

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of reports in reputable foreign papers which have also been quoted in Indian newspapers that the death of the diplomat to which reference was made by Shri Barua was linked up with the discovery of certain operations in regard to the smuggling of gold on a large scale and the investigation is being retarded on account of some very high-up people in India being concerned in the matter, in view of such reports will Government give an assurance that in regard to the Mitra case everything is more or less clear and open and Government is taking all necessary steps?

Shri Morarji Desai: All these inferences and allegations are unfounded.

Shri Hem Barua: May I submit, Sir . . .

Mr. Speaker: There was a reference made to this. Has the hon. Minister any information as to whether that envoy had really been poisoned and was there any investigation going on because this question is being asked again and again? This is the third time that it has been asked here.

Shri Morarji Desai: It is true that that envoy had given us information before when he was our envoy. He was not deputed for this purpose; he was there and he did give us valuable information from time to time. But as far as I knew—I enquired from some people who came from Vienna—it was a case of suicide and not a case of poisoning.

Shri Hem Barua: May I draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to an article in an English journal, called *The Topic* where it has been said that the Austrian CID and forensic materials have conclusively established that this envoy was poisoned to death?

Mr. Speaker: Should their coming to this conclusive decision that he was poisoned to death weigh more with us than the conclusions arrived at by our Government? The Government can only give the information that they have got. There might be difference of opinion as well.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Have they contacted them or have they made their own enquiry?

Mr. Speaker: The information that the Government had has been given just now, namely, that it was a case of suicide and not of poisoning by somebody else. That is the information.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of clarification, Sir. Is it the Minister's opinion or is it a conclusion based on some investigation?

Mr. Speaker: His question is whether an enquiry was made and the information that has been given is based on some enquiry from a credible source or whether it is only an opinion.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): An enquiry was made and it was proved that he had taken an overdose of Duminot.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath

Shri Hem Barua: May I submit that it has not clarified anything? May I submit very humbly and with all humility . . .

Mr. Speaker: If it is an interruption, be it very humble and made in a very humble manner, then too it is an interruption. If the words "May I submit very humbly" are added that does not take away from it the obstruction that it causes.

Next question. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath.

Shri Hem Barua: I wanted a clarification.

Mr. Speaker: There has been enough clarification. Shri Kamath.

Administration of Cantonments

*968. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administration of cantonment areas and the constitu-

tion of cantonment Boards has been completely democratized; and

(b) if not, what stage the process of democratization has reached?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Defence (Shri D. R. Chavan):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) (i) Parity between the official and elected members has been introduced in the composition of all Class I and Class II Cantonment Boards;

(ii) the powers of the Civil Area Committees which include all the elected members under the Chairmanship of the elected Vice-President have been enlarged;

(iii) the Assessment Committee has a majority of elected members; and

(iv) during the temporary absence of the President, the Vice-President, who is an elected member, presides over the meetings of the Board.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I could not follow anything.

Mr. Speaker: He would kindly read it a little more slowly. The hon. Member says that he has not been able to follow it.

Shri D. R. Chavan: (a) No, Sir.

(b) (i) Parity between the official and elected members has been introduced in the composition of all Class I and Class II Cantonment Boards;

(ii) the powers of the Civil Area Committees which include all the elected members under the Chairmanship of the elected Vice-President have been enlarged;

(iii) the Assessment Committee has a majority of the elected members; and

(iv) during the temporary absence of the President, the Vice-President, who is an elected member, presides over the meetings of the Board. Is that clear?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What recommendations in this regard were

made by the Sidhwa Committee in the first Parliament which was later replaced by the Ramadhyani Committee, and have the recommendations been fully accepted or have some of them been rejected by the Government?

Shri D. R. Chavan: I have not followed the question. (Interruption).

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: There are three hon. Ministers.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Will he kindly repeat the question?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What recommendations were made in this regard by the Sidhwa Committee during the First Parliament which was replaced later by the Ramadhyani Committee in this and which recommendations of those committees were accepted, and which rejected by Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramajah): My learned friend has referred to the various recommendations of the various committees from the first Parliament onwards. I would like to have notice of that. But I would like to say that, broadly speaking, we have taken into account the recommendations of the committees. I am talking very broadly; I am not going into details.

Mr. Speaker: The answer is not ready for the present.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Midday Meal Programme in Schools

*954. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Nutrition Advisory Committee has recommended extension of the midday meal programme to cover all schools;

(c) to which States it is likely to bring the programme;

(c) to which States it is likely to be extended during 1962;