

## Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru

*Volume 29*

*Reference on Pondicherry*

### General Perspectives

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I mentioned Goa just now. Recently I spoke about it in a press conference as well.<sup>1</sup> There is great interest in the Goa issue all over the country. The events of the last month or so have upset and angered the people. The treatment meted out to the satyagrahis who went from here have annoyed the people and justifiably so.<sup>2</sup> Voices are raised and telegrams are pouring in asking why we are delaying the matter instead of marching our army into Goa. Some want that they should be permitted to take the matter in hand themselves. I have already said this once and let me make it quite clear again that there can be no two opinions about Goa in the whole country. The question is how to solve this problem peacefully and with dignity. It is no great problem to remove the Portuguese Government from there. No one can doubt that the Goa issue will be solved. The Portuguese cannot stay there, for circumstances of history and geography will not permit it. The Goa issue has been before us for the last four or five years. As in the case of the French settlements, we have tried to solve it by peaceful

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<sup>1</sup> . On the 31 May 1955. See Selected Works (second series). Vol. 28, pp. 300-304

<sup>2</sup> By April 1955. the Portuguese repression in Goa had nearly finished the internal resistance movement. Hence the Goa Vimochan Sahayak Samiti (All Party Goa Liberation Aid Committee). Pune decided in April 1955 to send batches of volunteers to Goa from May 1955. On 18 May. the first batch of fifty-four satyagrahis led by N.G. Goray and P.M. (Senapati) Bapat tried to cross over to Goa. They were tired upon, beaten up and taken to custody by the Portuguese police. The second batch of sixty-eight satyagrahis under Madhu Limaye were severely beaten up and arrested on 28 May while trying to cross over

methods. Our efforts were successful in the case of Pondicherry and Chandernagore with the result that the tensions between France and India disappeared and we are friends now.<sup>3</sup> In short, when something is done the right way, both sides stand to gain as India and France have benefited and the relations between us are friendly. We had made it quite clear to France that even- after the merger of Pondicherry into India, we were prepared to continue the teaching of the French language and culture which have flourished there for the last two of three hundred years. Whatever be the methods others follow, this is our way. We want to adopt the same method to solve the Goa issue for which we need the cooperation and understanding of the Portuguese Government. Some people are carried away by anger and passion and accuse us of cowardice. As you can imagine, these are very grave issues and international problems cannot be solved in anger of passion and without thought to the consequences. We are respected in the world but not because of our army, though it is a good one, or our wealth, for we are among the poor nations of the world. We do not have the atom bomb. But we are respected because we speak in a different voice and do not wish to go to war with anyone. Ours is the path of peace. We do not believe in making a great deal of noise. Soft and gentle voices are heard more clearly than strident ones which fall on deaf ears. Therefore, if we were to abandon our policy and principles which have earned us the respect of the world for the sake of Goa or any other issue, we will not benefit very much. Goa has to come to us and nobody can prevent that, even if it takes a year or eighteen months. But if we abandon

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<sup>3</sup> . In a referendum on 19 June 1949 Chandernagore, a French possession near Calcutta opted for joining the Union of India and the Government of India assumed responsibility for its administration on 2 May 1950. In April 1952 France ratified the referendum. The de facto transfer of Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, former French settlements took place on 1 November 1954 according to an agreement, signed between India and France on 21 October 1954.

our principles, India will lose the respect of the world, and delicate tasks in world affairs will suffer a setback. That is not right. It has never been our intention to march our army into Goa. Some people demand that we should take police action. Let me tell you quite clearly that we shall do nothing of the sort for I feel that such an action in connection with Goa will be a stain on our reputation and India's impact in world affairs will be weakened. Therefore, it is not proper that we should do such things. The problem will be solved in any case, even if it takes a little time, just as we solved the problem of Pondicherry, without bitterness and in a manner which earned us the respect of the world. Please remember that when a problem is solved by right methods, the solution is lasting and no fresh problems arise. When the method is wrong, then the solution of one problem leads to five others. For instance, take the history of Europe where great wars have been fought. After winning the First World War, the victors were besieged with all kinds of problems. The Second World War was also followed by innumerable difficulties and now they are busy preparing for a third war. It shows that if a problem is not solved by the right method, it creates other, more difficult problems. Therefore, we have to face the Goa issue with strength and firmness, but without abandoning our principles in a fit of anger. We are not going to take military or police action in Goa.

