PRODUCTION CONCENTRATION AND THE CONSUMER—Comments on a point touched by the Monopolies Inquiry Commission

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PART I

- 1. AFTER GIVING the industrial groupwise (descriptive) summary of about 1300 indigenously manufactured products, the Monopolies Inquiry Commission proceeds, in its report, to state the concentration position of "about 100 products specially selected in view of their importance to the ordinary consumer". This statement is followed by a statistical table containing exactly 100 products with the percentage share (in production) of top three enterprises along with the degree of concentration "H, M, L or N" and the number of enterprises. The chapter on productwise concentration ends abruptly at this stage without giving any idea about its extent or its impact on the ordinary or average consumer. The official summary, moreover, mentions that out of these 100 products "high" concentration is found in 65 products. Such a statement may be literally true, but is devoid of any meaningful content as the products are non-additive and non-representative, and so it can lead to wrong conclusions.
- 2. This note is a criticism of the way "the ordinary consumer" has been visualized and treated by the Commission. Even a cursory glance at the "specially selected 100 products" reveals that the ordinary consumer as visualized by the Commission is a gross misconception. The objections are at least three-fold, viz., (i) the approach to the problem, (ii) selection of the products, and (iii) presentation of the data.
- 3. It is apparent that the Commission intends to refer to the final consumers (people of the society), and not to all sorts of business enterprises which are also consumers in a wider sense. The Commission is concerned with the ordinary consumer but nowhere explains what it means by the term "ordinary". He could be an average person of the middle income group in India such that more or less equal number of

¹ Report of the Monopolies Inquiry Commission, 1965, Vol. I and II, p. 30.

persons might be above and below his income or consumption expenditure level. Or he could be conceived as a hypothetical average consumer with income or consumption expenditure the same as per capita income or consumption expenditure. Or one may be concerned with the 90 per cent or 95 per cent of the masses excluding the top (rich) 10 per cent or five per cent persons. One can think of many more alternatives at theoretical level. In practice, however, the inadequacy of readily available data severely restricts their scope and choice.

- 4. How should the importance of a commodity to a consumer be judged? The Commission simply lists the products in the aforesaid statement and gives the volume of physical production in Appendix C. An immediate problem of combining the various products to have an overall view arises. As the various consumer goods are heterogeneous (non-additive), their physical volumes cannot be added in any meaningful way, and one has to rely upon the value of output or consumption. Further, the consumer is concerned with the volume of goods available for consumption, rather than indigenous production. Moreover, the problem is at what price it should be evaluated. The consumption may be evaluated at the average price paid by the consumers. Thus the importance of a commodity to the consumers may be judged by the amount of money spent in buying the commodity, or by the amount of money foregone in retaining or exchanging the commodity.
- 5. Curiously enough products like infant milk food, corn and wheat flakes, chocolate including drinking-chocolate, tooth paste, talcum powder are included on the one hand, and cars, motor cycles, scooters, various automobile accessories, and domestic refrigerators on the other. One wonders at the notion of an "ordinary (Indian) consumer" as conceived by the Commission. He appears to be not even a Babu riding a bicycle or bus in a metropolitân city, but a rich professional man, business executive or senior government official who enjoys the refrigerated food as well as car-driving. Needless to say that such products are not used even by the top (rich) 10 per cent or five per cent people of India where more than 90 per cent or 95 per cent of the population cannot even think of using or owning these expensive products or articles. Thus the picture depicted by the Commission is misleading, as an ordinary consumer is hardly concerned with most of the "high" concentration products included in the Commission's

