाहिये। मेरी अपील है कि हमें इस तरफ सीरियसली ध्यान देना चाहिये और खास तौर पर जिन जहाजों के जरिये एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट का काम किया जाता है, वह कामर्स डिपार्टमेंट के मातहत होने चाहियें, ताकि किराया कम हो और इसमें हमें ज्यादा से ज्यादा फायदा हो।

आखिर में मैं सीमेंट के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं हाउस के सामने यह बात रखना चाहता हूँ कि जब १९५६ में सीमेंट में इस स्कीम को लागू किया गया, उससे पहले सीमेंट का रेट ८४.४ रुपए पर टन था, लेकिन जून, १९५७ में—इस स्कीम के लागू करने के बाद—इसका रेट ११७.८ रुपए पर टन हो गया। मुझे इस बात का दुख नहीं है कि रेट ज्यादा हुआ है, या कम है, लेकिन देखना यह है कि रेट बढ़ने से जो मुनाफ़ा हुआ, वह किन लोगों के हाथों में गया। अगर मुझे थोड़ा सा टाइम मिले, तो मैं यह बात साबित करने की कोशिश करूंगा कि यह जो रेट बढ़ा, उसका न तो कनज्यूमर को फायदा हुआ है और

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has been given 20 minutes. It is only a two-hour discussion and I do not know how much time the hon. Minister will take. I have already got the names of five Members and everyone should be given some chance. The hon. Member should confine himself to important points and conclude his speech. Five minutes have passed since I rang the first bell.

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): I will take not less than half an hour.

श्री राम कृष्ण गुप्त : जैसा मैं कह रहा था, इस बात पर, इस पालिसी पर दुबारा विचार करने की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत है क्योंकि जिस

बतत वह स्कीम लागू की गई थी उस बतत सबसे ऊपर सवाल यह था कि हम सीमेंट बाहर से इम्पोर्ट करते थे। अब तो इम्पोर्ट करने का सम्बन्ध नहीं है, बल्कि हम बाहर को एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं। यहाँ पर रोष हुए एक सवाल के जवाब में कहा गया था कि इस साल भी हमने एकलिंगन १० हजार टन सीमेंट बाहर भेजा, जो कि फारेन एक्सचेंज के अन्दर हमारी सहाय्य कर रहा है। उस बतत ही वह सवाल उठा था कि लोगों का इरादा तो मिला कर बाहर से जो सीमेंट आता है उसकी कीमत को कम करने के लिये वहाँ के सीमेंट की कीमत को बढ़ाया जाय। लेकिन जब प्राइवेट बन्द हो गया है, हम एक्सपोर्ट करते हैं, तो मैं यह चाहूँगा कि इसका प्रॉफिट, इसका मुकाम कम्प्यूटर को जबर मिले। लेकिन कम्प्यूटर को सीमेंट उसी तरीके से महंगा प्रियता है। इस तरह ध्यान देने की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत है।

इस सिलसिले में जो दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन इस बारे में क्या कर रहा है। उसका इसके सिवा कोई काम नहीं कि ३/४ परसेंट मुनाफा वसूल कर ले। इसके अलावा वह कोई काम नहीं करता। इसके बारे में जैसे बहुत से सम्बन्धों की वेस किये पर उन तमाम सवालों का यह जवाब दिया गया कि अन्वेषणी तौर पर हमारा उस पर कोई कंट्रोल नहीं है। इसलिये मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सीमेंट के अन्दर जब इस स्कीम को लागू किया गया तो उस से क्या फायदा हुआ जब उसके एजेन्ट्स पर कोई कंट्रोल नहीं स्टाकिस्ट्स पर कोई कंट्रोल नहीं? मैंने यह जानना करने की कोशिश की कि जो एजेन्ट्स वरीयत मुकररर किसे द्ये हैं, उनसे क्या सिन्पोरिटी की जाती है, उनका स्टाकिस्ट्स से ताल्लुक क्या है। तो यही जवाब दिया गया कि उन पर हमारा कोई कंट्रोल नहीं। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी हालत में इस एजेन्ट की जो बाधा करने से क्या फायदा हुआ। इस बारे में मेरी यह प्रार्थना है कि अगर हम बन्द

वह चाहते हैं कि इससे लोगों को लाभ हो, वेम को फायदा हो, तो इसके अन्दर जो बिजनेस एजेन्ट्स हैं उनको हमें अवतलित कर देना चाहिये। मैं चाहता हूँ कि स्टाकिस्ट्स का और स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन का सम्बन्ध ताल्लुक हो। वह उनको इन्फोर्मेशन दान करके, उनको जो मुनाफा वरीयत मिलता है वह नहीं मिलना चाहिये। मैं यह बात इस लिये कह रहा हूँ कि जो एजेन्ट्स वरीयत मुकररर हुए हैं स्टाकिस्ट्स से वह बहुत ज्यादा, करोड़ों की तादाद में, क्या बतौर सिन्पोरिटी के वसूल कर लेते हैं। इसके अलावा माल देने के लिये उन से एडवान्स भी वसूल करते हैं। अगर प्राय इन्फोर्मेशन इस काम को हाथ में ले लेंगे तो आप को ३५ करोड़ रुपया मिल जाना कोई मुश्किल बात नहीं है। एडवान्स के तौर पर भी स्टाकिस्ट्स प्रायको वह रकम दे सकते हैं। इसलिये मेरी यह प्रार्थना है कि इस बारे में जरूर गौर किया जाय, और सीमेंट के मुताल्लिक कम से कम ऐसा इंतजाम जरूर किया जाय जिससे कम्प्यूटर को ज्यादा से ज्यादा फायदा हो और मैनू-फैक्चरर्स और प्रोड्यूसर्स जो अपने ही प्राधिकारियों को स्टाकिस्ट्स मुकररर करके या जो दूसरे स्टाकिस्ट्स हों उनसे सिन्पोरिटी वरीयत मांग कर फायदा उठाते हैं, वह बन्द हो।

इन तमाम बातों को कहते हुए मेरी फिर प्रार्थना है कि इस तमाम स्कीम पर दुबारा गौर किया जाय और इसके बिजनेस को बढ़ाने की कोशिश की जाय जिससे इससे ज्यादा से ज्यादा मुनाफा हो। जो कुछ मैंने सीमेंट के बारे में कहा वह इसलिये नहीं कहा कि मैं इस स्कीम के सिखाफ हूँ, वह मैंने इस लिये कहा है कि इससे जो मुनाफा हो, कम्प्यूटर से जो पैसा हम वसूल करें वह पब्लिक के अलावा में, बल्कि एकलिंगन में जाय न कि वह बड़े एजेन्ट्स और कॅपिटलिस्ट्स की जेबों में जाय।

Mr. Chairman: Motion Moved:

"That this House takes note of the Second Annual Report of the

[Mr. Chairman]

State Trading Corporation of India Limited for the period ending the 30th June, 1958, laid on the Table of the House on the 29th April, 1959."

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): I should have liked to speak a little later but it would appear that Members who have given their names are not in their seats. However, having regard to the trend of some questions asked in this House on previous occasions, as also the stand taken by some of the hon. Members here, I would like to anticipate certain points which they will make during the debate and would also like to lessen the burden of my hon. friend, Shri Kanungo, in giving replies to them.

We, the members of the Communist Party, are proud that the idea of having a State Trading Corporation was first suggested in this House by us. It was on a resolution by comrade A. K. Gopalan that the point was discussed in this House. I know there was a committee before that, but I am referring to this House.

Shri Shree Narayan Das (Darbhanga): This has been under discussion since 1950.

Shri V. P. Nayar: True. There was a committee also, I know.

But, at that time, many of the Members who spoke were against the resolution. It was not long after that resolution that the Government came forward with the proposal to set up a State Trading Corporation, and when once they set up this corporation attacks were launched on that from almost every quarter. Political parties have, now, been formed with the object of defeating State trading. I find my hon. friend, Shri Ranga, is not here. His Swatantra party, in its 21 pledges, has this to say:

"The party is opposed to State entering the field of trade and disturbing the procedure of distribution and introducing official

management with all its bottle-necks, expense and wastefulness."

This is the criticism that has been launched against the State Trading Corporation. Sir, I am not very happy of all that has happened in the State Trading Corporation—I am very critical of that also—but my complaint is not on the State Trading Corporation as such, but it is on the Government. The policies of Government in respect of the State Trading Corporation, I must say, are extremely halting. The hon. Member who spoke before me, said that he was glad that the volume of business of the State Trading Corporation had increased. I too am glad. But I am very sorry that Government have not found it possible to increase the business turn-over of the State Trading Corporation, minus the cement deal, at least to the extent of Rs. 100 crores by now. I do not know what steps they have taken for helping the State Trading Corporation for this.

I do not for a moment understand why in pursuing the policy of State trading, Government have left certain vitally important materials to the private trade to import and distribute. There is again the other point that even in respect of the items imported by the State Trading Corporation, Government have no machinery whereby to ensure that it is properly distributed. Let us take the case of soda ash which the State Trading Corporation imports. In respect of that, the distribution and handling throughout the country has been given to three firms. Imperial Chemical Industries, Tatas and the Alkali Corporation. What do they do? It is extremely difficult for anybody to get even the imported soda ash thanks to the wonderful distributing agencies which have been entrusted with this work by the Government.

