

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Has this order been made under the Eessential Goods Act ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : Yes, Sir.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Does the responsibility of the Government of India for seeing that this Act and the rules and orders made thereunder are not contravened cease once it is given over to the State ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : Practically all the executive responsibility in regard to controls is vested in the States. "Practically", as I said—subject to correction. And there was a specific provision in the notification issued by Government last month for furnishing information to the State Government. It is for the State Government to find out whether there has been any contravention. Naturally, if they are going to take any action, they will report to the Government of India.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the Hon. Minister let us know whether, now that I have brought this to his notice, he will ask the State Government to investigate the matter ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : Naturally, the Government is very much alive to its responsibility ; and the information given by a responsible hon. Member is duly passed on to the State Government for being verified.

EASTERN MERCANTILE CORPORATION LTD.

*51. SHRI S. DWIVEDY : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any permits were issued to the Eastern Mercantile Corporation Limited, Cuttack in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 ;

(b) whether the articles in respect of which the permits were issued were meant for Orissa ;

(c) when this Corporation was started ;

(d) whether any enquiry was made about this Corporation before issuing permits to it ;

(e) whether any Income-tax was being paid by this Corporation at the time of issue of such permits ;

(f) whether it is a fact that complaints have been made to the Government of sale of these permits by the said Corporation to others ; and

(g) if the answer to part (f) be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by the Government in this matter ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) to (e). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer already given to Starred Question No. 39.

(f) No such complaint has been received in this Ministry.

(g) Does not arise.

SHRI S. DWIVEDY : Is it to be understood that because some Congress leaders are involved in the matter, Government is not prepared

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order While it is not correct for hon. Members to ask for information which is available in accessible documents, since three Members from Orissa have raised this question, on a later occasion, when asked, the hon. Minister may supply the information, if it is not inconsistent with public interest.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : May I ask.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : No more supplementary questions.

SHRI M. MANJURAN : I have to ask another supplementary question in this connection

MR. CHAIRMAN : No ; not in this connection.