- list. However, he does suffer from restrictive practices like hoarding and profiteering on the one hand, and all round scarcity, high prices, and deteriorating quality of consumer goods on the other.
- 6. One further observes that the above-mentioned list is not only confined to the consumer goods but also includes non-consumable products like commercial vehicles, jeeps and their accessories including giant tyres and tubes, wrapping paper-kraft, building materials which are neither consumer durables nor non-durables. The Commission has given 23 transport goods (an excessively long list) out of which 17 refer to the automobile industry, forgetting the fact that India is passing through the "bicycle age" as stated recently by the late Prime Minister Nehru. Moreover, in addition to the kerosene oil as fuel the list contains petroleum and coal. Neither petroleum nor coal (mineral) is a final product, and a domestic consumer uses at the most motor spirit, and soft coke as fuel besides wood, charcoal or cowdung. Clothing includes some varieties of cotton and woollen fabrics (the word "cotton" does not find a place in the Report), but none from artificial silk fabrics although they are consumed more than the woollans, Finally, (allopathic) medicines have been excessively represented - the list of 100 products includes as many as 19 medicines/products. Thus there appears to be utter confusion about the type of products and their importance to the ordinary consumer.
- 7. Finally, one hardly finds any system of arranging the 100 products except that they are put into eight groups with one groupheading (namely, food) missing. Firstly, grouping is rather odd—household goods to include pencils, printing—and writing-paper along with sewing machines and electric fans; conventional necessities to include tooth paste, talcum powder. Secondly, even within a group, products are hardly arranged in order. In "clothing" (cotton) shirtings (item 17) is given in between woollen wearable fabrics (item 16) and worsted knitting-yarn (item 18); "household goods" include both clocks (item 40) and time pieces (item 43) but separated by blankets and rugs (item 41) and lampwares (item 42). These products could have been easily arranged either by their end use, origin, percentage share of top three enterprises, importance to consumers or alphabetically.
- Another important limitation is the fact that the coverage of the production data presented in the aforesaid statement is confined more

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or less to the organized sector and generally does not include the production of small enterprises. As a consequence of this limitation the degree of concentration is misrepresented in many cases. For instance, leather footwear of western or indigenous type is shown with "high" degree --- share of top three being 98 per cent or 99 per cent, although it is well known that the production of footwear in the unorganized sector is of the order of 90 per cent of total, and the Commission appears to be aware of this situation (page 25). Similarly, the Commission refers to the production of watches, washing-soap, bicycles, sewing machines, radio receivers, and electric fans in the smallscale sector, but nothing is indicated in the aforesaid statistical statement. To save the readers from drawing wrong conclusions, the Commission could have at least asterisked the products which were known to be produced in the unorganized sector. In addition to these products, production of buscuits, stoves (both pressure and non-pressure type) and steel furniture in the unorganized sector should also have been indicated.

9. Finally, the Commission does not specify the products which are known to be produced in the public sector, or whose prices are regulated by the government, or whose domestic demand is substantially met by imports. These are the countervailing powers to the potential monopolistic or restrictive trade-practices indicated by the "high" degree of concentration. In the absence of any indication, a reader is liable to draw unwarranted inferences. Some of these products are sugar vanaspati, kerosene oil, matches, salt, paper, penicillin, streptomycin, electric lamps and certain varieties of cotton cloth on the one hand, and bicycles, wrist watches, scooters, motor cycles and cars on the other.

PART II

10. An attempt is made in the subsequent paragraphs to meet some of the objections in a more constructive way by taking into consideration certain manufactured (consumer) goods which are of importance to an ordinary/average Indian consumer as reflected in the overall consumption-pattern² and for which some sort of concentration ratios

² KANSAL, S. M. and M. R. Salluja, Preliminary Estimate of Total Communition Expenditure (Indian Association of Research in National Income and Wealth, Papers on National Income & Allied Topics, Volume III, Bombay, Asia Publishing House, 1966).

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are available from the Report. As the Report does not refer to the services like transport, communications, housing, professions and liberal arts, etc., or to agriculture sector producing a variety of food items such as food-grains, vegetables and fruits, milk, meat, fish, etc. which are consumed directly or after nominal processing, only the manufactured consumer goods are accounted for in the following.

- 11. It should be clarified at the outset that the given consumption pattern (of manufactured goods) only depicts a rough picture which may not be too far from the reality but would be definitely more representative and meaningful than the one implied by the Commission. This exercise is based on the consumer expenditure estimated by the production approach (i.e., availability for final consumption = indigenous production + imports exports intermediate uses change in capital stock) by Kansal and Saluja.³
- The manufacture activity in the organized as well as unorganized sectors is considered here. It includes services like tailoring, repairing of shoes, bicycles and automobiles; printing and book binding; and electricity. The consumer expenditure is combined for the households and the government; as the latter may not constitute even 10 per cent of the former, that may not much distort the consumption pattern. Further, certain limitations are introduced because of the non-availability of required concentration ratios. Firstly, for certain products and product-groups like drugs and pharmaceuticals, plastic and cellulose products, umbrellas, preserved fruits and vegetables, and many other non-engineering products, the degree of concentration is neither available nor can it be easily estimated. Secondly, the available concentration ratios refer to the indigenous (physical) production in 1964 and not to the sales or value of output/consumption during 1963-64 as required here. Moreover, issues arising out of the substitutability of products are completely ignored.
- 13. As this is only an illustrative work to study the extent of concentration in consumer goods with a view to assessing the myths and realities of the "ordinary consumer" conceived by the Commission, it was not necessary at this stage to conduct a study of the consumption pattern by income/expenditure classes or fractile groups. It may suffice to state that the extent of poverty and extreme inequality in the level of living have been grossly overlooked by the Commission.