Then again, take the question of newsprint. We know that in the case of newsprint, the State Trading Corporation has successfully negotiated the import of newsprint from U.S.S.R. The private trade, especially the press

tycoons, do not buy from the Soviet Union. I was surprised to hear that the Government is allowing the import of newsprint from Sweden at a rate which it is important to note. I find that while from the Soviet Union, newsprint has been imported by the State Trading Corporation at around £56 per ton, the Swedish newsprint costs the country about £61 per ton, a difference of £5 per ton. We also know that importing things into the country is the means for the private business people to practise grave crimes on our economy. For example, the other day, the hon. Finance Minister laid on the Table a statement showing the details of cases in which the Foreign Exchange Regulations have been violated. And whom do we find? We find one Shri Goenka and his wife implicated thrice for violation of Foreign Exchange Regulations. And I say they are doing it because there is a possibility of retaining private accounts with Swiss banks or with other banks for these people and so they go on importing newsprint, which the State Trading Corporation is able to do at a price of £56 per ton, at the fantastic rate of £61 per ton. Why could not the State Trading Corporation be asked to import the entire newsprint requirements of this country? Why is it not possible for the Government to have a monopoly on the import of vital raw materials like chemicals, dye-stuffs and non-ferrous metals?

Sir, you know very well that in the field of non-ferrous metals, two or three firms control the entire distribution through a system of their agents. Government have nothing to do with it and I am told that the metal prices are anywhere between 100 to 150 per cent. more than the imported prices. Can't we have a monopoly on these vitally required raw materials? It is a similar case in the matter of dye-stuffs, where the price varies from 300 to 400 per cent. We know our requirements of dye-stuffs; we know our requirements of non-ferrous metals; we know our requirements of chemicals. Why is it that firms like, for example, Imperial Chemicals, are

given a monopoly or near monopoly in the import of chemicals? Is it not possible for the State Trading Corporation to get the vat dye and aniline dye and ensure fair distribution? The State Trading Corporation has already proved beyond doubt that it is possible for them to get all these raw materials at cheaper rates than would be possible for the private trade to get. Still, the Government have not taken a bold decision and they have not reposed that much of confidence on the State Trading Corporation in order to entrust it with the monopoly on the import of these materials.

Take, the question of exports. Here I want to discuss only certain broad points. What do we find in the matter of exports? I know as a matter of fact that the pepper prices in Kerala had some sort of stability because of a big purchase made by the U.S.S.R. What is the position now? U.S.S.R. has withdrawn from the market completely. Why? Because, their economy cannot adjust itself to purchasing articles in which there is fantastic speculation. I remember those days when the price of pepper stood at Rs. 5,000 per candy. Today, it is Rs. 500. Nobody seems to be bothered about it, although the entire economy of that State depends upon the price of pepper.

Take, the case of cashew-nuts. Is it not possible for the State Trading Corporation to have a monopoly in the matter of cashew exports? After all, it is only a matter of Rs. 10 crores or 15 crores. The economy of that State is very much linked up with the export price of cashew-nuts. Every day, you find forward deals. American offers come for December-January supplies. And the result is that the grower does not get anything.

Take, again, the question of oils. India is claimed to be one of the biggest producers of vegetable oils. Has it been possible for the Government to find out a suitable market? Oil has been left to the tender mercies of a big business house. I do not find here Shri Kilachand who represents the

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

famous firm of Devchand Kilachand, probably the biggest oil business firm in this country. He could have given the figures. But I find that the State Trading Corporation has not been able to undertake the work of finding out a suitable market even in the matter of an article over which we have a monopoly.

Then, take the case of the export of manganese over which, I think, my hon. friend, Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, is very much interested. What is the position of manganese? Shri Ram Krishan Gupta said that there was a reduction in the matter of export of manganese. Whose fault is it? I remember, long before the American recession set in, there were forebodings and I warned the Finance Minister in this House that the American recession is likely to affect the Indian industry. But he said "nothing doing". Now, they have to agree that the American recession has not merely affected us but has affected us very seriously.

What is the position? We all know that recently steel production in the world has been cut down to 30 to 40 per cent. We are in a very precarious position in respect of manganese because we do not produce the world's best manganese. Our production is confined to the lower grades of manganese while the Soviet Union, which is the biggest producer of manganese, can, for example, offer manganese ore of 50 per cent. We cannot do it and the Soviet Union, if it chooses, can literally throw us out of the world market for manganese. Is it not possible for the Government to negotiate an agreement with the Soviet Union whereby areas for the sale of manganese can be demarcated?

I know that the steel mills in the United States and in other capitalist countries have recently opened their mines in Brazil and in West Africa. We are helpless in this. Owing to the bad practices of the private trade in respect of the export of manganese, because when the miners enter into

a contract for 30-32 or 40-42, they do not honour that contract—because of such practices, it has become necessary for the steel millers to have their own mines and naturally we suffer.

I know that much criticism will be levelled against the State Trading Corporation for the handling of the manganese trade. I have heard that these manganese exporters have built up all their contacts by several years of business and because the State Trading Corporation has taken it over they suffer in pursuing their business and all that. All that should be dismissed because they plead for certain interests whom they want to secretly represent. It may not be open to this House or elsewhere. So, it is like that. But it does not mean that every act of the State Trading Corporation has to be supported. Not at all. There are certain aspects of the State Trading Corporation to which, if time permits, I shall come later.

Take again the case of income-tax. Is there any one firm in this country....

Mr. Chairman: I would like to give him some idea of the time. He has taken ten minutes already. I will give him another nine minutes. He must finish within that time.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I was referring to income-tax. I say that in this country, nobody can say that there is any honest tax-payer in business except the State Trading Corporation. Tell me one instance of a firm which has paid the tax due or which has not tried either to evade the tax or to avoid the tax. Is there one firm? What is the amount which the State Trading Corporation pays? That alone should be a justification for giving more and more business to the State Trading Corporation because even if they want to avoid or evade the tax, they cannot do it. It is a Government organisation and so there will be no tax evasion.

It is a very important matter also because the volume of foreign trade

is so gigantic that tax is a very essential part of it. It will be tax on a volume of Rs. 1,300 crores. That is why I said that I am very unhappy that the State Trading Corporation has been able to have only a total turn-over of only Rs. 28 or Rs. 29 crores when they could have made a turn-over of Rs. 100 crore by this time if Government had the vision. Apart from the fact that vital raw material is imported into this country on private account and sold at fantastic prices to the serious detriment of the industries depending upon them and apart also from the fact that our raw materials are being exported at rock bottom prices, this Government is sitting almost in an idle fashion and is not encouraging the State Trading Corporation to do more and more business. This is my complaint against the Government.

We find criticism of the State Trading Corporation. It is inevitable that an organisation will have criticism. I do not hold a brief for the State Trading Corporation but I would like the State Trading Corporation to function in such a way that it is beyond criticism. I have a little knowledge of the malpractices of the manganese miners or the other exporters. I know that even the State Trading Corporation, despite the very laudable objects for which it is set up, favours some people in the matter of distribution and export quotas. I do not want to give the figures but I know that this has happened and I am sure the hon. Minister will not repudiate that. But more than that I am astonished by the manner in which Government tried to place some of their tried officers in key jobs. There are three divisional managers and all the three happen to be retired officers. This is a new organisation where a dynamic approach is required, where energy may have to be canalised in the day to day working. And we find that retired people are preferred not merely from the Commerce Ministry but even from the Union Public Service Commission also!

There is one gentleman who is the hon. Minister's name sake but I know that he is not in any way related to him. I know that. Why is it necessary that we have to take recourse to such officers? Surprisingly, I found that one or two of the directors are connected with some private business houses. If the hon. Minister wants, I would like to give it openly in the House, but if he does not want it here, I can give details to him. One or two of them are directly in league with business houses. I can give their names and their connections also.

That apart, the State Trading Corporation today employs, I am told, round about 600 or 700 people. Is that correct, Shri Kanungo? They are being watched by this House and rightly so. There are complaints. I have said that I am not in support of all the action taken by....

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

Shri V. P. Nayar: Just a few minutes more, Sir.

This is an organisation which is controlled by Government. The whole capital has been invested by Government's money. Cent. per cent. it is Government's money. What is the position of the staff there? Are they being treated as the staff of the Government or are they being treated as the staff of a company? I understand that the Class III and Class IV employees or Class II employees of the State Trading Corporation—none of them—get Government accommodation in Delhi. How can they live? You must either say that this is an organisation of the Government, in which case the employees should get all the benefits; or you must say that Government has nothing to do with it except paying the money. This is a very anomalous and a very ridiculous position. When the entire investment has been made by the Government, the staff is left to the mercy of the landlords of Delhi. I do not know the service conditions. I do not find a single line or mention about the service conditions in either

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

of these reports and I am not happy about it also. But I understand that there are many staff problems which, on a later occasion, we may take up with the hon Minister himself. Things like that must be avoided and must necessarily be avoided.

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

Shri V. P. Nayar: Once again, Sir because you have rung the bell again. I urge upon the hon Minister to be more firm in his policy and in his attitude towards the State Trading Corporation and see that the private interests in this country do not do anything to sabotage the organisation. Both in the import and export of important material Government should see that the State Trading Corporation gets a monopoly. We can, if we plan properly, by the end of the Third Plan monopolise the entire foreign trade of this country. I want the Government to do it because half in the private sector in respect of one material and another half with the State Trading Corporation is not good. It is not advisable also.