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## **GENERAL PERSPECTIVES**

### **Decisions through Peaceful Means<sup>4</sup>**

Today we are assembled once again on the anniversary of India's independence. Greetings to everyone on this auspicious occasion. Do you

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<sup>4</sup> Speech at the Red Fort, Delhi, 15 August 1955. AIR tapes, NMML. Original in Hindi

remember that day when we reached this goal after a long journey and many ups and downs? Many people stumbled and fell, picked themselves up and moved on again. Do you remember the dreams we dreamt and the hopes that filled our hearts. Then came a day when those dreams and hopes were fulfilled and we saw the sun emerging on free India. Eight years have passed since that day when the whole of India went wild with joy. But in the moment of joy and triumph came tears too at the inhuman atrocities that took place on both sides of the border. Innumerable refugees trekked for hundreds of miles to cross the borders on both sides. We had to face this grave crisis. Well, we bore our troubles and tried to solve those problems quite successfully. We will undoubtedly solve the rest too. In this way, eight years have passed, with a great many ups and downs. Just think back to the condition we were in eight years ago and the way world saw us and the difference that has come about in the entire scene since then.

Independent India is still in her infancy, though our nation is thousands of years old. But the world knows of our achievements and the capacity to advance that we have shown even in these few years.

So when we meet here, we look back towards the past and the last eight years especially, as well as to the future. We must take stock of what we have done and what remains to be done. There is a tremendous amount that still has to be dealt with. We must pay special attention to our weaknesses, for it is only to the extent that we succeed in removing those weaknesses will the country advance and the people prosper. Turning towards the world, you will find that we have not raised our hand against any nation of the world and I hope that we shall never do so. We have looked upon everyone with friendly eyes and extended the hand of friendship and peace. There have been some complicated issues but that was no reason for us to be hostile to anyone. Ultimately, the policy of peace and friendship that we are following is the only right one for the world. We

want to have friendly relations and cooperation with our neighbouring countries. You would have known about the strengthening of relations in the recent past. You must have heard about Panch Shila which lays down the norms of conduct between nations. Gradually all the newly independent countries have accepted these principles and the atmosphere in the world has changed for the better. I do not say that this is because of us-there have been other events in the world. So we must not be proud or boastful about it. It is sufficient if we can help in our own small way. But what makes us happy is that the atmosphere in the world is definitely better than before, the fear and anxiety with which nations used to regard one another have become less, and there is a readiness among them to extend the hand of friendship. So we are happy.

We are at peace with all the countries of the world. But on this day, the 15th of August, our thoughts turn towards Goa. When we were busy fighting for our freedom, could you or anyone in the world have thought that while India would become free, the small pockets of Goa or Pondicherry or any other place would remain under European rule? It was inconceivable and we did not even dream of such a thing. Pondicherry and Goa have been separated from us for the last two or three hundred years. They could flourish separately under the protection of the huge British Empire in India just as the innumerable princely states existed with the blessings of the British. The moment the British left, all those princely states also had to go. So it is rather strange that anyone should ask us why we want Goa to merge with India. Where is the question of merging with India? Hasn't anyone seen the map of India and the world and where Goa is? It is a part of India and nobody can separate it. Today we are celebrating the eighth anniversary of our independence. As the world has seen, we have shown a great deal of patience in these eight years. We have exercised great self-control because we want that this issue should be

solved peacefully. Let me tell you once again today that we have no intention of taking military action in Goa but will solve it by peaceful methods. Let no one be under a misconception that we are going to take military action. I am saying this because people abroad as well as in India are sometimes misled. Rumours are being circulated abroad that we are amassing tanks and guns and our army there. It is all wrong. There are no forces near Goa people within the country want to create a situation by making a great deal of noise whereby we will be forced to march in. We will not send in our forces and we will settle the matter peacefully. Let everyone understand this clearly. Those who are going into Goa are welcome to do so, but if they call themselves satyagrahis, let them remember the principles of satyagraha and behave accordingly. Armies do not march behind satyagrahis. Nor is there a call for them. They are supposed to face the issue themselves in a completely different way.