3 Ibid.

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Until recently (1957) not even one fiftieth of rural and one fourth of urban households had watches while bicycles were owned not even by one fiftieth of rural and one eighth of urban households. Moreover, the top deciles in urban/rural households were owning 37 per cent and 44 per cent watches and 25 per cent and 37 per cent bicycles. These facts should indicate that the list of "Products of common use" has been prepared rather liberally so that there is no under-representation of "high" concentration products.

- 14. The total consumption-expenditure may be divided into primary (agricultural) products, manufactured products, and services in the ratios of 5:3:2; i.e., out of total consumption-expenditure of about Rs. 15,000 crores (in 1963-64 at 1960-61 retail prices) the manufacturing sector accounts for nearly Rs. 4,700 crores. About two fifths of this amount is spent on food, drinks and tobacco, about one-fourth on textiles, and about one-third for all other engineering and non-engineering products.
- 15. The detailed consumption pattern of manufactured products along with their degree of concentration and available percentage share of top three enterprises (in production) is presented in the Appendix and summarized below. The Appendix includes 78 products and productgroups covering about four fifths of consumption expenditure on manufactured products. For illustrative purpose these products have been (more or less arbitrarily) divided into 'products of common use'. and 'products not of common use' amounting to Rs. 3,730 crores and Rs. 145 crores respectively. The former comprises 55 products like sugar, cotton cloth, kerosene oil, footwear, bicycles, electric fans and wrist watches; whereas the latter consists of 23 products like infant milk food, pure silk fabrics, motor spirit, talcum powder, cars and refrigerators. The extent of "high" or "nil" concentration products in these two types is very contrasting. More than four fifths of the expenditure in former was on products with "nil" concentration. Whereas a similar proportion is occupied by "high" concentration in the latter.
- 16. Let us examine the consumption pattern of manufactured goods in some detail. In the 'food, drink and tobacco' group 'nil' degree of concentration is a very common feature. About Rs. 1200 crores are
- 4 MUKHERJEE, R. N. and G. S. CHATTERJEE, "Consumer Durables in India— Estimates of Stock of Some Selected Items" (presented to the Fifth Indian Econometric Conference held in New Delhi in December, 1965).

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spent on rice, wheat flour, atta, dal, vegetable oil, sugar and gur: all with 'N' degree and constituting about 25 per cent of total consumption expenditure on manufactured goods. Biri and vanaspati sharing about five per cent, also have 'N'. Only cigarettes (two per cent) have 'high' degree. In the 'textile' group both cotton cloth and art silk cloth (20 per cent) have 'N' degree (cotton cloth by variety also has 'N'). Woollen textiles sharing about one per cent have 'H' or 'I' degree. In the 'other non-engineering products' group, kerosene bil (three per cent) with 'H' is price controlled; drugs and pharmaceuticals, and soap (other than household and laundry) sharing four per cent also have 'H' degree. Footwear (two per cent) and household and laundry soap (one per cent) have 'N' degree. Although matches (0.6 per cent) have 'M' degree, their prices are regulated by the government. Among the 'engineering products' there are many items like bicycle parts, dry cells, razor blades, wrist watches (mostly manufactured in the public sector), with 'High' degree, but their total share is negligible (0.3 per cent). Some other products are with 'medium' or 'low' concentration, but their total share is also around (one per cent) only. Both the major items of this group, viz. domestic utensils and precious metals and jewellery (three per cent) have 'N' degree.6 17. Among the 'products not of common use' specifically considered here only airconditioners, steel furniture, and pure silk cloth (seven per cent) do not have "high" degree. However, prices of cars, scooters, motor cycles and motor spirit (one per cent) are regulated by the government, though they are with "high" degree of concentration. 18. It could be seen from the summary statement that the extent of "high" concentration manufactured products for an ordinary consumer is about 15 per cent (or 10 per cent if price controlled commodities are excluded), and not 65 per cent as can be inferred from the official statement that 65 out of 100 products have "high" concentration. Such a large extent of concentration is noticeable only in the products not generally used by the Indian masses. Out of the more important products of common use with "high" concentration prices of kerosene, penicillin and streptomycin (drugs) are regulated by the government, other "high" concentration products include cigarettes wearable and non-wearable woollen fabrics (other than gaberdine,

serge, suitings, blankets, rugs etc.), drugs and pharmaceuticals (ex-

⁵ Stainless steel utensils (not included here) may be an exception.

