

forward in the accounts for subsequent years, the figures in respect of which are still incomplete for want of data from Pakistan ; and

(b) the particular balances, whose distribution between India and Pakistan have so far been completed or can possibly be completed ?

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (SHRI MAHADEVIR TYAGI) : (a) and (b). Two statements containing the information are herewith laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, Annexure Nos. 80 and 81.]

EASTERN MERCANTILE CORPORATION

65. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa High Court passed orders on 2nd December 1952, in the case filed challenging the validity of the searches for investigation into the allegations against the Eastern Mercantile Corporation of Cuttack and that the application has been rejected ; and

(b) in view of the reply given to part (a) of starred question No. 52, whether Government will lay on the Table of the Council a copy of the report of the preliminary enquiries ?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU) : (a) Government have received a telegraphic report to the effect that the petition moved by Shri B. Patnaik and others has been dismissed by the Orissa High Court but no copy of the order has yet reached Government.

(b) The preliminary enquiry was undertaken with a view to ascertain whether any further investigation under the Criminal Procedure Code is called for. The matter is under consideration and it would not be in the public interest to give any further details at this stage.

EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

66. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan for the starting of an explosives factory in India ;

(b) whether negotiations are being carried on with any foreign firm for the import of machinery for this plant ;

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, the name of the person by whom and the firm with which these negotiations are being conducted ;

(d) Whether any Indian is associated with these negotiations, if not, why not ; and

(e) whether quotations have been called for from all countries where these machines are available ; if not, why not ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA) : (a) Yes.

(b) No ; but preliminary negotiations are being carried on with a foreign firm to obtain a detailed project report.

(c) and (d). Senior officials of the Defence Ministry, the Directorate General of Ordnance Factories and the Ministry of Finance (Defence), all but one of whom are Indians.

(e) The project has not yet reached the stage of finalising an agreement. Preliminary inquiries were also made from other foreign firms who were considered to be capable of assisting the Government of India.

VOTING BY THE ARMED FORCES

67. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Minister for LAW be pleased to state :

(a) what was the total number of eligible voters in the Armed Forces in the last General Elections ; and

(b) how many of them actually cast their votes ?