We have seen recently that the satyagrahis were fired upon on a number of occasions and some young men died as a result. Guns are fired in wars, and that has to be faced. But the world must seriously consider how far it is proper or right for any nation to fire upon unarmed people. If a law is broken, the government has the right to arrest the culprits and put them in jails. But nowhere in international law or any law governing civilized behaviour is it written that unarmed people who are not mounting any kind of an attack should be fired upon. It is absolutely wrong. I would like to point out very politely that the world and the Portuguese Government must understand quite clearly that they must not indulge in such uncivilized behaviour. There is a conflict between us but whatever their views may be, we wish to solve the problem peacefully and will undoubtedly do so, no matter how long it takes. Please bear in mind that it is wrong to think that such issues can be resolved by magic immediately. If we wish to arrive at a proper solution, being in a hurry will not help. We must wait because

anything which is done slowly and with patience is likely to be more firm and abiding.

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### **GENERAL PERSPECTIVES**

Now, take the issue of Goa. Goa is a part of India and will always remain so. We do not wish that a colonial power should rule over any part of Indian territory. The people of Goa are free to decide what they want. But we cannot allow any foreign power to control it. That would be a negation of what we have struggled against for years-colonialism and imperialism.

India's history dates back to thousands of years. There were open foreign invasions and India was ruled by outsiders for long periods of time. But the important thing is that India's capital, the centre of its governance remained within the country. The foreign invaders soon settled down and, in a couple of generations, were absorbed in India's melting pot. India was never subjected to contra I from some other country. For the first time in the history of India, when the British conquered the country, its destinies were controlled from London. The Governor-General or the Viceroy in Delhi was merely an agent of the British Government.

This is in essence what is known as colonialism, of one country ruling over an empire from a long distance. Similarly, the French had come and carved out an empire. But soon the British ousted them except from a small pocket in Pondicherry. The Portuguese came and conquered parts of Indian territory because we had become weak as a naval power. They had a very strong navy equipped with guns and cannons, and so they captured Goa. They could not advance very far beyond that. But they held on to what they

captured. They entered into an agreement with the British who, in their own self-interest, allowed them to remain in Goa.

There is no doubt about it that Goa is being ruled from Lisbon, 5000 miles away. I do not wish to go into the question of whether the government is good or bad. In my opinion, it is terrible. Goa is ruled from outside. Now we cannot accept this situation to exist on principle anywhere in the world and particularly in a corner of India. I have no doubt about it that the Portuguese will have to leave Goa. They cannot stay on.

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### **Foreign Possessions in India**

In July 1954, the Ajmer session of the AICC stated that it "regrets to note that the Portuguese Government has taken up a wholly indefensible attitude in regard to Goa and its other establishments in India and is carrying on a policy of intense repression against those who favour merger with India. The integration of these foreign establishments into the Indian Union is an essential part of the liberation movement in India which led to the independence of India. That movement will not have fulfilled its purpose till these foreign pockets also are freed and brought into the Indian Union." This resolution further declared that in regard to these foreign establishments in India. "their religion, culture, customs and language will be given adequate protection."

In 1954, a friendly settlement was arrived at between the Government of India and the Government of the French Republic in regard to the French establishments in India which resulted in the de facto transfer of these establishments to the Union of India. The Avadi Session of the Congress, meeting in January 1955, welcomed this settlement and again gave the

assurance that "French culture will continue to be preserved in Pondicherry, thus adding to the richness of India's life and culture." The Congress went on to say that it "is confident that the Portuguese settlements in India will also join the Indian Union before long and thus satisfy the aspirations of the people of those territories and complete the political integration of India." It will thus be seen that the great movement for the freedom and independence of India always envisaged the Portuguese establishments in India as an integral part of this country which must share with the rest of the Indian people the freedom that India was striving for. Ever since independence, this fact has been repeatedly stated and, at the same time, cultural assurances have been given to the people of Goa. In accordance with the basic policy of the Congress and the traditions of the Indian national movement, peaceful methods for the solution of this question of Goa were always advocated and it was hoped that the transfer of the foreign pockets in India would take place peacefully and through negotiated settlement with the countries concerned. This hope was realised in the case of the French possessions. But, in spite of every effort of the Government of India, the Portuguese Government has refused even to enter into any negotiations for this purpose and has continued its policy of intense repression of the people of Goa and utter denial of all forms of freedom or civil liberty.

In spite of this attitude of the Portuguese Government, the Congress has adhered to its peaceful methods and has advised the people of India, as well as Goa particularly, accordingly. During the past few years thousands of Goans have suffered in the struggle for the freedom of Goa and its integration with the Indian Union. The Goanese people have thus demonstrated in the most active manner their will to be freed from foreign domination and to join in comradeship in the freedom of the people of India.