cept life-saving medicines), toilet and shaving-soaps, and rubber and canvas footwear. The products together with all other perhaps account for less than one sixth of total consumption expenditure on manufactured goods by the ordinary people. The position is very different, on the other hand, for the "products not of common use"—cars, scooters, motor cycles, refrigerators, face snow and cream, talcum powder, infant milk food, chocolate, motor spirit, etc. Here "high" concentration is a rule and not an exception.

19. So far the observations were confined only to the output of the manufacturing sector. Similar comments may be made with regard to the output of the agricultural and services sectors so as to cover the consumer's entire budget. Even without going into details it can be safely said that the problem of "high" concentration does not arise in the products of "agricultural" sector; and wherever it arises in the "services sector" it may be mostly the monopoly of the public sector. 20. Thus whatever may be the number of the "high" concentration products in the specially (wrongly) selected 100 or total 1300 industrial products, it should be clear from the foregoing discussion that "high" concentration in manufactured products is not the problem of the "common" men or the "ordinary" consumers, but it may be that of the "rich" people or "uncommon" consumers. The "ordinary" consumers face the problem of all-round sub-standard or adulterated products; acute scarcity of consumer goods and services including health, education and transport; soaring prices; and host of others.* But any analysis of these problems is outside the purview of this study.

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The indirect effects of concentration in industries other than the industries producing consumer goods, on the "ordinary" consumer are not taken into account here.

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Summary statement of consumption expenditure on/pattern of manufactured products by degree of concentration

	_ C	_	tion exp Rs. crore		re			raption p Rs. 1,000		
Industrial groups		Degr	ee of co	ncentr	ation		Degr	ee of cor	centre	ation
	Total	High	Mediun	1 Low	NII	Total	High	Medium	Low	NII
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
(A) Products of com-										
I Non-engineering products										
(a) Food, drink & tobacco	1735	110	_	_	1625	370	23	-	_	347
(b) Textiles	1140	20		30	1090	242	4	_	6	232
(c) Other non-engg products	625	339	30	26	230	134	73	6	6	45
II Engineering products	230	17	13	34	166	49	4	3	7	35
Total (A)	3730 (100)		43 (1)	90 (2)	3111 (84)	795	104	9	19	663
(B) Products not of common use										
I Non-engineering products	95	73	_	_	22	20	15	_	_	5
II Engineering products	50	40	2	_	8	12	9	_	_	2
Total (B)	145	113	2	-	30	32	24	İ		7
Total (A B)	3875	599	45	90	3141	827	128	10	19	670
	(100)	(16)	(1)	(2)	(81)					

Figures in brackets are the percentages of total in column two.

APPENDIX

Consumption expenditure/pattern of manufactured goods by degree of concentration

Name of Product	Consumption Expenditure (Rs. crores) (Onsumption Pattern (Rs. 1000) Degree of Concentration Percentage share Number of enterptiess	Remarks
(1)	(2) (3) (4) (5) (6)	(7)

(A) Products of common use

I Non-engineering product

(a) Food, drink &

	tobacco						
I.	Rice, wheat flour,						
	atta, dal	300	64	NŞ	_	_	§ Factories only
2.	Vegetable oil	300	64	N	20§	69	6 Organized sector only
3.	Sugar	300	64	N	11	171	§ Price regulated
4.	Gur & khandsari	300	64	NG	_	_	Mostly unorganized sector
5.	Biri	125	27	N	_	2316	§ Oragnized sector only
6.	Vanaspati	110	23	NŞ	38	36	§ Price regulated
7.	Cigarettes	110	23	H	83	9	-
8.	Tea (manufactured) 75	17	N	24	715	§ Minimum number
9.	Salt	30	7	N	27	185	-
10.	Country spirit	25	5	N	375	22	6 Organized sector only; price regulated
11.	Coffee	20	4	N	38	26	
12.	Non-alcoholic						
	beverages	15	3	N	ş	-	§ Mostly in unorganized sector
13.	Biscuits	15	3	M(N)*63§	28	§ Organized sector only
14.	Confectionery	10	2	N	416	29	§ Organized sector only
		1735	370				
(b)	Textiles						
1.	Cotton cloth (all						
	varieties)**	900	192	Nş	14	260	6 Organized sector; some varieties price regulated
2.	Art silk cloth	150	32	N§	-	170†	§ Estimated; † Minimum

