

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Am I to understand that within this year all the displaced persons will be given accommodation ?

SHRI A. P. JAIN : I think I am sufficiently specific.

NEWSPRINT CONTROL ORDER

*50. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a check is kept on publishers of newspapers to see that they adhere to the provisions of the Newsprint Control Order, 1952 j

(b) whether any publishers have been contravening the provisions of this order ; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government against the offending publishers ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY : (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. I presume the hon. Member is referring to the revised price-page schedule which came into force on the 5th May 1952.

(b) No case of contravention has so far been established.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it a fact that for Class A papers of which the price is between 1 1/2 annas and 2 annas, the maximum is 50 pages for a seven-day paper and 42 pages for a six-day paper ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : The revised price-page schedule came into force on the 5th May 1952. The number of pages of standard size—that is, the area of a page : between 332 and 336 sq. inches—which a daily newspaper can publish on seven days of the week and priced at 2 1/2 annas per copy

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : I asked in respect of papers priced at between 1 1/2 and 2 annas. Not less than 1 1/2 annas, but less than 2 annas.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : I will have to refer the hon. Member to the notification.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : I have a copy with me. Is the Government aware that "The Indian Express" if it is considered a seven-day paper., is publishing 56 pages a week, which is 6 pages more than what is prescribed ; or, if it is considered a six-day paper, it is publishing 46 pages, which is 4 pages more than the limit prescribed by the order ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : According to the revised notification issued by Government, the State Government will be primarily responsible for ensuring that newspapers do not contravene the provisions of the order, and in order to facilitate checking, the Government of India has ordered that all newspapers should send to the State Governments the following information every Friday :

A statement showing the number of pages printed by them during the preceding week, and a copy of such news-paper within seven days of its publication.

So, if the paper which the hon. Member mentions is published in a State, we have had no report from the State Government yet on the matter.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Would the Government be pleased to investigate and see if it is a fact that in the week ending July 20, "The Indian Express" has contravened the order ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : As I said, by the recent notification issued by Government, the responsibility for checking has been placed squarely on the State Government, if the paper referred to is published in State, it will be for the State Government to initiate action.

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.

*5i. 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 inaccessible 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 ia this connection.