The Portuguese Government have claimed that Goa is a centre of European culture, and, more particularly, of the Christian Catholic faith and that any transfer to India would imperil this culture and this faith. The so-called European culture represented by Portugal in Goa is a denial of every thing that most countries of Europe stand for today. It is a denial of political freedom, of civil liberty and of economic and cultural advance. It is the conversion of Goa into a backward poverty-stricken territory where the people have no rights or liberty, in marked contrast to the political freedom and economic advance of the rest of India.

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**Note to the Indian Ambassador in France**

To H.S. Malik<sup>5</sup>

New Delhi

11 August 1955

My dear Malik,<sup>6</sup>

Thank you for your letter of the 5th August.

I can well understand the preoccupation of the French Government with their internal and external problems.<sup>7</sup> It is because of this that we have not tried to hustle them about the Pondicherry Treaty,<sup>8</sup> but it does no good to them or to us to go on delaying this. Soon I suppose the new Council

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<sup>5</sup> JN Collection. Extracts

<sup>6</sup> H.S. Malik was Indian Ambassador in France

<sup>7</sup> The French Government, headed by E. Faure and dependent on support of six parties was preoccupied with the problems of nationalist uprising in Algeria and nationalist and terrorist activities in French Morocco. See also ante, pp. 344-345

<sup>8</sup> Selected Works (second series), Vol. 27, pp. 224-225

elected in Pondicherry will pass a resolution demanding an early de jure transfer. I think we should point out politely that this delay is not helpful...

Yours sincerely,  
Jawaharlal Nehru

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### **Solution by Peaceful Methods<sup>9</sup>**

The problem of Goa has been with us now for many years, and recently certain occurrences have filled our people with anger and resentment. This anger and resentment is understandable, but they are apt to confuse our minds and out of confusion no correct decision can be made. We must, therefore, consider this problem in all seriousness and calmly, keeping in view all its aspects.

Our first thought must be to pay our homage to those who have given their lives or have suffered in the cause of freedom in Goa. This includes both Goans and Indians. It must be remembered that the inhabitants of Goa have been suffering for many years past in their attempts to free themselves from the oppression of Portuguese colonial rule.

It was natural for our people to be greatly moved by the recent examples of great courage which did not weaken even before imminent death. It is natural for us to mourn the death of these brave satyagrahis, and yet I would say that this is an occasion also for joy and pride because many of our countrymen and countrywomen set this great example. Let us lay stress on these aspects, rather than on sorrow alone. Death comes to all of us some time or other, but it makes all the difference how we face death.

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<sup>9</sup> Speech at the UPCC meeting. Sitapur. 21 August 1955. From the National Herald. 22 August 1955. Extracts

The courage that conquers death endures and sets an example which makes us better than we were.

There has been much confused thinking even in India over this issue, and in some foreign countries the confusion or, perhaps, the deliberate misunderstanding is even greater. I have been surprised to read some of these foreign comments because they indicate the continuance of the old colonial mind which has done so much harm to Asia and Africa.

Let us try to get rid of this confusion and see facts clearly. What do we aim at in Goa? Goa is geographically apart of India. Opposed as we are to colonialism everywhere, it is impossible for us to tolerate the continuance of colonial rule in a small part of India. It is not that we covet Goa. That little bit of territory makes no great difference to this great country, but even a small enclave under foreign colonial rule does make a difference, and it is a constant irritant both to the self respect and the national interest of India. It may be a source of danger, more especially if a hostile and reactionary country like Portugal holds on to it.

Who are the people of Goa? They are the same as our people. Less than two per cent of them, according to the Portuguese census, have Portuguese as their mother tongue. The rest are Indians by descent, by race, by language and in other ways. About two thirds of them are Hindus. About one-third are Roman Catholic Christians. There are many millions of Roman Catholics in the rest of India, who are as much Indians as any other. The economic life of Goa is inextricably connected with India's. Thus, it is natural for us to have a sense of unity with the people of Goa and to feel for their oppression under foreign colonial rule.