^{*} The degree of concentration in bracket is obtained after taking into account the production in the unorganized sector.

^{••} Each of the ten varieties given on p. 256 of the Report also has 'N' degree of concentration.

Appendix-(Contd.)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
3.	Hosiery & other						
	knitted goods	30	6	N§			§ Estimated
4.	Worsted knitting						•
	yarn	15	3	L	52	20	
5.	Gaberdine, serge,						
	suitings, etc.	15	3	L	59	20	
6.	Other wearables	12	3	н	58	22	
7.	Blankels, rugs, etc.	10	2	N	46	16	
8.	Other non-wearable	s 8	2	Н	85	10	
		1140	243				
(c)	Other non-engineering	ng					
	products						
1.	Drugs & pharma-						
	couticals	135	29	H‡	_		§ Minium number
2.	Kerosene oil	135	29	H§	87		§ Price regulated
3.	Leather footwear	90	19	H(N)1	*** —	8§	6 Organized sector only
4.	Electricity	45	10	6	_	125	§ Mostly public sector; price regulated
,	tt surabald &						price regulated
5.	Household &	45	10	H(N	<u>ـ</u> ک		£ Manda
	laundry soap	45	10	Н	78§ 78§		Mostly unorganized sect
6.	Other soap	43	30	п	709	32	§ Total soap for organiz
7.	Matches	30	6	H(N	4)* 70	506	Organized sector only
							price regulated
8.	Paper	25	5	16	52	30	§ Price regulated
9.				,			, trice regulated
	pottery	20	4	No	_	_	§ Estimated
10.	Rubber & canvas			•			3 Commune
	footwear	15	3	н	75	16	
11.		12) .	N	_	_	§ Estimated; price regulat
12.		12		Νδ		_	Sestimated
13.				,			y Latinuted
15.	tubes	7	1	Н	85	11	
14.			ì	N6	_		§ Estimaed
15.		2	> :	H,	87		
16.		Ī,	j	L	54		
			_				
		625	133				

^{•••} Each of the three types—western, modern Indian and indigenous has 'N' what unorganized sector is taken into account.

[‡] Refer to individual drugs & pharmaceuticals given on pages 247-9 of the Report—\$6 out of 97 have 'H'.