Therefore I would once again request the hon Minister to take a bolder step to face the criticism and ensure that the State Trading Corporation is put on a proper footing with the object of doing at least business for a turnover of Rs 100 crores in this year and to take steps whereby at least by the middle of the Third Five-Year Plan the State Trading Corporation can monopolise the entire foreign trade of our country.

Mr Chairman: I propose that no hon Member should take more than fifteen minutes in any case. I shall ring the bell three minutes from time.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): Mr Chairman, Sir, I start with the point with which my hon friend has closed his remarks just now. He wants the State Trading

Corporation to achieve monopoly in our export and import trade. I am opposed to that. I want competition to exist. I am not in favour of the abolition of the State Trading Corporation that has come into existence. But, I would like the State Trading Corporation to justify its existence not merely by showing to us that it is making such and such profits, but also by standing the competition of private trade and in that way demonstrating unto our people that it is capable of serving our consumers and also the industrial development of our country, by competing in an efficient manner with similar enterprises in our export and import trade.

13 hrs.

Recently, there has been a start in entrusting to the State Trading Corporation trading in foodgrains also. There have been varying comments on it.

Shri Kanungo: I may mention that State Trading Corporation has nothing to do with trading in foodgrains.

Shri Ranga. I am very glad that he said it. One burden less for the State Trading Corporation. Possibly, they would be thinking of creating another one with a similar front, but in a different name. I would like to warn the Government through this Ministry that so far as I and those behind me in the country are concerned we are opposed to any such attempt. We consider that any such attempt is likely to be disastrous to national interests and also to agricultural interests. I find that not enough explanation has been provided to us in regard to this difference. The cost of cement imported during the year was Rs 2,24,00,000 and odd. By the time, it came to be sold, it achieved a price of Rs 3,53,23,000 and odd. In between, the Government had paid Rs 47 lakhs towards import duty, Rs 44 lakhs for freight, clearing

charges, Rs. 9 lakhs, and sales tax Rs. 6 lakhs. There was a huge profit made by the State Trading Corporation. I would like to know whether the State Trading Corporation has been constituted into a kind of Private company limited to make profits at the cost of the consumers, and also at the cost of producers. Was it not a fact that quite a number of producers of cement in our country have been complaining of their inability to sell their own cement because of the policies of the Government in imposing heavy excise duty as well as sales tax and other things? In what way can the State Trading Corporation help the consumers, if it were to persist in its own policy of making such huge profits of this kind?

From year to year several charges seem to be increasing. I do not know what is the reason. The Corporation has not vouchsafed any explanation. Take, for instance, page— they have not given the page number—here is the trading account for the year 30th June 1958. On purchases amounting to Rs. 8 crores, they spent Rs. 20 lakhs on freight charges. Next year, on purchases amounting to Rs. 22 crores, freight charges have come to be Rs. 1 crore and 3 lakhs. Is that proportionate? If not, why not? We have another point Clearing, handling and other charges: on Rs. 8 crores, it was Rs. 89 lakhs in the previous year. This year, it comes to Rs. 65 lakhs on much larger purchases. How has it come down? It is a welcome thing. Why had it gone up? Customs duty for that, of course, we cannot blame the State Trading Corporation. It is worth nothing that while they paid Rs. 20 lakhs in the previous year, this year, this comes to Rs. 1 crore and 53 lakhs. If you go on raising these things in this way, is it in the interests of the consumers? Or is it intended to give—a kind of disguised protection by way of compensation for their inability to sell their stocks in our own country to the manufacturer.

Shri Kanungo: How can customs duty work for that purpose?

Shri Banga: Unfortunately, my hon. friend does not happen to be the Finance Minister.

Shri Kanungo: It is beyond my comprehension.

Shri Banga: Then, I come to the working of the Corporation. It is said that they were in touch with 300 or 400 reputed firms. In spite of this, they have not been able to give any satisfaction to them. What is happening is this. There has been any amount of favouritism and discrimination between one another. I have myself been responsible for making that complaint here repeatedly, that those who do not own mines themselves directly, but who have been dealing in exports or imports have been favoured in preference to those who own mines, take all the risk, invest their funds, employ labour and all the rest of it. If these people wish to have the privilege of exporting it to other countries, they have to come to the gate-keeper here or the toll-keeper and the toll-keeper levies his own toll, either political toll or any other toll that he may think of. They make these distinctions. They have shown these discriminations. They have invented the new stunt of business peoples co-operatives, mine-owners co-operatives. Why develop a kind of combination so that some of those people who are not themselves directly interested in mining, could also become members of the co-operatives, take in their train a large number of small miners and then begin to exploit them? If my friend's facts are different, he is welcome to take the House into confidence. I would like him to assure the House that there is no favouritism shown to those people hailing from Calcutta and Bombay, who have got big funds at their disposal, who have so little to do with actual ore mining.

Next, this complaint has been made by my hon. friend, Shri V. P. Nayar.

[Shri Ranga]

Here, in this organisation itself, is everything all right? He may say; is everything all right in any other office. That may be so. This is a new office. Therefore, it must be easier for them to save the office from red tape. This office suffers as much from red tape as other offices, if not more. There is over-redundancy of staff, if my information is correct, and within the staff also, there is plenty of politics. There is no reservation given at all to recruit people regionally. Especially, it is very important in the case of the State Trading Corporation that it should have on its staff officers as well as others, people hailing from different parts of the country, who could be expected to help the State Trading Corporation with their local knowledge, with their local reactions and feelings. Unfortunately, not enough consideration seems to have been given to that aspect of the matter.

Lastly, I would like to warn the Government that this Corporation has had to deal with about 500 business firms and manufacturing concerns and still it has not been able to give satisfaction to these people, even to the minimum possible degree. How would it be possible, I would like the House to consider, if any other Corporation or a similar Corporation is to be brought into existence in order to develop State-trading in foodgrains, to give satisfaction? That corporation will have to deal with not 300 business concerns, not 3,000, not 300,000, but tens of lakhs of traders and business people who, today, are dealing in foodgrains. Would that be possible at all? Therefore, let us not be too hasty in our proposals for going ahead with not only this Corporation, but with other corporations also. Secondly, the time has come when my hon. friend should be good enough to himself appoint a committee to go into the working of this Corporation. Let them make their own choice, but it would

best, I think, to have some non-officials also including those who have had to deal with them in doing this business, those also to include the bigger sector as well as the smaller sector, those hailing from the big cities and export centres as well as the production centres. Let them go into the working of this Corporation.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): May I interrupt for a minute and suggest that some inspection into the private sector might be done first, because that has gone on for a long time? The State Trading Corporation is new and it must be given a little time.

Shri Ranga: If inspection is to be made into the other one, I have no objection at all. I do not know when my hon. friend the lady Member discovered that she was more interested in examining the doings of private trade than myself. I do not know whether she was a Member of the Select Committee on the Companies (Amendment) Bill. I was there. We were all keen on controlling and regulating private industry, private trade and companies and all these things, in such a way that the public interest would be safeguarded. We are now concerned with this Corporation. It has been functioning for some years now, and there have been many complaints, and I do not think it would be derogatory to the prestige of the Government to appoint a committee to go into the working of this Corporation so that they would be able to satisfy themselves that everything is all right. If everything is not all right, it should be open to that committee to make relevant and useful suggestions for its better working and more efficient functioning.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla (Baloda Bazar): There has been large-scale criticism of the STC's activities, and though some of it has come out because of the novelty of the experiment here, most of the criticism is justified.

In our present-day needs and aspirations, a State trading corporation might be necessary, and it is particularly advantageous to have it to deal with the Communist countries which have got such State trading organisations for foreign trade.

As far as the STC's dealings with the Iron Curtain countries are concerned, there has not been much to say either to condemn or to commend, but their operations in the home market and particularly with countries which have got the free trade system have been quite bad, and most of the criticism that has been levelled has been levelled against their deals with such countries.

It has been pointed out on various occasions that they have been indulging in unwholesome and short-sighted policies with an eye on quick profits without caring whether or not their activities were beneficial to the country or its people. The STC itself has been indulging in business malpractices and coercion. But before I give examples of their coercive tactics and malpractices, I would like to clarify what Shri V. P. Nayar said about me. I am not personally connected with any manganese export trade or anything like that.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I never said so.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: My only connection with or interest in mining trade is that I come from an area which is particularly important as far as manganese production is concerned.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I interrupt the hon. Member and say that I never said that he was in any way connected. I said, having regard to certain questions he put I thought he was interested in manganese. I know he is not connected with any mining interest.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Let us now examine the performance of the

STC as far as the manganese trade is concerned.

To begin with, the performance has been very bad. There were various excuses advanced saying that they had probably no experience, the established exporters did not co-operate with them, that there was a recession in the world market etc., but the fact stands out that in 1955-56, that is before the Corporation came into being, 16 lakh tons of manganese ore were shipped. From 16 lakh tons, the exports have steadily declined to about 9 lakhs tons in 1958-59, and this is the result of the STC's continued effort to increase manganese export. Even here, they always find fault with everybody else including their parent Ministry, but they do not see any fault of their own.