But we have no desire to impose ourselves on the people of Goa against their wishes. It is for them ultimately to choose. We are convinced that eighty to ninety per cent of them desire freedom from Portuguese rule and union with India. But the main thing is freedom from Portuguese rule and

the removal of this last trace of colonialism from the living body of India. We have assured the Goans that it is for them to determine their future and we have given further assurances about their religion, languages, customs, and etcetera.

The misfortune is that the people of Goa are not even allowed to express their opinions. The Portuguese have built up a police state there and even the slightest expression of opinion against them has been punished by long terms of imprisonment. Not even a religious gathering can be held without police permission. If there had been freedom of expression and a measure of civil liberty among the Goans, there would be no difficulty.

Thus, it must be remembered that the question is not of India imposing herself on Goa but of the freedom of the Goan people and the removal of Portuguese colonial rule.

Ever since independence, we have tried our utmost, according to our declared policy, to come to a peaceful settlement with the Portuguese Government. They have spurned us and refused even to discuss this question. We established a legation in Lisbon for this purpose but had to withdraw it because it served no purpose. In spite of the insults offered to us by the Portuguese Government and the callousness and cruelty of their rule in Goa, we adhered to our peaceful approach.

The first question to be dear about is whether we should continue to function peacefully in this matter or should take recourse to military measures or what is called a police action. We are convinced that the peaceful approach is the right one, not only from the point of view of Goa and India, but also because of larger issues in the world and the foreign policy that we have pursued with so much success. It was this peaceful approach that yielded results in Pondicherry, and today we are friends with the Republic of France. It is easy enough for us to take possession of Goa by using military force, but that would not only be a betrayal of all that we

have stood for, but would also bring many undesirable consequences in its train. It would also not be fair to the people of Goa. We have set our face against the solution of problems by warlike methods, and we intend to adhere to that decision.

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### **Economic and Cultural Issues in Pondicherry<sup>10</sup>**

#### **A Note**

26 August 1955

I am very much concerned about recent developments in Pondicherry and the other old French settlements in India.<sup>11</sup> Pondicherry, etc., are a very special responsibility for us for a variety of reasons. We have given a great many assurances to the people there and we have to keep them. They are an example of how we treat new territories which come into the Indian Union. They are in fact a kind of window to the outside world. As a matter of fact, at present only de facto transfer has taken place and the de jure change is yet to take place. If conditions remain as they are there now or even deteriorate, all this will be brought up at the time of the de jure transfer to our great disadvantage and discredit in the eyes of the world. The fact of all this on the Goa problem is obvious.

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<sup>10</sup> Note to the Union Deputy Minister for External Affairs, Secretary General, Foreign Secretary, Commonwealth Secretary and Kewal Singh, 26 August 1955. JN Collection

<sup>11</sup> Nehru was concerned about the acute economic situation created by the collapse of commercial and industrial activities in Pondicherry and adjacent former French settlements. This was brought on due to imposition of the imports and exports regulations by the Government of India. This itself affected the boatmen, dockers, labourers, numbering about 1500 families

2. But my main consideration is that we have given certain promises and assurances and we have to keep them. These promises and assurances are not only about specific matters, but about our general approach to this question. If Pondicherry begins to show a phase of general disintegration and economic and cultural decay, that will be a very bad thing for us and for our reputation.<sup>12</sup>

3. I mention all this to point out the great importance of this problem from every point of view. I have a feeling that these factors have not been kept in mind and hence many of the difficulties that have arisen. We cannot treat Pondicherry as just an odd piece of India like any other odd piece. To begin with, de jure it is not a part of the Indian Union .yet. But apart from that, it has a background of three hundred years of more of French rule and French customs and French language and French trade contacts. Suddenly to wipe all this off and give it the high privilege of being a part of India and think that this high privilege is quite enough for anybody, is to ignore reality and to face trouble. As it is, we did rather badly in the elections there recently because of the economic setback to Pondicherry since the changeover there.

4. We have thus to keep in mind that any sudden change in Pondicherry in regard to economic or cultural or like matters is undesirable and likely to cause damage and misery to the people of Pondicherry, Karaikal, etc. It is quite conceivable that if there is a general impression of decay there and of going back, the French who have promised all kinds of help in the

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<sup>12</sup> Kewal Singh had pleaded with Nehru for a set of special measures and a generous attitude from the Indian Government with regard to Pondicherry. He averred: "Treating Pondicherry as any other small port on the east coast will only mean that Pondicherry will slowly but surely be reduced to a fishing village."

maintenance of cultural institutions will withdraw that help, and then the fall of Pondicherry will be complete and our reputation there will sink to the lowest level.