Appendix—(Contd.)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
En	gineering products						
1.		75	16	NŞ	_	_	§ Estimated
2.	Precious metals			-			•
	& jewellery	75	16	N§	_		§ Estimated
3.	Bicycles	20	4	M(L)	• 55	178	§ Organized sector only
	•						price regulated
4.	Radio receivers	12	3	M(N))*	198	§ Organized sector only
5.	Electric fans	12	3	M(L)	* —	24§	§ Organized sector only
6.	Electric lamps	8 }	3	Μş	69	12	§ Price regulated
7.	Bicycle parts	7 §	,	Н	_	13§	§ Minimum number
8.	· .:	4)		н	100	2	•
9.		4		H(M)* 55	7§	§ Organized sector only
10.		j					, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	type)	3 [3	H(N)*	4§	§ Organized sector only
11.		e ?	•				, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
•••	type)			H(N))*	26	§ Organized sector only
12.	Razor blades	3		Н	96	5	5 6
13.	Hurricane lanterns	2		L	52	10	
14.		2 ງ		Η§	100	2	§ Mostly in public sector
15.	Time-pieces	1 }		н́	100	3	3 - really in paone nector
16.	•	1	- 1	H(N	* 30	56	§ Organized sector only
17.	- : · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1		M	70	10	j organized osciol only
		230	49		,,		
17.		—			commo		
) Prod			-		
	(B) Prod	ducis i	iot of H§	-		§ Price regulated
Noi	(B u-engineering products Motor spirit) Prod	ducts i	not of	commo	n use	§ Price regulated
Noi 1.	(B n-engineering products Motor spirit Pure silk cloth) Prod	ducis i	iot of H§	commo	n use	§ Price regulated
Noi 1. 2.	(B n-engineering products Motor spirit Pure silk cloth	35 22	ducis i	iot of H§	commo	n use	
Noi 1. 2.	(B n-engineering products Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type	35 22	ducts i	not of H§ N	<i>commo</i> 80	n use	
Noi 1. 2. 3.	(B n-engineering products Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale	35 22 7 7	ducts i	not of H§ N H	80 —	n use 6 -	§ Minimum number
Noi 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	n-engineering products Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste	35 22 7 7 5	7 5	H§ N H H	80 — 77 100§	n use 6 15§ 2	§ Minimum number
North 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.	n-engineering products Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste Malted milk food	35 22 7 7 5	ducts i	H§ N H H H	80 — 77 100§ 78	n use 6 - 15§ 2 8	§ Minimum number
Non 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	n-engineering products Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste Malted milk food Infant milk food	35 22 7 7 5	7 5	H§ N H H H H	80 — 77 100§ 78 97	n use 6 15§ 2 8 6	§ Minimum number
Nor 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	n-engineering products Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste Malted milk food Infant milk food Face snow & cream	35 22 7 7 5 3 3	7 5	H§ N H H H H H	80 — 77 100§ 78 97 100 83	n use 6 - 15§ 2 8 6 3	§ Minimum number
Nor 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.	definition of the same was a construct of the same with the same was a construct of the same with the same was a construct of the same was a c	35 22 7 7 7 5 3 3 3 3	7 5	H§ N H H H H	80 — 77 100§ 78 97 100	n use 6 15§ 2 8 6 3 14	§ Minimum number
Nor 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste Malted milk food Infant milk food Face snow & cream Car tyres & tubes Condensed sweetene	35 22 7 7 5 3 3 3 3	7 5 3 > 3	H§ N H H H H H	80 — 77 100§ 78 97 100 83	n use 6 15§ 2 8 6 3 14	§ Minimum number
Nor 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.	Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste Malted milk food Infant milk food Face snow & cream Car tyres & tubes Condensed sweeten	35 22 7 7 5 3 3 3 3	7 5 3 > 3	HS N HHHHHHHHHH	80 — 77 100§ 78 97 100 83 80 100	15§2 8 6 3 14 7	§ Minimum number
Nor 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste Malted milk food Infant milk food Face snow & cream Car tyres & tubes Condensed sweeten milk Talcum powder	35 22 7 7 5 3 3 3 3 3	7 5 3 > 3	HS N HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH	80 — 77 100§ 78 97 100 83 80 100 77	15§2 8 6 3 14	§ Minimum number
Nor 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste Malted milk food Infant milk food Face snow & cream Car tyres & tubes Condensed sweeten milk Talcum powder Face powder	35 22 7 7 5 3 3 3 3	7 5 3 > 3	HS N HHHHHHHHHH	80 — 77 100§ 78 97 100 83 80 100	n use 6 15§ 2 8 6 3 14 7 4	§ Minimum number
Nor 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste Malted milk food Infant milk food Face snow & cream Car tyres & tubes Condensed sweeten milk Talcum powder Face powder Scooter tyres &	35 22 7 7 5 3 3 3 3 3 2 2	7 5 3 > 3	HS N HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH	80 — 77 100§ 78 97 100 83 80 100 77	n use 6 15§ 2 8 6 3 14 7 4	§ Minimum number
Non 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste Malted milk food Infant milk food Face snow & cream Car tyres & tubes Condensed sweeten milk Talcum powder Face powder Scooter tyres & tubes tubes	35 22 7 7 7 5 3 3 3 3 2 2 1	7 5 3 > 3	HS N H H H H H H H H H H	80 — 77 100§ 78 97 100 83 80 100 77 91	15§ 2 8 6 3 14 7 4 19 12	§ Minimum number
Nor 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	Motor spirit Pure silk cloth Liquors of foreign type Beer and ale Tooth paste Malted milk food Infant milk food Face snow & cream Car tyres & tubes Condensed sweeten milk Talcum powder Face powder Scooter tyres & tubes tubes	35 22 7 7 5 3 3 3 3 3 2 2	7 5 3 > 3	HS N H H H H H H H H H H H H	20mmo 80 	15§2 8 6 3 14 7 4 19	§ Minimum number

