

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, November 11, 1970/Kartika
20, 1892 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

OBITUARY REFERENCE

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI):

With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to pay a tribute to General Charles De Gaulle in whose passing away an era of history comes to an end. A great soldier and statesman, he exemplified the finest qualities of French and European civilisation. His struggle against Fascist tyranny symbolised the indomitable spirit of human freedom. His subsequent role was no less significant. The architect of new France, he came to power at a most difficult time, but he brought stability to his country and gave it a new position in international affairs. In transforming his country's relations with Algeria he displayed the highest statesmanship and a new awareness of the spirit of the times and of the issues of human freedom and dignity which his own great country had done so much to foster.

I should like to add a personal note. I had occasion to meet him twice and I found him not the forbidding figure which had been made out by newspapers and articles which one had read but a person with a

deep interest in India, especially in the scientific development of India. When I met him as Prime Minister on my way to the United States in 1966 he especially spoke about the development of atomic energy and helping young scientists. He wanted to know specifically how France could help us in this matter.

Only last week, about five days ago, I received from him a copy of his latest book, his Memoires, d'Espoir inscribed to me in his own hand and with a gracious reference to my father.

On behalf of my colleagues in Government and in this House I should like to convey through you, to the Government and people of France, our profound sorrow at the passing away of this great personality.

MR. SPEAKER: I associate myself on behalf of the House with the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister. General De Gaulle was not only one of the great leaders of France; he had made really a great place for himself in the world. His opinions were very much respected in the world and he was always heard with care. On behalf of the House I shall convey our condolences to the Government and people of France.

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

*The members then stood in silence for
a short while*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
Inquiry into Chhoti Sadri Gold Case

61. SHRI RAM KISHAN GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 814 on the 31st July, 1970 regarding Chhoti Sadri Gold case and state:

(a) whether the C.B.I. has completed