

1967 a credit of \$ 17 million for installation of a modern Troposcatter Communication System which had originally been planned to be given in 1964-65 on a grant basis. The credit offered was accepted by us in May 1968.

(b) No, Sir.

Tenders have been invited from the U.S. Air Force, Bharat Electronics Ltd and Department of Atomic Energy for establishment of the Troposcatter Communication System. These are yet to be received and considered. The time for completion will depend upon the schedule given by the tenderer whose bid is finally accepted.

#### State Trading Corporation

\*650. SHRI PREM CHAND  
VERMA;  
SHRI DEVEN SEN:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are re-considering their policy with a view to increasing the field of operation of the State Trading Corporation;

(b) whether Government are also considering the proposal that those items of import which give monopolistic powers should be imported through the State Trading Corporation;

(c) whether Government have under consideration the policy of nationalisation of import and export trade;

(d) if so, when a decision is likely to be reached and if not the reasons which stand in the way of nationalisation; and

(e) the value of imports and exports of the State Trading Corporation and profit or loss which was incurred during 1968-69?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) to (d). It

is the policy of the Government to extend progressively the scope of activities of the State Trading agencies in the import and export trade. In accordance with this policy import and export of a number of commodities has been canalised through STC and MMTC. Such canalisation is proposed to be extended in future to such new items as are found suitable for state trading.

(e) The trade of State Trading Corporation and the profit during 1968-69 were as follows:—

	Rs. crores
Exports	48.46
Imports	114.06
Domestic Trade	4.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>167.18</b>
Profit before tax	12.09
Profit after tax	3.7

#### Price of Shaktiman Trucks

\*651. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of a Shaktiman truck is much higher as compared to the prices of other trucks manufactured in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bring down the price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Tagore House in East Pakistan

\*652. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the house of late Poet Rabindra Nath