I will give the House a few instances of coercion and the malpractices in which they have been indulging. Presumably at the instance of the Commerce and Industry Ministry, instructions were issued by the Railway Board that new lease and renewal of railway siding plots should be made only in favour of such mineowners to whom quota slips were issued by the STC. or those who held movement quota from the Controller of Imports and Exports. The small mineowners who did not fall under these two categories would not be allowed any plots. Plots already in possession of such mineowners would have to be surrendered as soon as the traffic stacked in such plots was removed. Now, did the management of the STC and the Railway administration ever realise that there is a great number of small mineowners who are neither exporters of manganese ore nor do they want to canalise their exports through the STC? These mineowners generally sell their ore to private exporters or to national consumers. No manganese ore is generally sold unless it is offered f.o.r. railway siding, and if these small mineowners are deprived of their railway sidings according to the instructions

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

issued by the Railway Board, then these people will be forced either to sell to the STC or to canalize their export of their products through the STC. And this is the indirect coercion that has been resorted to on such mineowners who are not selling their ore to the STC.

If any exporter has any foreign contact for sale of manganese ore over and above his own quota, then the STC offers him wagon space and the export licence granted to the STC for some money which is designated by them as service charge. Any exporter willing to buy STC's export permit and wagon space can pay some money and export his material in the name of STC. When the Corporation itself indulges in such malpractices, how can we condemn those people who sell their export permits or do not utilize their wagon space properly? Just because the STC does it, it does not become justifiable. The mechanism of trading pattern in this country hinges on transport, and if such transport becomes a matter of sale and purchase by the STC, it is nothing but an undignified picture of civil servants' capriciousness.

In spite of this, the STC is failing miserably in manganese export trade. Out of a total export of 8.63 lakh tons during the eleven months ending May, 1959, the Corporation was not able to sell more than 1.9 lakh tons including the export canalized through the STC by private exporters. On the other hand, private exporters not only exhausted their entire quota, but canalized substantially additional quantities through the STC. Moreover, while the private exporters were able to enter into forward business for delivery up to 1961, the Corporation, in spite of its best efforts, failed to conclude any forward deal with any of the foreign buyers.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Fluctuating prices? Whose fault?

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: As if not satisfied with this debacle up to date, the Managing Director of STC recently threatened the private exporters in Bombay that he had requested all the important buyers in Europe not to purchase any ore from the private exporters, but only from the corporation. He is also reported to have asked all the quota-holders to surrender their quotas to the corporation, so that it alone could handle the trade in future. He is further reported to have threatened that he would try to isolate the private trade by dealing directly with the mineowners in case they did not agree to his request.

The STC should be stopped from monkeying around like this with our fifth best foreign exchange earner. They have never been able to give any good account of themselves, and I do not know, by doing all this thing, what they are going to do with the manganese export trade.

Now, let us examine the STC's activities in iron ore exports. They have done quite well in this. Here also, they have shown a mad craze for quick profits at any cost. Practically, all the small mineowners in Bihar and Orissa who were running their mines very well before the STC monopolised the iron ore export have now almost been crushed to death by STC's discriminatory purchase policy.

As an example, take the case of the twenty small mineowners of Singhbhum district of Bihar. These twenty mineowners sold slightly over 3 lakhs of tons of iron ore before the STC took over the entire export of iron ore, but in 1957-58, the despatches of these mineowners fell down to 1,14,228 tons only, that is, by 42 per cent. Most of these mines have now closed down in Bihar and in Orissa, throwing thousands of persons out of employment. The fall in production has been more than offset by the

foreign-owned iron mines which enjoyed the unmixed patronage of the STC; but these mines cannot take the unemployed labourers, because these mines are all highly mechanised

Shri V P Nayar was making the point that the STC should take over such and such export of such and such material and all that, probably under the impression that such taking over will benefit the country and the average person or the consumer in the country. But if he analyses the past performance of the STC he will see that whenever the STC has taken over any trade, either import or export, they have done nothing by themselves; they have just appointed the biggest companies in that trade or in those commodities, which were mostly foreign companies, as their agents, they have taken some sort of commission or service charge from them, which has not come out of the profits of those companies but which has indirectly been recovered from the consumers.

Shri V P Nayar: Like Tatas

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla and it is the small Indian merchants or traders who have been put to further disadvantage by the STC patronising these big people rather than trying to serve or support the small traders

I can understand the STC taking over all sorts of business, but our criterion is that the maximum number of people in the trade or the maximum number of consumers of the particular commodity should be benefited. It should not be the case that only these three or four big people are benefited by the STC's activities

Regarding iron ore, I shall presently show how they have been absolutely indifferent to the national interests in the export of iron ore also. Now, the STC is exporting iron ore of 63 per cent Fe content, whereas before the STC took over the export of iron ore, iron ore containing even 60 per cent Fe content or ferrous content

was exported. Now, the STC, in order to make quick profits, is concentrating entirely on the high grade iron ore; and this type of selective buying in turn encourages selective mining, and thus selective mining, according to the unanimous opinion of experts, is absolutely ruinous to any country's mineral resources, howsoever rich they may be. But the STC has not been bothering about it

If you analyse their mineral exports, you will see they have only exported the best and the highest grade of minerals, without caring to tuck with it the lower grade or medium grade of minerals; as was being done by the private trade before the STC came in, STC as the national body should have taken care to see that along with high grade ore they also export low grade ores which they have not done

The claims about the earnings of the STC have to be balanced against its operational efficiency. Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha, the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry gave the figures of business undertaken by the STC, but replied that the amount of expenditure incurred by the STC had not yet been finally assessed. Now, a private undertaking would have gone to the wall, if the cost side had not been kept track of, to judge the operational efficiency. But these people have just been doing their business without even knowing what they are spending, and what it is costing them

Shri V. P. Nayar: Because they have no eye on tax evasion

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: If I had time, I could show that even according to the last year's balance-sheet and this year's balance-sheet, they have not earned as much profit as they should have; that is, the normal profit which would have come in, if any other expert and more efficient body was doing this; the STC could have got much more income, but they have lost lakhs of rupees because of

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

their inefficiency, and so they have paid much less taxes.

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): What was the question, and what was the answer? I could not follow.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: I shall paid much less taxes.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member should try to conclude now.

Shri Satish Chandra: The hon. Member said that I had given some answer.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: I was referring to the reply given by the hon. Deputy Minister in the last session in the Rajya Sabha. I shall give the particulars later on, because I do not have much time here.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Member does not have any. That is what the chairman says.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: The STC has been so greedy; it has taken up the trade only in such insignificant items or ordinary items as lemongrass oil. I do not understand in what public interest it was that the STC should take over the export of lemongrass oil. There are various concerns and various companies which as a result of their hard labour have built up the export trade, but one fine morning they receive a letter from the STC that the STC had decided to take over the export of lemongrass oil themselves.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member should conclude now.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I request that I may be given two more minutes.

Mr. Chairman: I have already told the hon. Member that I shall not be able to give him say more time, because there are other Members also who have to get some chance.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: I am one of the sponsors of this motion, and I shall be grateful if you would give me two or three minutes more.

I wanted to make a special point about the business associates of the STC. It seems that anybody can become the associate of the STC by pleasing it. I want to emphasise here that the Minister and the Ministry must lay down criteria and basis on which the business associates of the STC will be selected. I realise that there must be some flexibility in this matter, but there must be some fundamental basis or some qualifications must be prescribed for the associates of the STC. Similarly, in regard to the items of export or the commodities that they trade in, they must indicate or they must lay down the criteria or the basis on which they will take up the commodities for trading in the STC.

I shall conclude by saying that the hon. Minister must re-examine the scope and sphere of activity of the STC and make it a really useful body for the country rather than let it remain a terrorising body, as it is today, so far as the private trade in the country is concerned.

श्री यादव (बाराबंकी) : समापति महोदय, अभी राजकीय व्यापार निगम के सम्बन्ध में अपने विचार प्रकट करते हुए श्री रंगा ने जो उसके प्रति विरोध प्रकट किया है तो मैं तो उनके उस विरोध को समझ पाने में असमर्थ रहा क्योंकि श्री रंगा जैसे लोग जो कि अपने को किसान नेता कहें वे किस तरीके से इस राजकीय व्यापार निगम को नुक्ताचीनी करते हैं ? उसकी जगह पर वे चाहते हैं कि प्राइवेट सैक्टर उस कार्य को करता रहे ।

श्रीमन्, जहां तक कि इस राजकीय व्यापार का सम्बन्ध है मैं उसका स्वागत करता हूं और सदैव स्वागत करता रहूंगा

श्रीर में तो चाहता हूँ कि वह जो राजकीय व्यापार निगम है वह इस देश के समस्त व्यापार को अपने हाथ में ले ले और उसका सम्पूर्ण विस्तार होना चाहिये। हमारे देश की जो धर्म व्यवस्था है वह बहुत ही पिछड़ी हुई है। उसके लिये यह आवश्यक है कि हम अपने देश की सरकारी के लिये कुछ बुनियादी औद्योगिक कार्य को अपने देश में करें। उसके लिये आवश्यक है कि हमको कुछ विदेशी मुद्रा उपलब्ध रहे और उस विदेशी मुद्रा की उपलब्धि में हमको यह राजकीय व्यापार ज्यादा से ज्यादा सहायता दे सकता है।

