

and Gujarat is more than that of Calcutta. Out of the 2300 smugglers detained so far under COFEPOSA, only 204 come from Calcutta. The authority which has been established in Delhi is also taking care of Calcutta. But in order to satisfy the hon. Member, I would inform the House that we are going to appoint a competent authority for Calcutta also shortly.

Loss of "Priceless Nehru Letter"

- *36. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB:
SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN
SARING:†
SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:
SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to starred Question 14 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th January, 1976 and state:

(a) the names and designations of the officers held responsible for the loss of the "Priceless Nehru Letter" on the basis of the C.B.I. report; and

(b) the action taken by Government against these officers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) On the advice tendered by the Central Vigilance Commission Departmental proceedings have been initiated against the Officers concerned and a Commissioner for Departmental Enquiries has been appointed as Inquiry officer. Further action will be taken on receipt of his report.

SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. minister whether they have taken a final decision in this matter. I would also like to know whether proper care was taken for the safe custody of the letter in transit and whether it was insured.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Leonard Solomon Saring.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, the letter was insured. The CBI enquiry shows that there has been negligence or carelessness in the handling of this matter by the concerned officers. We are awaiting the report of the Inquiry Commissioner.

Sales tax evasion cases in Delhi

- *37. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN :‡

SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY:
SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sales tax revenue has increased considerably in Delhi since the enforcement of the Delhi Sales Tax Act, 1975;

(b) whether any cases of large scale evasion of sales tax have been detected in Delhi during the last six months; and

(c) if so, the number thereof and the total amount involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) i (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During six months ending 30th April, 1976, 362 cases of evasion of sales tax were detected in Delhi. In these cases the reported suppression of sales was about Rs. 10 crores involving a tax amount of Rs. 61 lakhs.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: I would like to know whether the revenue from sales tax has increased to the extent estimated at the time of the consideration of the Bill. Besides, what percentage of the increase is attributable to the revised rate of tax and what percentage is attributable to better enforcement?

‡The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Khurshed Alam Khan.