

Bengal Government disproved the allegations. And, sales tax not being the charge of the Central Government, we had little hand in it, except lending them an officer. That is as far as sales tax is concerned. As far as income-tax is concerned, there are some allegations about our having delayed assessment of some of the firms owned by Birlas or managed by Birla Brothers. In this connection I might say that the case of Birla Brothers is under-going investigation by the Income-tax Investigation Commission, and, therefore, our hands are tied. We cannot really proceed in those cases and delay is occurring. But the Income-tax Investigation Commission is looking into the cases, and so long as the case is *sub judice* I am sorry we cannot do anything.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May we have an assurance—as it has happened sometimes before—that this case will not be taken out of the files of the Income-tax Investigation Commission ?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : That has not happened.

SHRI B. GUPTA : May I know what happened to the Income-tax Officer who made the allegations contained in this particular book—Mr. N. Roy Chowdhury—the officer who brought these allegations to the notice of Government ?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : I do not know about it. An Income-tax Officer would never publish any book.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : If my memory is correct, the book contains certain original copies taken from the files of the Government and certain photo copies of the original letters that have passed between a subordinate officer and a senior officer. If these statements are correct and if these photo copies are correct, what disciplinary action have the Government taken against the officers concerned ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is for the Government of West Bengal.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : But they are supposed to be under the Income-tax Officers, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sales Tax. Next question. Mr. Gour.

STATIONING OF I. A. F. OFFICERS

*50. DR. R. B. GOUR : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a rule fixing the maximum period for which an officer of the Indian Air Force may be allowed to stay at one station ; if so, what is that rule ;

(b) whether there have been any exceptions to this rule ; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, who are the officers who were exempted from the operation of this rule ?.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA) : (a), (b) and (c). There is no hard and fast rule, but the general practice is to keep an officer in a station for 3 to 4 years.

Officers have been allowed, in certain cases, to stay for longer periods usually in the interests of public service.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it a fact that certain allegations have been brought to the notice of the Government against a particular officer in Kanpur ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : As I said, Sir, in the interests of public service certain officers are allowed to stay longer. But this is not a fact that any allegations have been made regarding the officer in Kanpur.

SHRI B. RATH : How many officers, in the interest of public service, have been allowed to remain in one station for more than three or four years ? What is the percentage ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : Well, Sir, I have not got the number.

PROF. G. RANGA : Is there any time limit for any such extension ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : As I said, they are kept there only in the interests of the service.

PROF. G. RANGA : Is it not a fact that when an officer is appointed to a particular station, there is a time limit to start with—initial time limit ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : As I said, Sir, there is no hard and fast rule and if that means anything else I do not know.....

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Do the Government believe in these people dying in harness ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

VISIT OF U.S. AIR FORCE MISSION

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a U.S. Air Force Mission visited this country and inspected a number of Indian Air Force installations ;

(b) if so, who were the members of this Mission; and

(c) what was the purpose of their visit ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a), (b) and (c). No such Mission visited the Indian Air Force installations. Presumably, the hon. Member has in mind the visit of Colonel Sheldon and two other officers of the U. S. Military Assistance Group, Thailand, in August last. These officers visited

India and Ceylon for sight-seeing at the invitation extended to them in a personal capacity by the then Chief of Air Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Air Force, who was on a goodwill mission in Thailand in 1951. During this visit they saw some of our Air Force centres, as well.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it the practice that when our Indian Army officers go abroad, they can extend personal invitations to officers of foreign countries ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : Well, Sir, if they happen to be friends, naturally.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it necessary that when they come to our country they should visit our army installations ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : As I said, Sir, when they are invited in a personal capacity, they come here as guests of that officer concerned and the State is in no way connected with that visit.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : When the officers of the Government, especially the army officers of the Government invite foreign officers, is it not in the interests of security that Government should take note of it and see that these things do not happen ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : The security of the country is always the first consideration of the Government as it should be and the security is in no way affected.

SHRI B. GUPTA : Is the hon. Minister aware that it is a part of the American War Department to study these installations in various countries ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : That is not a fact, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it not in pursuance of the speech made