श्रीमन्, मैं आपसे यह निवेदन कर्क कि जो श्री माननीय रामकृष्ण गुप्त ने इस पर विचार प्रकट किया कि राजकीय व्यापार ने पिछले वर्ष से कुछ मफनता हासिल की है और पिछले वर्ष की अपेक्षा इस वर्ष ज्यादा लाभ हुआ है तो मैं इस बात को मानते हुए आपके द्वारा निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो भी इस वर्ष पिछले साल की अपेक्षा ज्यादा फायदा हुआ है उसे हम काफी नहीं समझते हैं और इमको और बढ़ाया जा सकता है। इसमें जो ज्यादा प्रगति नहीं हुई है और जैसे कि श्री हमारे शुक्ला जी ने कहा कि इसमें बुनियादी दोष है और रंगा जी ने भी इसमें दोष बताया तो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस व्यापार निगम का दोष नहीं है क्योंकि यह तो सरकार का बुनियादी दोष है। सरकार स्वयं इस मगड़े में पड़ी हुई है और वह सब नहीं कर पा रही है कि इसके बारे में ज़रूरी क्या निश्चित नीति हो। वह नहीं चाहती है कि समस्त व्यापार इस देश का इस राजकीय व्यापार निगम को दे दिया जाय, इसीलिये इसमें जो भी करारियाँ हैं वह हो रही हैं। अब से इस निगम की स्थापना हुई यदि उसकी कार्यविधियों को देखें तो आपको मालूम हो जायेगा कि सन् १९४६ में इसके लिए एक कमेटी बनी और उसने सन् १९४६ में

अपनी राय या सिफारिश की और उस पर फिर से विचार करने के लिए सन् १९५२ में कमेटी बनी और उसके बाद प्रन्ततोगत्वा सन् १९५६ में राजकीय व्यापार निगम की स्थापना हुई। इससे यह पता चलता है कि सरकार इसकी स्थापना में बहुत अच्छे तरीके से सोच विचार करके या पूरे मन से भागे नहीं बढ़ी और उसके बाद में सन् १९५६ में यह निगम किसी तरह स्थापित हुआ। इसी सदन में एक माननीय सदस्य ने इस प्राशय का एक प्रस्ताव भी रखा और मने ही वह प्रस्ताव रिजेक्ट हो गया लेकिन बाद में सरकार पर कुछ दबाव पड़ा और इस तरीके से इस निगम की स्थापना की। इस निगम की स्थापना में आप जानते हैं, सदन जानता है और देश भी जानता है कि सरकार व्यापार को अपने हाथ में लेने जा रही है लेकिन ऐसे बड़े कार्य को जब वह एक बहुत छोटी पूंजी से शुरू करती है तो उसी से पता चलता है कि वह प्राधे मन से इस कार्य को करना चाहती है।

अगर हम इस राजकीय व्यापार निगम के उद्देश्यों की ओर जायें तो हमें पता लगेगा कि इस निगम का उद्देश्य यह है कि आयात और निर्यात की व्यवस्था विदेशी मुन्कों में करें कि कौन सी चीजे यहाँ से दूसरे देशों को भेजी जा सकती है और वहाँ से कौन सी चीजे लाई जा सकती है और उन चीजों के लिए विदेशों में अपना बाजार खोजे। साथ ही साथ उससे सम्बन्धित जो अन्य कार्य उत्पन्न होते हो वे करें। अब अगर इस देश में हम देखते हैं कि क्या इस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति हुई तो हम यह कह सकते हैं कि हम इस विषय में सफल नहीं रहे हैं। यदि इस देश के आयात और निर्यात को देखें तो हम यह कह सकते हैं कि जितने रुपये का हर वर्ष आयात और निर्यात होता है उसतहिस्सा से हम इस कम्पनी की स्थिति को देखते हैं कि उसने कितना कार्य किया है तो हम पाते हैं कि वह न के बराबर है। उसने कोई विशेष काम नहीं किया और जिसकी कि जिम्मेदारी सरकार पर है। इस कारपोरेशन या निगम पर नहीं है।

[श्री यादव]

अब उस रिपोर्ट को जो कि हमारे सामने है देखें तो पता लगेगा कि ऐसी चीजें बाहर एक्सपोर्ट की गई थीं, जिन चीजों का यहां से निर्यात किया गया है, वह मुख्य चीजें जो कि इस देश से लगभग पचास प्रतिशत के परिमाण में बाहर जाती हैं जैसे कि जूट है, चाय है और रुई है। इन चीजों के निर्यात का काम इस कारपोरेशन के हाथ में नहीं है। इन चीजों का निर्यात जो कि देशी और विदेशी पूंजीपतियों के द्वारा चलाया जा रहा है, जूट, चाय और रुई का काम विदेशी लोगों के हाथ में है, मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन तमाम चीजों का काम इस निगम के हाथ में आये। अब तम्बाकू का व्यापार आई०एल०टी०ओ के पास है तिलहन बालकर्ट ब्रदर्स के पास है और रुई रानी ब्रदर्स के हाथ में है और उनको करोड़ों रुपये का मुनाफा होता है। इस मुनाफे से देश को कोई फायदा नहीं पहुंचता बल्कि विदेशी और यहां के देशी पूंजीपति फलते फूलते हैं।

Shri Rameshwar Tantia (Sikar)
The entire raw jute export is through the State Trading Corporation, not through private channels

श्री यादव जो मुनाफा यह कमाते हैं वह उनकी जेब में जाता है। जब वह लोग अपने हाथ से व्यापार करते हैं तो इनके हाथ में पूरी ताकत रहती है कि किस तरीके से दामों पर अपना असर डालते रहें और अपने तरीके से दामों को घटाते बढ़ाते रहें और जिसका कि नतीजा यह होता है कि जो यहां के उत्पादक हैं, प्राइमरी प्रोड्यूसर्स हैं, वह उनके बंधों के पास रह जाते हैं। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस विषय में भी सरकार का ध्यान जाना चाहिए।

एक चीज की तरफ माननीय सदस्यों ने बोलते हुए इशारा किया कि इस निगम ने पिछले वर्ष काफी मुनाफा किया है। मैं इसका विरोधी नहीं हूँ। निगम मुनाफा कमाये। लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जहां तक पूंजीपतियों

का सवाल है उनके सामने केवल मुनाफा ही रहता है, उपभोक्ताओं का हित उनकी नजर के सामने नहीं रहता। लेकिन यदि यह निगम भी उसी दृष्टिकोण से काम चलायेगा तो उसका बुरा असर पड़ेगा क्योंकि बैसा करने के उपभोक्ता पीड़ित और त्रस्त होंगे और इस निगम की तरफ जनता की धर्नाब सी धारणा बनेगी और लोग इसके विरोधी बनने जायेंगे। तो मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस निगम के काम का ज्यादा से ज्यादा विस्तार करे और देश का सारा आयात और निर्यात व्यापार इसी निगम के हाथ में हो। और इस प्रकार सरकार इस निगम को मजबूत बनाये। लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह निवेदन भी करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार की एक सुनिश्चित और दृढ़ दाम नीति भी होनी चाहिए। जब तक ऐसा नहीं किया जाता तब तक यह हो सकता है कि सरकार को मुनाफा होता रहे और वह सरकारी खजाने में जाता रहे लेकिन उससे उपभोक्ता को लाभ नहीं होगा और वह पहले की तरह पीड़ित और त्रस्त रहेगा। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि सरकार को सुनिश्चित दाम नीति अपनानी चाहिए और इस काम के लिए कोई सर्मात या कज्यूमर्स काउंसिल बनानी चाहिए जो कि दाम के उतराव बढ़ाव पर दृष्टि रखती रहे ताकि उपभोक्ताओं और उत्पादकों पर सरकार की नीति का कोई बुरा असर न पड़े। मैं चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से रेलवे में रेट ट्राइब्यूनल है उसी प्रकार का ट्राइब्यूनल यहां भी बनाया जाये। पिछली बार जब यह प्रश्न उठाया गया तो श्री देसाई साहब ने कहा था कि सरकार को जो मुनाफा होगा वह खजाने में जायेगा और उससे सभी को फायदा होगा। यह ठीक है कि सरकार के मुनाफे में और पूंजीपतियों के मुनाफे में यह फर्क तो है पर इससे समस्या का हल नहीं होता। सरकार जो कार्य करती है वह देश के हित के लिए करती है और अगर सरकार द्वारा यह काम अपने हाथ में लेने का यह परिणाम न हुआ कि उपभोक्ताओं और उत्पादकों को

अपनी चीजें खरीदने और बेचने में सुविधा मिले, तो इससे कोई विशेष फायदा होने वाला नहीं है। तो मैं यही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार सारे आयात निर्यात व्यापार को अपने हाथ में ले, वह किसी पूँजीपति या दूसरी संस्था के हाथ में न रहे। दूसरी बात मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इसी के साथ-साथ सरकार एक निश्चित दाम नीति अपनाये और इस काम के लिए कज्युमर काउंसिल या ग्रेट ट्राइब्यूनल का निर्माण करे जो बीजों के दाम बढ़ने घटने पर ध्यान रखे। तभी हम हम दिशा में आगे बढ़ सकते हैं।