5. The Chief Commissioner, Kewal Singh, has been here and discussing various matters with departmental representatives. I hope these discussions will yield proper and prompt results. Delay is harmful.

6. I do not propose to discuss the various matters in this note. All I wish is to emphasise that Pondicherry has to be viewed as a very special case and not just as if it was in the ordinary run of things. We have a plan of development for Pondicherry. But this will take time and meanwhile the process of disintegration will continue and make it difficult even to do any developmental work later. We shall meet with frustration and opposition there.

7. I should like to mention, however, one of two matters which seem to me to require special attention:

(1) Economic matters: Two mills are closed and there is unemployment. The whole system of commerce is apparently suffering and naturally all these unemployed mill hands have got a grievance and will become more and more against us.<sup>13</sup> It is no good explaining to them the position in terms of high economics and politics. The fact is that they have suffered by the change. To some extent this was inevitable, perhaps, but every effort should be made to prevent this and to help the development of trade and commerce

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<sup>13</sup> Two out of the three textile mills in Pondicherry had closed down soon after its de facto transfer to India, rendering nearly 3500 workers out of work. This along with the restrictions on imports had created serious discontent among the people

there even by treating Pondicherry as a special case. The changeover should be gradual and so as not to produce sudden injury. To say that Pondicherry must fall in line with the rest of India in this respect is not fair or reasonable and simply means that Pondicherry should go down. I hope, therefore, that something will be done to recognise this special position of Pondicherry. I would repeat that even in law Pondicherry has a special position de jure today and is not a part of the Indian Union.

(2) There is a Medical College there, a hundred years old. It is not, perhaps, up to date. I gather that although it is carrying on, no fresh admissions have been made this year because of its uncertain future.<sup>14</sup> It would be a tragedy from the larger point of view to shut down this college after a hundred years of life under the French. This will become a symbol to be held up against us. The Medical College, therefore, has to continue and, indeed, to be improved. What the improvement should be I cannot say. Fresh admissions should take place not merely from Pondicherry but from outside too. I gather that quite a number of large buildings are available for use by the hospital.

(3) There is the question of the pier there to which importance is attached.<sup>15</sup>

(4) I gather that there has been a long discussion lasting many months now about French being replaced by Tamil<sup>16</sup>. I do not

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<sup>14</sup> The Pondicherry Medical College had to stop admission for the current year under instructions from the Education Ministry, which raised objection to its continuance on financial grounds

<sup>15</sup> In order to give a fillip to shipping, Kewal Singh had suggested building of a new pier, rather than reconstructing the old one. The- proposed new pier at a more spacious site along with a railway siding would have cost about Rs twenty-nine lakhs

understand the difficulty. We have given a clear assurance that there will be no imposition of any kind in educational or cultural matters and for us to do anything which savours of such imposition would be a breach of our assurance and would create very harmful results. French education, whatever its other merits or demerits might be, has been supposed to be in the past on a higher intellectual level than almost any education. Their degree has a high standing in Europe and there is no reason why we should not recognise this. The French are a sensitive people but they are more sensitive about cultural and educational matters. Therefore, there should be a continuation in Pondicherry of the present system with gradual variations with the consent of the people concerned. Nothing can be imposed upon them, if the people do not agree themselves.

(5) The old Assembly before the transfer of power used to discuss the annual State budget. Naturally, the new Assembly wants to do this also. I have no doubt that this privilege should be accorded to them. They should not have a feeling of being deprived of a privilege they had previously.

8. Shri Kewal Singh, the Chief Commissioner, has given me a note on some of the problems in Pondicherry. I enclose a copy of this note.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> While the French Government continued its support for cultural and educational institutes which continued to teach in French, there was a growing demand that at least English and Tamil be also included as mediums of instruction in these institutes.

<sup>17</sup> Kewal Singh had drawn Nehru's attention to the problems facing Pondicherry and had suggested certain measures such as; two years import-export concession to traders, establishment of some industries, such as, an engineering factory or a sugar mill etc., building a new pier, generous support to cultural and educational institutions to maintain the special status of Pondicherry

9. I shall be grateful if the Ministries concerned give urgent attention to these matters relating to Pondicherry so that quick decisions may be arrived at in accordance with our assurances and the political and international aspects of this question.