

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of our putting a price, and certainly we do not intend to deprive them of any right which they possessed, but it has to be integrated with our system, and we intend giving them the largest measure of autonomy that is feasible.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : इसी हाल के हुए इलेक्शन में पांडीचेरी के रिप्रेजेंटेटिव्स को यहां बैठने में क्या दिक्कत थी। क्या सरकार बतला सकेगी ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो दूसरी बात थी।

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : क्योंकि अभी तक कानूनी तरीके से वह भारत के भाग नहीं हुए हैं। जब हां जाएंगे दो तीन हफ्ते में, उस के बाद आ सकते हैं।

Shri Umanath: About 1,500 ex-servicemen are receiving pension from the French Government. Will the Government take up the question of its continuance when a final arrangement is negotiated after the *de jure* transfer?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer about what has been done. That has been taken up, I believe, to some extent, and will certainly be taken up more fully later.

Death of an Indian Diplomat in Vienna

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- *4. { **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation into the death in December, 1961, of **Shri A. K. Mitra**, then First Secretary in the Indian Embassy at Vienna (Austria), has been completed; and

(b) if so, what are the findings and conclusions?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Police investigation is still continuing.

(b) The final result is awaited.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I know who is conducting the investigation and what stage it has reached? Have the investigating authorities enlisted the co-operation of the Austrian C.I.D. and the Austrian forensic medical experts, who, according to an article in the British news weekly magazine, *Topic* of the 12th May, 1962—the article is captioned: “India: The Great Golden Murder Mystery”—have established that it was a case of murder, not suicide?

Mr. Speaker: The enquiry is being held. How can they say?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: My question was who was conducting the investigation.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The investigation is being held by the Austrian police, and no doubt they will take advantage of consulting any experts they need.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is there any truth in certain Press reports to the effect that **Shri A. K. Mitra**, just before his death, had submitted a dossier to the Government in which certain high-placed persons in India were involved in the gold smuggling racket?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not aware of it, Sir. The presumption thus far, from the enquiry, is—I do not definitely say—that it was a case of suicide. But all that can be said is—it cannot be absolutely 100 per cent proved—that it is suicide—that the presumption leads to that.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know if any compensation has been paid to the dependants of **Shri Mitra**?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know. Normally, something is given to the wives of persons employed by

Government in case of death. That, no doubt, must have been given. If anything has been given or not, I am not definite.

Shrimati Remu Chakravartty: This question of gold smuggling and the report has been widely publicised. Do the Government propose only to leave the inquiry to the Austrian side or will they also cover it and check, as far as possible, on the Indian side?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly, if there is anything to investigate in India in connection with that or otherwise, that should be done. That is being done.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the hon. Finance Minister, on a previous occasion, said that Shri A. K. Mitra was engaged in the detection of gold smuggling, may I know whether this news was divulged to some interested persons there by some top people here?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am unable to answer that question.

Shri Hem Barua: On a question of clarification, Sir,

Mr. Speaker: The question has been heard. The hon. Prime Minister says that he is not able to answer that question.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, this is the charge openly made—not the first part; about that there is no doubt—but

Mr. Speaker: He is now trying to elaborate his question.

Shri Hem Barua: I would ask for this clarification

Mr. Speaker: The Prime Minister says that he cannot answer that.

Shri Hem Barua: May I submit, Sir, a clarification. This London magazine, *Topic*, has laid down that some top person in Delhi

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. If the hon. Member has the information, then, he need not put the question. If he wants the answer to be given

by the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister says he is not able to answer. What else is there? What is he proceeding with? Order, order. Shri S. M. Banerjee.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether a senior official from India, as an Intelligence Officer, will be associated with this inquiry and whether he will have a right to investigate

Mr. Speaker: The answer has been given; it is being done in Austria.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He was an Indian; he was not an Austrian.

Mr. Speaker: That has also been answered. If any inquiry has to be done here it will be done separately.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It has been presumed that it was a case of suicide. But I am afraid that this may not be taken in a different light and the whole thing may not be hushed up.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order Shri Prabhat Kar.

Shri Prabhat Kar: The other day the hon. Finance Minister made a statement that it was a case of suicide and that the inquiry had been concluded. Now, we have been told that it is continuing and that it may be linked up with gold smuggling. We want to know what exactly is the position.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The report made to us was that it was a case of suicide. But, we have been requesting the Austrian authorities to look into it further, so that what the Finance Minister then said was correct so far as our information, at that time, went. That is also the same information now. Nevertheless, we asked the Austrian authorities to continue it in case any aspect of it has eluded us so far.