दूसरी बात मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जैसा कि इस सदन के माननीय सदस्यों के भाषणों में मालूम होता है जिनका यह स्थल है कि यह कारपोरेशन सरकारी है चाहे सरकार अपने मन में यह ममझती हो कि यह एक कम्पनी है। जनता हमको सरकारी ममझती है। इस कारपोरेशन से इस सदन के किसी सदस्य का कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए इस कारपोरेशन में इस सदन का कोई माननीय सदस्य या उस सदन का कोई माननीय सदस्य जरूर शामिल किया जस्य ताकि उसको इस निगम के रोजमर्रा के कार्य से जानकारी रहे। ऐसा होना तो हम इसको सफलता के साथ चला सकेंगे। जब तक ऐंग नही होता तब तक जो हम मिश्रित अर्थ नीति चला रहे हैं इसकी आड़ में पब्लिक सेक्टर और प्राइवेट सेक्टर में बराबर रस्साकशी चलती रहेगी और जो चीजें अभी हमारे सामने आती हैं वे फिर भी हमारे सामने आती रहेंगी। सरकार की नीति की कृपा है और कुछ पूँजीपतियों की दुर्नीति का परिणाम है कि जो पब्लिक सेक्टर का काम चलाया जाता है उसमें तरह-तरह की झड़पने बराबर आती रहती हैं। प्राइवेट सेक्टर वाले चाहते हैं कि किसी न किसी तरह से यह चीज असफल हो ताकि उनको यह कहने का मौका मिले कि पब्लिक सेक्टर में चीजें जपहिल में नहीं हो रही हैं। तो मेरा निवेदन

है कि यदि आप चाहते हैं कि इस कार्य को सफलता मिले तो आपको धाँधे दिल से काम नहीं करना चाहिए बल्कि इस कार्य को पूरे दिल से करना चाहिए और निगम को जिन अधिकारों की आवश्यकता और हो वे उसको दिये जाने चाहिए ताकि किसी तरह की असफलता की गुंजाइश न रहे मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार के प्रयत्नों को विफल करने का देश में बड़ा प्रयत्न चल रहा है। पिछले वर्ष जो पूँजीपतियों का डेनीगेशन विदेशों को गया उनमें ऐसी धारणा पैदा करने का प्रयत्न किया कि हमारे देश में जो एम० टी० सी० का काम चल रहा है यह एक खतरनाक चीज है। मैं और ज्यादा न कह कर माननीय मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इसको मफल बनाया जा सकता है।

अगर हम इस निगम की नुकताचीनी करते हैं तो उसका भीधा अर्थ यही है कि हम सरकार की नुकताचीनी करते हैं। इसकी सारी जिम्मेदारी सरकार पर है क्योंकि यह पूरे तौर से सरकार द्वारा चलाया जाता है। अगर यह असफल होता है तो इसका मतलब है कि सरकार असफल होती है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं निवेदन करूँगा कि इस और ध्यान देना चाहिए।

Shri Achar (Manalor): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think this Corporation has been doing well and I congratulate it on the work it has done. No doubt, compared with the private agencies and the private merchants who have been doing export business, probably, the Corporation is not able to do much and to compete with them as we would expect.

The Chagla Commission Report has certain recommendations in regard to the working of such corporations and I am glad to note that at least one recommendation of that Commission has been given effect to and one non-official member has been appointed recently as the Chairman of this corporation.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Your neighbour also.

Shri Achar: Yes, it is so; I am happy about it. Why should I not?

Shri V. P. Nayar: All of us are

Shri Achar: I am very glad to note it, I submit he is an efficient person who has considerable experience coming from an area where there is considerable production of a very valuable cash crop, a gentleman who was Chief Minister of a State for some time and then Home Minister also in my State of Mysore; and he has been appointed as the Chairman I wish, more such people are added After all, officials are good in their own capacity, in their own field But, so far as business is concerned, it is a different type of work For that purpose I wish very much that more persons who have some experience of business and who are interested in the welfare of the country are associated with the Corporation Then, I am sure, this Corporation will do much better than what it is doing now It is not many years since it was started It is doing very well and I congratulate it for the work it is doing

Shri Ranga spoke about competition I submit that I do want competition, but it should be fair competition What is happening to the foreign trade? It is in the hands of a few individuals and they make undue profits and very huge profits That is to be put an end to in the interests of the country Those profits should not be allowed to go into the hands of a few individuals.

From my experience of things in my constituency I can say that this foreign trade was in the hands of a few foreign merchants like Parry & Co, Pierce Leslie & Co, and people like that. Though it has changed hands to some extent, it is still in their hands.

I will give one example, that of cashew-nut. What is the condition of

the producers of cashew-nut? What is the condition of those persons who do some processing in the factory and the merchants who deal in that? The latest models of motor-cars are with those people....

Shri V. P. Nayar: Air-conditioned bungalows.

Shri Achar: The Chairman has given me only 6 or 7 minutes Sir, may I know how many minutes more I have got?

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am only supporting you.

Shri Achar: It is true, but the time allowed to me is very little.

I am only pointing out this aspect when they consider this question of competition—I agree with Shri Ranga that there must be competition—it must be fair competition

I referred to one example of cashew-nut The producers are even half-starved But look at the position of the owners of these factories and those who export it They have got the latest models of cars; they are in a very high position What is it due to? Is it not because they are making huge profits? I do not deny that there must be competition Our corporations are new institutions They must be able to compete From that point of view, we must also consider associating more business people and not officials with the Corporation

I may be missing the main point which I wanted to urge I am very much interested in the west coast. In paragraph 9, the Report itself refers to the shipment of ores The market for Indian ores in European countries is also being developed and extended. Earlier, the Report says:

“Mineral ores constitute the core of your company's business in the field of exports.”

That is paragraph 5. In paragraph 9, it says:

“The market for Indian ores in European countries is also being

developed and extended Sales to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia and Hungary have been stepped up while exports to Italy have been maintained."

Two minutes, Sir, and I will finish.

I was speaking about the possibility of bulk shipment of ores from the west coast, to West European countries. What I want to emphasise is this. There is a vast field for export of iron ore to the West European countries. From that point of view the development of ports in the Mangalore-Karwar area is necessary. The railway lines should also be developed. In the interests of the Corporation they should develop communications there.

During last May I found huge heaps of iron ore near the port there. I asked a question the other day and the hon. Minister answered by saying that it was a seasonal work. In fact, it was a huge hill of iron there. We can understand what amount of inconvenience that it is going to cause. From that point of view, I would request the Communications Ministry to develop the ports in that area and also to have railway line so that this trade from the west coast may be improved and developed. This is essential from the point of view of the Corporation also.

Another point in connection with the roads is this. There are a number of rivers and there are small bridges on these roads. Because there are very heavy rains in the western ghats, these bridges are not able to stand the weight of the heavy trucks. It may involve only some small expenditure. We are spending so much. But these roads are not improved. I would request the Ministry and also the STC to take this matter up seriously with the Transport Ministry and see that the roads and ports are improved.

Shri Ramaswami Tanti: Sometime before, I was also of the same view as the other hon. Members who

thought that the State Trading Corporation is a hindrance in our export trade and that it would lessen our export trade and foreign exchange to some extent. I am not in manganese trade or iron ore trade, but I was told that our export trade in these had gone down because the STC had entered into this trade and so the STC was not competent to ship them and they had to pay a heavy demurrage. I was listening to all these things in the House and I read in the papers also about them.

Last year or early this year, the export of raw jute was considered and after due consideration the export trade was given to the STC. I was one of those who thought that the export of jute was a technical thing. There were many grades and the STC, as a newcomer would not be able to handle that properly. I was thinking that we would lose our name in the foreign markets and probably our quality would not be equal to that of Pakistan jute. But now I have no hesitation in saying that the STC has done more than what we thought in regard to the export of jute. Now, the export of raw jute is handled by the STC and no private shipper can export it. It seems we have till now shipped raw jute worth Rs. 3 crores. The STC had its own inspectors to verify the quality and we hear that it is as good as Pakistan's jute. It seems that there are greater demands from all those countries which received our jute. We exported about a lakh of bales to the communist countries and about 50,000 bales to the continental countries. The trade negotiations with the communist countries were conducted by the STC which those with the continental countries, by the private traders. Comparing the prices the STC got for this, it seems that it got Rs. 7 less per bale from the communist countries than the continental countries. The STC might have lost something in the iron ore export or the manganese ore export. I do not know about it. But in regard to jute, I can say this that by entering this, they have got

[Shri Rameshwar Tantia]

more money than what they should have got. The report says that the STC made a profit of Rs 2.33 crores. I am not happy over that because it has only a capital of Rs 1 crores. It seems to be profiteering. It is not desirable.

Shri Satish Chandra. But what about the volume of business?

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: I think the profit should be restricted. Otherwise, this is a capitalist view. (Interruptions) Some hon. Members have said that the whole trade should go to the STC. I do not agree. It is very difficult. India is a big country and there are many importers and exporters. If the whole of it is entrusted to the STC it will do more harm than good.

Mr. Chairman: Now, I shall call the hon. Minister. We shall positively conclude this debate at 2.30. The hon. Mover also wants two or three minutes to reply. So, I would request the hon. Minister to finish before 2.30, leaving two—or three minutes for the reply.

Shri Kanungo: Sir, my hon. friend opposite claims the credit for the birth of the STC for himself and his associates. My task has been lengthened. I am grateful to him and other hon. Members of this House as well.