Appendix-(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
ngineering products						
1. Cars	18]	5	H§	001	3	§ Price regulated
2. Steel furniture	8 }	3	M(N)° §	_	§ Estimated
3. Scooters, motor	Ì					
cycles	6		ΗŞ	100	3	§ Price regulated
1. Storage batteries	6 }	3	H	88	12	•
5. Domestic refrige-	Í					
rators	3 ∫		Н	89	6	
6. Automobile ancil-	ነ					
laries	3		Н	_	-	
7. Fluorescent tubes	2 }	2	Н	100	3	
l. Typewriters	2		Н	97	4	
. Airconditioners	2]		M	61	8	
	_	_				
	50	10				

Summary

The Monopolies Inquiry Commission selected 100 manufactured products in view of their importance to the ordinary consumer in India. The official summary of the Report of this Commission states that 65 products out of these 100 have high concentration. This gives an impression that an "ordinary" consumer is a victim of "high" concentration. It is contended here that the "ordinary" consumer has been grossly misconceived by the Commission and the above inference does not bear any scrutiny.

The above stand of the Commission has been examined from three different angles, viz., the approach, the selection of products and the presentation. The existence of the countervailing powers; viz., unorganized/public sector, imports, price regulations/controls have been overlooked in this context, even though the Commission is conscious about them.

An illustrative consumption pattern of manufactured goods based on production approach is drawn for 1963-64 to assess the extent of concentration in manufactured consumer goods. It includes 78 products divided into the products of "common use" and "not of common use". They cover about 80 per cent of consumption expenditure on manufactured products. The statistical statement clearly shows that the extent of high concentration products is only around 15 per cent and not 65 per cent as revealed by the Commission.

सारांञ

उत्पादन संकेंद्रण' और उपमोक्ता : एकाधिकार' जांच आयोग द्वारा निर्विष्ट एक समस्या की आलोचना

विनोद प्रकाश

एकाधिकार जांच आयोग ने एक सौ विनिर्मित पदार्थों को, साधारण भारतीय उपमोक्ता के लिए उनके महत्त्व को ध्यान में लेते हुए चुना. आयोग के प्रतिवेदन के अधिकृत सारांध में बताया गया है कि इनमें से ६५ पदार्थों का भारी संकेंद्रण है. इससे यह आमास होता है कि साधारण उपमोक्ता भारी संकेंद्रण का धिकार है. इस लेख में बताया गया है कि 'साबारण' उपभोक्ता के बारे में आयोग की धारणा भ्रांत है और उपर्युक्त निष्कर्ष छानबीन से सही नहीं प्रमाणित होता.

आयोग की उपर्युक्त सूमिका का परीक्षण तीन मिन्न-मिन्न दृष्टिकोणों से किया गया है: उपागम, पदार्थों का चयन और उपस्थापन असंगठित / राजकीय क्षेत्र, आयात, कीमतों का नियमन / नियंत्रण, इन प्रति-संतुलनकारी अक्तियों के अस्तित्व की ओर इस संदर्भ में ध्यान नहीं दिया गया, यद्यपि आयोग उनके बारे में सचेत है.

विनिमित परमाक्ता माल में संकेंद्रण को मात्रा की गणना के लिए उत्पादन उपागम पर आधारित विनिमित माल की उदाहरणात्मक उपमोग संरचना को १९६३-६४ के लिए प्रम्तुत किया गया है. उसमें ७८ पदार्थों का समावेश किया गया है जिन्हें दो मागों में बांटा गया है:— साधारण उपयोग के पदार्थ, और वे पदार्थ जो साधारण उपयोग के नहीं हैं. विनिमित वस्तुओं पर किये जानेवाले उपमोक्ता व्यय का ८० प्रतिशत हिस्सा उनके अंतर्गत था जाता है. सांस्थिकीय विवरण से स्पष्ट रूप से दिलाई देता है कि मारी संकेंद्रण की मात्रा १५ प्रतिशत हैं; ६५ प्रतिशत नहीं है जैसा कि आयोग ने बताया है.

१. संकेदण - concentration

२. पकाधिकार — monopoly

३. उपस्यापन - presentation

४. प्रति-संतलनकारी - countervailing

५. विनिर्मित – manufactured

६. उपागम – approach