

fault in going on reducing the duties from time to time in which case it happened that the middlemen got the advantage. And the Committee that went into this matter has recommended that Government should not reduce the duties in future.

Shri Yajnik: I have not been able to clearly follow everything what the hon. Minister said. May I take it as a definite fact that no further exemption will be given to the 1952-53 tobacco?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is near enough correct.

श्रीमती बरिबेन पटेल : मैं पूछना चाहती हूँ कि गुंतूर का मामला जिस तरह से हल किया गया इसी तरह यह मामला कब तक हल होने वाला है ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If a question has to be settled in the categorical terms mentioned by the hon. Member opposite, I think, nothing further needs to be done.

Symposium at Central Leather Institute, Madras

*1599. **Shri Subodh Hasda:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the governing body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research held a symposium at the Central Leather Institute, Madras on the 28th March, 1957;

(b) if so, what was the object of the symposium; and

(c) the number of delegates who participated in the symposium?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Shri M. M. Das): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The object was to discuss scientific and technical questions relating to curing and preservation of raw hides and skins.

(c) Over 270 delegates participated in the Symposium.

Shri Subodh Hasda: May I know whether the symposium made any recommendation and, if so, what it is?

Shri M. M. Das: We do not know whether this symposium made any recommendation but the symposium set up the Indian Hides and Skins Improvement Society to guide the Government and the public on the various means and methods to improve the quality of raw hides and skins.

Shri Subodh Hasda: May I know what was the expenditure on this symposium and who bore the expenditure?

Shri M. M. Das: The total expenditure was Rs. 55.00 and it was borne by the Central Leather Institute of Madras.

Shri Subodh Hasda: May I know whether any technical session was held at that symposium and, if so, whether any foreign experts were invited?

Shri M. M. Das: That information is not at my disposal. |

Inter-State Sales Tax

*1600. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to suspend the recent orders regarding imposition of Inter-State Sales-Tax pending finalisation of question of amalgamation of Sales Tax with excise duty;

(b) whether the question of uniform application of Sales Tax in the country is also being considered; and

(c) whether the State Governments have agreed to exempt food-stuff from Sales Tax?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. K. Bhagat): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Uniform rates of sales tax for certain relatively less essential goods and goods having large value in small bulk are under consideration.

(c) the desirability of exempting foodgrains from sales tax has been taken up with the State Governments concerned. The reactions of the State Governments concerned are awaited.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the partial exemption of inter-State Sales Tax to Delhi businessmen has caused serious repercussions in other States and, if so, whether any uniform decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Does the hon. Member mean exemption of inter-States Sales Tax?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Partial exemption.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a matter entirely with the State Government because under the amended Act we have given powers to the State Governments to exempt partially, totally or fractionally as they like.

Income Tax Evasion

*1602. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to reduce the period of investigation and prosecution in order to prevent income-tax evasion; and

(b) the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The steps taken to reduce the period of investigation in cases of suspected income-tax evasion mainly are:—

(i) the creation of special Commissioners Charges called Central Charges at Bombay and Calcutta to deal with cases of suspected evasion;

(ii) setting up of the Income-tax Investigation Commission in 1947 to unearth huge secret profits earned during the year. After the operative portions of the Income Tax Investigation Commission Act were declared ultra vires of the Constitution, the

affected cases were entrusted to a separate Directorate of Inspection (Special Investigation);

(iii) setting up of a Directorate of Inspection (Investigation) to deal with complicated cases of concealment; and

(iv) creation of special Income-tax Circles working under the direct supervision of the above Directorate at important places in the country other than Bombay and Calcutta.

As these special circles deal with all the connected cases of a group, suspected of evasion, completion of investigation into such cases is facilitated and expedited.

Besides these administrative steps, various amendments to the Income-tax Law have been made from time to time investing the Income-tax Officers with additional powers with a view to speeding up investigation.

(b) The reduction in the period of investigation is not capable of easy quantitative measurement. However, substantial results have been achieved in completing investigations.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether there are any rules standing in the way of the quick disposal of these cases and, if so, is the Government contemplating to change the rules to enable the expeditious disposal of these cases?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Does the hon. Member mean any rules? I said that whatever defects there were in the law, as a result of experience and as a result of the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission, we have made certain amendments in the Income-tax Law and I do not think there is at present any rule which stands in the way of the expeditious investigation. I think the period of investigation is very much reduced and we are tackling these cases rather expeditiously.