I have rather an awkward task in replying to this debate. If I may be permitted to draw rather a wide analogy, today the discussion may be considered to be a meeting of the shareholders. After all the President of India is the only shareholder of this company. In other words, it means that the Members of this House and the other House are the shareholders of this company and the shareholders, in their wisdom or otherwise, according to Shri Shukla, have appointed directors who, according to the like or dislike of the hon. Members, are duds or very capable

men. Here I would firmly deny the charges which have been anonymously made by my friend Shri V. P. Nayar about the business associations of the directors of the STC, their association with private firms. I strongly deny them with all the strength that I have.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Shall I give you the name?

Shri Kanungo: I shall be glad if he does.

Mr. Chairman: Not here. It can be done privately.

Shri Kanungo: The gentlemen concerned are not in this House. If he does give the names, I will give him a suitable reply. But I can say straightaway that the board of directors, as constituted, has no relation and possibly cannot have any relation, with any private trading company or other private interests at all.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I accept the challenge.

Shri Kanungo: I am sorry that this statement has been made in this House.

I shall take the last point first—that is, Shri Tantia's horror at a company with Rs 2 crores of capital, making a profit of two and odd crores of rupees. It is not such a dangerous factor at all. After all it is a trading organisation, it is not a manufacturing organisation. This trading organisation, though barely two years old, has been able to justify itself by trading profitably and producing profits for the shareholders of the company. There have been two distinct trends in the short debate in this House. One view has been that the operations of the State Trading Corporation should be expanded to the whole gamut of the external and internal trade of all commodities. I would submit, Sir, that when the agency of the State Trading Corporation was decided upon by this House it was

done with the distinct understanding that the Corporation shall not supplant trade but will supplement trade, because conditions have changed in such a way that aggressive salesmanship and forward looking efforts have got to be taken up in developing new areas and new commodities of trade. Thus House approved that the function of the State Trading Corporation should be that of a company, like many other companies, and it should in its operations associate itself with the existing trade channels. That is exactly what it has been doing, in spite of what my hon friend Shri Shukla says of the oppressions, malpractices and other factors.

14 hrs.

Sir, all I can claim on behalf of the State Trading Corporation in regard to its trading on import side is that it has been able to provide scarce raw materials at a price which is constant. Without this agency, the price fluctuations in earlier years were rather violent. It is well known, when there is a large gap between demand and supply there is bound to be fluctuations in prices and other malpractices as well. The State Trading Corporation can very amply take the credit that it has provided a channel by which scarce raw materials for running our industries are available at constant prices.

Shri Nayar's criticism was that the distributing agency should be more widespread or, in the alternative, as the other hon Member from that side suggested, the entire distribution should be handled by the State Trading Corporation right from the import to the consumer. As a matter of fact, most of the items are controlled by the Government. In fact, the State Trading Corporation and the distributors it appoints are merely controlled stockists, and allotments are made by the Government through its Development Wing. The margins of profit are all settled. The State Trading Corporation has been entrusted with the

work because they will adhere to the principles and to the procedures which this Government has provided for, and in choosing their distributors, I might submit, they have chosen such agencies where the control of the distribution can be observed and efficiency can be assured.

An hon. Member: How?

Shri Kanungo: Efficiency is assured in the sense that today the commodities which are sold are sold at fixed prices and there is no fluctuation of prices. That is one sure proof that the distribution organisation has worked well. As far as chemicals are concerned, a group of distributors who were in the trade before have been clubbed together into organisations and other corporate bodies, and they have been appointed as distributors of the State Trading Corporation.

The fundamental fact which has been kept in view by the State Trading Corporation, according to directions given to it by this House, is that they will use the existing trade channels to the best of their capacity. I would submit, Sir, that they have maintained it very efficiently. I would also say today that but for this operation by the Government through the agency of the State Trading Corporation the fluctuations in prices and other malpractices would have been too many.

Regarding cement, I would submit that this State Trading Corporation is merely an agency, and that agency has been chosen by Government because the Tariff Commission in its report had suggested that this agency can be used and it should be used. The prices of cement, as far as manufacturers are concerned, are controlled by Government according to the advice of the Tariff Board. The distribution at the final end is controlled by the State Governments. The function of the State Trading Corporation is to see that rationality is observed in the distribution of the material that

[Shri Kanungo]

is available and that the prices as far as stockists are concerned are kept under control.

I do not understand the implication of the suggestion of Shri Ram Krishan Gupta that the entire profits amounting to more than Rs. 35 crores could have been pocketed by the State Trading Corporation. The State Trading Corporation could not conceivably do it until they enter into the last rung in the retail trade and, as I said, according to the directions of this House they cannot go into the retail trade or the whole line of it. I think, within the limitations, they have done a good job of it. In fact, the prices have been kept constant and supplies have been adequate, and the State Trading Corporation can take credit to a certain extent that they have been able to develop certain export markets which normally would not have been possible otherwise.

Shri V. P. Nayar: If so much credit is taken, there is no scope for debit.

Shri Kanungo: It is hon Members who have provided the credit, barring one.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: A portion of the profit should be given to the consumers.

Shri Kanungo: There again, as my hon. friend Shri Gupta says, as far as the State Trading Corporation is concerned, Government have got to give the directions where the prices, as I said, are decided or settled by the Government on the advice of the Tariff Commission. I need not go into the logic of it—at other times when the Tariff Commission Report will be debated Shri Gupta can debate that point as well—but considering the fact that there are manufacturing establishments the prices of whose goods are settled with such wide disparity as Rs. 50 to Rs. 85, if there was no centralised agency for pooling the sales and having a pool price there would have been a sort of unrestricted "rate war" going on in this country. The low-cost units would try to sell at a lower price a larger turnover and

strain the limited transport capacity that is available. Therefore, the policy is not that of the State Trading Corporation, the policy is that of the Government, and within that limited policy the State Trading Corporation has done, I suppose, a good job of it.

The question of having or charging a lower price for cement is perhaps valid, but one thing has got to be taken into consideration, and that is, the STC is taking risks, and it took serious risks when it was directed by the Government to import cement at very high prices to meet the needs of the country. If its calculations had gone wrong, then it would have been saddled with losses. Therefore, it is not merely a profit which the STC is earning. When it earns any profit it also takes the risk of covering the losses in the past or in the future.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta mentioned about the showrooms and other things. But they are not the function of the STC. The function of the STC in developing new markets for new commodities is just beginning. In fact, this is the first year when it has been able to make a provision of Rs. 15 lakhs for development purposes. It never had it before. Considering the conditions of world trade as they are, and the keen competition and the experience of traders in other countries I believe that with a little patience the STC will justify the trust which the House has placed in it. At least, personally, to my mind, this Rs. 15 lakhs is just nothing in the form of development of trade contacts, because, after all, to run any worthwhile branch office will cost normally more than Rs. 15 lakhs, and up till today, the STC has not got a single branch office outside India though it does such a large amount of business.

Suggestions have been made that various commodities could be taken up so that trade in those commodities can be developed. That is exactly what the STC hopes to do. But regarding the broad suggestion that the

entire foreign trade as also the inter-
-national trade should be taken over by the
STC, I would submit that however
-ever the board of directors of the
STC might be, it depends upon the
direction which it receives from this
House through the Government. I
would also submit that today, the STC
being what it is, even if it is given
that responsibility it will be too much
for it to chew

Reference has been made to the dis-
-tribution of non-ferrous metals and
other commodities. As I said, these
are merely agency functions. In fact,
the STC would have been happier if
it were not saddled with this job, be-
-cause the returns on this work are
very low indeed. The STC is being
used by the Government as an agency
and the actual distribution is done,
under the orders of the Government,
to actual users of these scarce com-
-modities.

Shri V. P. Nayar: They sell it in the
black market at 300 or 400 per cent.

Shri Kanungo: There are always
black sheep. But all I want to sub-
-mit is that the amount of malpractice
has been reduced to the minimum.
During the stage between the import
and the distribution to the allottees
who are decided by the Government,
the STC takes full responsibility and
I can assure the House that there are
no malpractices in spite of Shri Vidya
Charan Shukla's allegations.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Do
they not sell export licences? What
is canalisation? (Interruption)

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

Shri Kanungo: I am in possession
of the House. I am coming to the
points which the hon. Member has
raised. I would next take up the
points which have been made by my
esteemed friend Shri Ranga who is not
here now. Shri Ranga used rather
strong words when he said that the
STC indulges in favouritism and disci-
-mination. The material on which he

based these charges is this, namely,
the purchase policy of the STC, as far
as metal ores are concerned, is, ac-
-cording to him, discriminatory. How?
In the public notices which have been
issued since 1957 onwards, the Gov-
-ernment directed the STC to use the
fullest capacity of the shippers who
were in the trade for 100 years. To-
-day, the STC is trying to do it and the
development within the last two and
a half years has been that it has
stabilised its procurement policy to
such an extent that it is today able
to offer the small man the benefits
which are available to richer asso-
-ciates.

My friend from Bellary just now
mentioned about a co-operative
society—

Shri Achar: Mangalore.

Shri Kanungo: Which receives the
same privileges and the same terms
as any other associate of the STC.
The fact is, thus. If larger producers
who have experience in this line, such
as larger mine-owners who have got
capacities, get larger orders, it is
simply because they can offer them. As
far as the difficulties of the Bihar and
Orissa mine-owners are concerned, I
may say one thing. I am supposed to
know something of it because I come
from that part of the country. It is
the misfortune of the mine-owners of
Bihar and Orissa that there are more
efficient mine-owners and shippers
elsewhere in the country than happen
to be in that region.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Only
one shipper.

