

Sanjay's father-in-law found dead on farm Police suspect murder 77

Express Correspondent

NEW DELHI, June 5.

Mr Sanjay Gandhi's father-in-law Lt. Col Tejinder Singh Anand (Retd), was found dead this evening with a bullet wound in his head at his farm in Punjab Khor village near Delhi. The body was in a decomposed state, and still at the farm late tonight.

A DDT spraying team accidentally

stumbled upon the corpse on the car track leading to the farm, which is under the jurisdiction of the Nangloi Police Station and about 35 km from here. The bullet seemed to have entered the head under the left ear and emerged at the right temple.

Mr Bhawanimol, Inspector-General of Police, who visited the spot, along with Home Ministry officials, felt it was a case of murder, though it was too early to give a definite opinion. However, it is known that Lt Col Anand had had fits of depression after the Congress rout in the Lok Sabha election, and soon after had consumed an overdose of barbiturates, according to family

aquaintances. Thereafter, he had been admitted to the Sharma's Nursing Home in Greater Kallash.

Police officials seemed to feel Col Anand had been murdered as long as 48 hours ago. Mr G. S. Mander, Acting DIG Range, said the Colonel had arrived at his farm on the afternoon of June 2, apparently to supervise the threshing of wheat. His farm hands informed him that unseasonal rain had damaged the crop and was unfit for threshing. Col Anand then gave them some instructions and went for a walk, which was the last time he was seen alive.

By nightfall, the Colonel had still not returned, and the following day an employee left for Delhi to inform his wife, Mrs Amteshwar Anand of the disappearance. The employee returned to the farm with a driver, and searched for him without success.

However, the police were not informed of the disappearance. They only came to know when the spraying team informed them of the body they had come across. Thereafter the farm employees concluded it was their master.

Mr Mander said by all accounts Col Anand was not carrying a weapon on his person. Another official felt that the murder was not committed at the spot the body was found, judging by the position of the body.

Also, the victim seemed to have been illegally confined before the tragedy.

The time of the murder and exact kind of weapon used would only be known after the post-mortem, and examination of the wounds by ballistic experts. Till late tonight the body had not been sent for post-mortem.

A police source said that Mr Sanjay Gandhi had phoned up police in the evening.

Col. Anand was in his early fifties. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

An officer of the Army Signals Corps, Col Anand, became an influential man after his daughter's marriage to Mr Sanjay Gandhi.

After retiring from the Cabinet Secretariat where he was employed on deputation from the Army, he became consultant to several leading firms.

The latest addition to the massive wealth possessed by the Anands is a double storeyed house in Jorbagh, luxurious colony of South Delhi.

Col Anand's father-in-law, Sir Datar Singh, retired as an Additional Home Secretary to the Government of India in 1972. He died in 1973.

Body on newspapers, blood stains on temple

Express Correspondent

NEW DELHI, June 4.

A visit to the scene of the crime showed that Colonel Anand was lying on a newspaper sheet. He was wearing a white shirt and white trousers, his head tilted towards the right, hands placed by his side, and legs fully stretched.

The police believe that he had been murdered elsewhere and the body brought there and placed on newspaper sheets. There were blood marks visible on his temple, forehead, shoulders and sides.

The Crime Branch employed two police dogs but the dogs moved along the track for about 30 to 40 yards and stopped. By the time the police reached it was dark, so investigations were suspended for the night.

The body will remain untouched till the morning. In the meantime, the police informed the Central Forensic Science Laboratory telegraphically and were waiting for forensic experts.

The Colonel's brother, who went to visit the farm at about 3 p.m., was informed that the body was lying in the field. He also informed the police.

Police officials said that they would try to find some track made

through the field by the criminals. But this could only be done in the morning.

Some senior police officers along with the relatives of the Colonel, were keeping a night long vigil.