

old case from South India—and I am at present making enquiries into that case.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, in addition to what Mr. C. D. Deshmukh has mentioned, Mr. V. P. Menon, a former Secretary, has also mentioned certain cases in regard to corruption. Would those cases also be investigated and considered along with these cases?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: If hon. Members are interested, I can either make a statement on the subject or lay certain papers, but briefly I would like to say that every case that he mentioned took place when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was Minister and Mr. V. P. Menon was Secretary of the Ministry concerned. Those cases were examined fairly, thoroughly by the Attorney-General and, I think, the Solicitor-General, and they sent some advice to us that they did not advise any steps to be taken, after examining them, and that it was not feasible for any steps to be taken. This was examined then by a Committee consisting, I think, of Mr. Rajagopalachari and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. They accepted the advice of the Attorney-General and sent on the papers to me. I accepted their recommendation that there was not enough substance to those cases. Of course, I speak from memory broadly about this. In regard to one particular case—I think it was about Sardar Narmada Prasad Singh—he was actually proceeded against in connection with another major matter, some insurance matter and thereafter he absconded. As far as I remember, after some time he was apprehended and he served a fairly heavy sentence.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: May I know whether the Prime Minister is aware of the I.P.A. despatch in which it has been stated that Mr. Deshmukh expressed willingness to disclose in confidence more facts about instances of corruption in high quarters to some eminent personalities in order to

convince them that he was levelling those charges with a full sense of responsibility?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I am not aware of that particular thing which the hon. Member has perhaps read somewhere. I do not know what that is. But I have already stated what I indicated to Mr. Deshmukh in regard to this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

PERMISSION GIVEN TO THE CHINESE OFFICIAL TO LEAVE INDIA FOR PEKING

***97. SHRI S. PANIGRAHI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an official belonging to the Chinese Consulate in Bombay was given permission to leave India for Peking; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which he was given permission when a case is still pending against him in Bombay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b) Ordinarily permission of the Government of India is not required for a foreign consular officer to leave India. The hon. Member is presumably referring to an official of the Chinese Consulate-General in Bombay against whom allegations of assault and wrongful confinement were made by an employee of the U.S. Consulate-General. A counter-complaint was made by the Chinese Consulate-General against the particular U.S. consular employee. The Government of India thereupon advised both the Chinese and the U.S. Consulates-General not to send these officials out of India until police investigations had been completed. The police submitted their final report some days ago and there was, therefore, no longer any particular reason to prevent the Chinese official from leaving India.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know, Sir, whether the investigation with regard to this case has been completed?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, Sir; it has been completed.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know the results of the investigation in regard to this case?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, the case has been summed up by the Bombay police and it has been stated—it is a quotation—as follows:

"Both sides, it would appear, are not free from blame regarding this incident which has needlessly involved the Government of India. It may also be stated that since full Chinese version including the complete statement of Mr. Chang is not available to the police in view of the attitude taken by the Chinese Consulate, it is extremely difficult to come to a definite conclusion one way or the other, but the fact remains that so far as the complaint of Mr. Armstrong is concerned, offences under sections 280 and 342 of the I.P.C. have been *prima facie* disclosed."

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether any statements of independent witnesses had been recorded during the investigation and whether from the statements of those independent witnesses it could be said that a *prima facie* case against the Chinese official was established or not?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, there is a *prima facie* case.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: If that is so, what action has been taken against the Chinese official?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Every possible evidence—independent evidence—was recorded, Sir, and as a result of it the Bombay police which enquired into the matter stated what has just been read out by my colleague, the Deputy Minister. In the circumstances, it was found that

we did not have any adequate evidence, whatever the *prima facie* effect might be, to proceed with this matter any further, and the ban that we had put on this Chinese official was removed, and indeed we thought that it was as well that an official in a foreign Mission who was involved in this kind of thing had better go back and not remain here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

VOLUNTARY LABOUR SERVICE

*98. SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided by the Planning Commission to have voluntary labour of 100 hours in the service of the nation from every citizen of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. N. MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has forwarded its tentative suggestions to State Governments for the utilisation of manpower in rural areas. A copy of the Commission's memorandum on the subject is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, Annexure No. 5.] In some States legislation relating to panchayats already permits the village panchayat to prescribe the number of days in the year for which free labour should be given by each male adult in the community. The State Governments have been requested to consider whether the number of days or hours of work which village panchayats prescribe for contributing to the building up of community assets could be increased and how best, with the maximum consent of the community, this system could be brought into operation on a large enough scale.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know, Sir, whether the scheme is specifically applicable to any class of the community or it is applicable to all the citizens of the country?