Shri Kanungo: From the whole of
the southern region—Bellary-Hospet
region—the STC gets more attractive
offers, and but for the direction of
the Government and the limitation of
transport, an ordinary profit motive
would induce any trading organisation
to concentrate more on the Bellary-
Hospet region than anywhere else. It
is only because the STC is handling it
that it is able to cushion to a certain
extent the high cost in the matter of

[Shri Kanungo]

availability of iron ore for export shipment. The other factor must also be remembered. Our internal capacity for consuming iron ore has been entirely based upon the availability of iron ore in that region. Moreover, when the steel-making capacity in this country grows, to that extent, the availability of iron ore for export from that particular region—Bihar and Orissa—will be limited. There is nothing to be sorry about it, because the off-take will be assured irrespective of the fluctuations of the export market.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: 30 mine owners have closed their mines there. Whatever may be done later on, for the time being, they have closed down the mines.

Shri Kanungo: The closing down of mines is not a new factor. My experience for 30 years in the Central Provinces and Bihar has been that mines are closed and opened for many other reasons. It is not due to the operation of the STC. The STC has today embarked on a policy of distributing its patronage on an acreage-basis in the Bihar-Orissa area. Any businessman will buy in the cheapest market and confine his purchases to near about railway lines, and not go to mines which are situated in uneconomic areas. The STC has done the utmost it can do. It has distributed its patronage on an acreage-basis. Shri Shukla's charges of coercion and he used some stronger word "mal-practice"—are not justified. It is easy to say all that. The Railway Board, naturally, is the authority to decide which party is to be allotted which area. Knowing as they do that today STC are the sole shippers of iron ore, I think they are perfectly justified in preferring those parties who have contracts with the STC.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: I am talking of manganese ore and not iron ore.

Shri Kanungo: As far as manganese ore is concerned, STC has got only 50 per cent. of the quota; the other 50 per cent is open to everybody. The allotment of space is the responsibility of the railways. Naturally it has got to be allotted to such parties who can make the maximum use of it and not hold the plots for ransom for other parties. The judge of the situation is the railway authority. If the railway authority have taken the decision that those who have foreign contracts and STC will have preference, I think they are justified in the sense that they have got the larger turnover....

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Not necessarily.

Shri Kanungo: It does not rule out that others will not have a chance.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: It has ruled out. It has been mentioned in the Railway District Commercial Superintendent's reply to the M. P. Mineral Development Corporation.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The Minister is not yielding.

Shri Kanungo: I am prepared to speak on behalf of the Transport Ministry that they use their best judgment to give it to such people who can make the maximum use of the plots allotted to them. As far as the STC is concerned, we have never approached them to give us any preference. The railway today treats the STC on a par with any other trading organisation in the country.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: That is not correct.

Mr. Chairman: I do not approve of this sort of running commentary. This is not correct. If the hon. Minister yields, the hon. Member can get up. Otherwise, this sort of running commentary while the Minister is giving his reply is not allowed.

Shri Kanungo: As far as the manganese ore trade is concerned, I certainly admit that the manganese ore trade has been reduced. I am not going to compare the performance of the 50 per cent quota holders and of the STC which holds 50 per cent of the quota. It is a credit to the associates of the STC who have helped the STC in fulfilling whatever exports could be possibly fulfilled. If the total exports have fallen, the reasons have been explained in this House very often. I will challenge anybody. But for the efforts of the STC in the form of triangular contracts, link deals and barter agreements, I do not know what opportunities there would have been to revive the trade.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): What is the up-shot of all your efforts for the sake of manganese trade?

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: We were exporting 16 lakhs tons of manganese ore....

Mr. Chairman: How can I approve of two people talking at a time?

Shri Kanungo: The confusion created by Shri Shukla is that after the STC entered into the manganese ore trade, the exports have been reduced. I dispute it. Of course, opinions can differ about it. Today, the quota-holders are in a much better position than they were, because public notices have been issued from 1958 onwards and it has been stated that anybody who has got a contract for more than three years or for any period up to 3 years can get *ad hoc* quotas from Government. Therefore, today the quota-holder is very much at an advantage, because as soon as he completes the contract, he gets movement facilities and quota facilities. To say that the STC is the villain of the piece is not correct.

But I must say that the STC is not perfect. It is only two years old and it has got to gain experience. I believe the shortcomings which are inherent in it because of its new experience will

be eradicated as soon as possible. I also believe the success which has been attained and the encomiums given to the STC in today's discussion will encourage them to run their affairs more efficiently and to get over their shortcomings.

Regarding staff and other matters, I have no time to deal with them. It is a fact that the staff are working under various disadvantages. They are not treated as Government servants, because they are not Government servants.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Have you seen their office? It is a dungeon.

Shri Kanungo: The STC is constructing buildings for its office, for housing the staff, etc.

I am grateful to the Members of the House that on the whole, largely the efforts of the STC have been appreciated.

श्री राम कृष्ण गुप्त : मि० चेयरमैन, मैं आप के जरिये माननीय मंत्री जी का शुक्रिया अदा करता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस बात को तस्लीम कर लिया है कि एस० टी० सी० का काम अभी तक मुकम्मल नहीं हुआ, वह परफेक्ट नहीं है और जो डिफेक्ट्स उसमें हैं, उनको इरैडिकेट करने की पूरी कोशिश की जा रही है। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि नैक्स्ट यीअर तक इस काम में जितने डिफेक्ट्स हैं, उनको काफी से ज्यादा दूर कर दिया जायेगा। जैसा कि अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है, ट्रेड की बहुत सी ऐसी एक्टिविटीज हैं कि जिनका एस० टी० सी० से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है। मैं अपील करूंगा कि सब से ज्यादा जरूरत इस बात की है कि कम से कम जो गवर्नमेंट के ट्रेड के अलग अलग डिपार्टमेंट हैं, उनको जरूर युनाइटेड और को-ऑर्डिनेट कर दिया जाये और उस तमाम काम को एस० टी० सी० चलाये। मिसाल के तौर पर स्टील कंट्रोलर भी काम

[श्री रामकृष्ण गुप्ता]

कर रहा है और स्माल-स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज कॉर्पो-
रेशन भी अलग काम कर रही है। इस से भी
काफी विकसित जाती है और मुझे पूरा विश्वास
है कि जितना ट्रेड का काम किया जाता है,
उस तमाम को को-ऑर्डिनेट किया जायगा
वह एस० टी० मी० के धू किया जायगा।

इस के अलावा मैं कोई नई बात नहीं
कहना चाहता हूँ। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि
नैक्सट मीमर जो रिपोर्ट पेश की जायगी,
श्री पिन्कर हाउस के सामने रखी जायगी,
वह इस साल से और भी ज्यादा बेहतर होगी,
जैसे कि इस साल की रिपोर्ट पिछले साल से
ज्यादा अच्छी है।

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That this House takes note of
the Second Annual Report of the
State Trading Corporation of India
Limited for the period ending the
30th June, 1958, laid on the Table
of the House on the 29th April,
1959."

The motion was adopted.

14.30 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE
MEMBERS' BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS

FIFTIETH REPORT

Mr. Chairman: The House will now
take up Private Members' Bills.

Shri Ram Krishna Gupta (Mahend-
ragarh): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with
the Fiftieth Report of the Com-
mittee on Private Members' Bills
and Resolutions presented to the
House on the 9th September,
1959."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That this House agrees with
the Fiftieth Report of the Com-

mittee on Private Members' Bills
and Resolutions presented to the
House on the 9th September,
1959."

The motion was adopted.

14.30½ hrs.

MIRZAPUR STONE MAHAL
(AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

(AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3) BY SHRI
RAGHUNATH SINGH—contd.

Mr. Chairman: The House will now
resume further consideration of the
following motion moved by Shri
Raghunath on the 28th August, 1959:

"That the Bill further to amend
the Mirzapur Stone Mahal Act,
1886 be taken into consideration."

Out of one hour allotted for the dis-
cussion of the Bill, one minute has al-
ready been taken on the 28th August,
1959 and 59 minutes are now avail-
able for further discussion today.
Shri Raghunath Singh may continue
his speech.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह (वाराणसी) : सभापति
महोदय, यह एक बहुत पुराना स्टोन कानून
है, जो १८८६ में पार हुआ था। जैसा कि सब
को मालूम है, मिर्जापुर प्राचीन काल से ही
पत्थर के कारोबार में अग्रणी रहा है। हिन्दु-
स्तान में चार पांच प्रकार के पत्थर होते हैं,
जैसे सफ़ेद पत्थर, काला पत्थर, भूरा पत्थर
और लाल पत्थर वगैरह। यह कानून स्टोन के
सम्बन्ध में है, लेकिन स्टोन क्या पत्थर है और
मिर्जापुर में किस प्रकार का स्टोन होता है,
इस एक्ट में इस की कहीं परिभाषा नहीं है।
मैं इस बात को मानता हूँ कि भारतीय
संविधान के सातवें सिक्खल की २३वीं एन्ट्री
के अनुसार यह अब स्टेट सबजेक्ट हो गया है
और स्टेट्स को इस सम्बन्ध में कानून बनाने
का अधिकार प्राप्त है, लेकिन मैंने इस विधेयक
को यहाँ इसलिए उपस्थित किया था कि चूंकि
यह स्टोन एक्ट है, अतएव इस संसद् की यह
अधिकार प्राप्त है कि वह इस संशोधन को