

cement factory but the Cement Corporation of India starting a cement factory at Yerraguntla. For the purpose of making a study of the location of the plant and the potentialities of the place, the field investigations were completed. But unfortunately so far, the Cement Corporation of India has not sent any project report. I fully sympathise with the sentiments expressed by the hon'ble **Member about the poverty-stricken condition of the area.**

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: May I know, Sir, the number of cement factories in Andhra Pradesh and what is the annual production of these factories and what proportion does it bear to the entire production of the country?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, according to the information we have got on record the annual capacity of the cement factories located in Andhra Pradesh is:

	Million Tonnes
Andhra Cement, Vijayawada	0.20
K. C. P. Kacherla	0.25
A C C. Limited, Kistna	0.26
A.C.C. Limited, Mancherla	0.34
Panyam Cements, Cement Nagar	0.16
Ramagundam	0.20

I have not calculated the total percentage in the list of total production.

EXPORT BY EXPORT HOUSES

- *159. **SHRI A. G. KULKARNI†:**
SHRI M. M. DHARIA:
SHRI G. R. PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of exports by Export Houses out of the exports during the years 1966 and 1967; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.

(b) the percentage of exports by the State Trading Corporation of India on account of Small Industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) According to the information received from the Recognised Export Houses, the exports made by them during 1966 and 1967 were about 14 per cent and 15 per cent respectively of total exports.

(b) The percentage of exports by the State Trading Corporation of India on account of small industries is 0.7 per cent during each of the years 1966 and 1967.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: May I know whether the Government has recognised Export Houses as an agency to boost exports? They have liberalised the scheme of concession for the Export Houses. In this connection, I would like to know whether the Government has studied the effect of the liberalised scheme for Export Houses. That is my question number one. Secondly, as regards the State Trading Corporation, on page 18 of the latest report of the STC, they say that they have effected exports from the small-scale industry of 197 units only and 0.7 per cent or whatever it is of total Engineering Exports? When there are about 1,20,000 small-scale units in this country and they are producing about 30 per cent of the total industrial production in this country, may I know whether the Government thinks that pattern of exports through the STC has got any intrinsic defects and, if so, what are the steps to remedy those defects?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, actually the two parts of the question can be combined together and I can reply accordingly. The State Trading Corporation has already initiated action and has constituted a panel headed by the Chairman of the STC to discuss the matters of small-scale industries, and the hon. Member

is a Member of that panel. The panel is meeting very shortly and after the panel meets, they will be in a position to submit a report to the Government and the Government will not hesitate to take whatever action is necessary.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Now, in reply to question (a), a percentage has been given. In reply to a previous question, the Minister of Commerce said that exports had increased to Rs. 36 crores. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Commerce whether this percentage is a pre-devaluation figure or a post-devaluation figure, because otherwise it would be misleading the House.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, the percentage of exports in the total exports or the percentage of exports of one sector in the total exports remains the same. I expressed it in the same currency. The percentage will remain the same.

SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON. Sir, I have seen from reports in the papers that there was a proposal to start an Export House for the promotion of coir and coir products. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state at what stage that proposal is at the present moment and in what time Government will be able to set up that Export House?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, with regard to an Export House for coir, the matter has to be taken up in consultation with the Government of Kerala and knowing fully well the importance of this particular industry which is a foreign exchange earner for this country, a decision with regard to this will be taken very soon.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Sir, during the past few months, the export of shoes and footwear has gone down to a great extent and a number of workers have been rendered unemployed for a long time. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the State Trading Corporation is taking any steps to promote the export of shoes and footwear?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, this matter is always under the constant review of the Government and the STC, to see that the exports of shoes go up. So far as the figures are concerned, there is no matter for concern. The export of shoes is going up and we intend not only to maintain this export . . .

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: I wanted to know what steps have been taken to maintain that figure of shoe exports. During the past few months, hundreds, why hundreds, thousands of people have been rendered unemployed in Agra, Kanpur and other places. So I want to know what steps have been taken to promote the export and to maintain the production of shoes, at present level.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, I have made this clear. I have said that our exports have increased. Where is the question of maintaining our exports?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know whether it is a fact that even though the STC gets quite a good price from Russia and other Communist countries for shoes, the price that they are paying to the manufacturers of shoes is very low? The difference between the price that they get and the price that they pay is about Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 or may be Rs. 15 per pair. Is it justified for the State Trading Corporation a State undertaking, to pinch away that much of money out of the price that they get from the Communist countries?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, it is not a question of paying less to the manufacturers of shoes. The House is very well aware that when exports were allowed freely, certain individual firms had exported shoes and they were of a very low quality. The result was that our exports suffered. It was keeping this thing in view that the State Trading Corporation took over the exports of shoes to almost all the destinations. That was just to see that whatever we pro-

duce is of the best quality and what ever is exported is of standard quality as required by the importing country, that the price is competitive and that the delivery schedules are properly maintained. It is with this view that the STC went in. It is not that the STC wanted to take away the bulk of the profit of the exporters. The fact is, the STC has got together all the small-scale industry people, and in order to give them more benefit, it has taken over the export of shoes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

NEW MARKETS FOR S.T.C. AND M.M.T.C.

*160. SHRI Z. A. AHMAD:
SHRI ARJUN ARORA†:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of the steps taken by the State Trading Corporation and the M.M.T.C. to explore new markets for export of (i) traditional and (ii) non-traditional items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals trading Corporation maintain active contacts with trade agencies in India and foreign countries for increasing exports of both traditional and non-traditional items and exploring new markets. Efforts are made by the Corporations to diversify India's export trade by appointing selling agents in foreign countries, negotiating contracts through business associates, promoting sale of difficult-to-sell items by appropriate subsidies and incentives and incurring developmental expenditure for promotion of new items and exploration of new markets.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora.

Barter, link and parallel deals are also entered into in order to explore new markets and promote the export of non-traditional items.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, I want to draw your attention to the statement. Can the Minister escape replying to the question by merely saying that a statement is laid on the table of the House and then laying on the Table a statement which is the vaguest possible and does not give any information? My question was about the "details of the steps taken by the two Corporations". And here they say merely one thing—"we have appointed selling agents and we maintain contacts with our associates." So this statement is not worth the paper on which it is written. It is a waste of valuable stationery and does not give a reply to my question. May I request you, Sir, to direct the Minister to read the question more carefully and ensure that the statements sent up by their subordinate do fulfil the requirements of replying to a question. There is nothing in this statement except 'we maintain contacts and we have appointed selling agents.'

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put the question.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know what the countries are in which the two Corporations have appointed selling agents and who the business associates are with whom they maintain contacts, and why they do not do any other promotional activity except appointing selling agents and maintaining contacts with nondescripts?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: As regards the first part, the hon. Member has the privilege of asking supplementaries if he finds any vagueness in the statement given by us. But as regards the second, because details have been asked for, I will require notice for that.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The details were asked for in the original question itself.