

them, we give them publicity material and we give them information but it is for them to decide what they do at the conference.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Not brief, advice.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Is it not a fact that this Indian delegation to the Jakarta Conference was isolated, or rather India was isolated at this Conference as it has been isolated in other Afro-Asian Conferences of this political persuasion recently.... (*Interruption*). Why this shouting?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question should be straight.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I am asking a straight question. But the trouble is.....

**Mr. Speaker:** The introduction, namely, "as has always been done in other conferences" does not come in here when he is asking a supplementary.

**Shri Hem Barua:** It is a broad perspective in the sense....

**Mr. Speaker:** The perspective must not be broad in this question.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Every time..... (*Interruption*).

**Shri Hem Barua:** It has become almost impossible to function.

**Mr. Speaker:** My difficulty is that he does not pay attention to me but he has his ears towards that side. He should close his ears towards that side.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I say that a Member from an underdeveloped State like Assam, a poor Member, badly needs your protection?

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Oh!

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** We seek protection from you against him.... (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Tyagi:** They tease him.

**Mr. Speaker:** The irony of fate is that I have to seek protection from the hon. Member, this poor Punjabi.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Punjab is highly developed.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know if it is not a fact that India was isolated in this Jakarta Conference and in the process of isolation, of course, Soviet Russia was also a partner of India; if so, whether Government have tried to evaluate the reasons on account of which India was isolated? Has Government examined the discussions or the progress of discussions and the part played by our delegation there?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** India was not isolated at any of these Afro-Asian meetings.

#### Release of Indian P.O.Ws. by Chinese

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SNQ 16. { Shrimati Sharda  
Mukerjee:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Brig. Dalvi and 26 other captured Indian Officers are due to be released and repatriated shortly by the Chinese authorities; and

(b) if so, whether the names of the officers concerned have been received by the Government from either the Chinese authorities or the Indian Embassy in Peking?

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan):** (a) and (b). Brig. Dalvi and 26 other officers have been taken over by the Indian Red Cross Society at Kunming on the 4th of May 1963. A statement giving the names of the officers is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in the Library, see No. LT-1323/63*].

**Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee:** There are rumours that our prisoners of war are being segregated and are not given the type of welcome that would be expected to be given to repatri-

ated soldiers. Would the Defence Minister like to make a statement to dispel these rumours? I would also like to know why such little publicity has been given to the repatriation of these prisoners? This scant publicity has also added to the speculation...

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. So many questions in one supplementary.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** I can only say that these rumours, that the repatriated prisoners of war are not given proper welcome, are unfounded. The reception is very properly given by the army itself and, I think, it is also given proper publicity.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if these officers who have come back have given the Defence Ministry any account of the kind of treatment they received there and also any account of indoctrination that they might have undergone when they were there as the prisoners of war?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** The officers have just reached the reception camp. They are being given a medical check-up. They will be interrogated in the process and later on they will be allowed to go on long leave. Whatever the element of indoctrination is there, certainly that is being checked up and some counter-efforts to de-indoctrinate them have also been taken.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्री मान्, अब तक जितने भी और भारतीय युद्ध-बन्दी भारत के मुपुर्द किये गए हैं, वे भारत की सीमा पर मुपुर्द किये गए हैं । ऐसी स्थिति में चीन सरकार ने ऐसे कौन से विशेष कारण बताए हैं, जिन के आधार पर ब्रिगेडियर दालवी तथा उन के साथियों को कुनमिंग में भारत सरकार के प्रतिनिधियों के मुपुर्द किया गया है ?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** In this particular case, the Chinese had offered, in the

first instance, to hand them over at Hong Kong-Chinese border, but the Government of India protested and the Chinese accepted the protest and they handed them over at Kunming.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Does the examination, medical or other, of the officers and men who have been released so far reveal that they had, some of them, if not all not merely undergone mental indoctrination to which my hon. friend Shri Sharma referred, but they also suffered serious physical deterioration. And may I know whether some of them were used by the Chinese authorities for anti-India and pro China propaganda in China while in Chinese custody?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** As far as the medical check-up shows, two officers were admitted in the hospital. Generally, I can say, the physical condition of the officers and the other jawans who have been repatriated is fair. But from some of the information that we received now, we learn that only a few weeks before their release they were given a rather better food.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I wanted to know whether they were used for anti-India and pro-China propaganda in China while in Chinese custody.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** It seems that 26 officers were taken round China and shown some important places. Possibly, the intention must be to indoctrinate them.

**Shri Nath Pai:** The Defence Minister has been kind enough to say that they were taken round some important places in China. Firstly, is it a fact that some of the Indian prisoners of war in contravention of international convention of treatment treaty of prisoners of war, were paraded through the city of China? Secondly, in view of the very hard times they must have had during their imprisonment, may I know whether enough attention is being given for their rehabilitation, both physical and mental?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** The latter part of the question, I will answer first. Certainly all care is taken to give them proper medical attention and other attention so that they feel better. Detailed information is yet to be received from the officers concerned. But, certainly the intention of taking them round the different parts and in the different cities, possibly must be to parade them.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I want to know whether it is in the knowledge of the Government and whether they could tell us the total number of Army officers and jawans who are still in China's custody and what steps have been taken for their repatriation?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** I can give the exact figures. In all 3211 Indian prisoners are in Chinese hands, out of which about 1364 have been handed over.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that the hon. Minister has himself admitted that these P.O.Ws were paraded about in the cities of China, may I know whether this particular fact has been brought by our Government to the notice of China, because this is in violation of the international laws and all that and, if so, what is the reaction of China to this particular effort of the Chinese? At the same time, . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** That is all; that should be enough. Order, order.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** Certainly it was brought to the notice of the Chinese Government that it is against normal conventions to take prisoners like this.

**Shri Tyagi:** May I know if the Government could find out as to what is the basis of their policy—Chinese policy—in releasing these prisoners in small instalments and not releasing them all at once? Could the Government find out?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** Possibly it is a question of convenience of handing over.

### Collapse of C.P.W.D. Godown in New Delhi

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{ Shri P. C. Borooah:  
 { Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:  
 { Dr. Saradish Roy:  
 SNQ. 17. } Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
 { Shri Shashi Ramjan:  
 { Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether a C.P.W.D. godown under repairs in Netaji Nagar, New Delhi collapsed on Friday the 3rd May, 1963, killing two persons and injuring five others, four of them seriously;

(b) if so, what was the cause of the accident; and

(c) what precautions had been taken to avoid such eventuality during the course of repairs of the godown?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar):** (a) Yes. A contract was given on 21st December 1962 for a sum of Rs. 4,76,328/- to a contractor for the replacement of the wooden trusses of the C.P.W.D. godown in Netaji Nagar by steel trusses. I regret to say that one workman and a boy related to one of the workmen were killed and 5 others injured. 3 of the 5 injured workmen have already been discharged from hospital and the remaining 2 are expected to be discharged shortly. None of them was injured seriously.

(b) The accident was most unfortunate. It was caused by a slip of one of the steel ropes of the derrick being used for hoisting steel trusses. 17 steel trusses had already been safely hoisted and the 18th was being hoisted and placed in position when the work was stopped because of rain and storm. As the workmen were hurrying away to take shelter from the storm, the slip occurred with the result that the derrick and the steel truss being hoisted struck against the neighbouring truss leading to the falling down of a number of trusses in succession.

\*As subsequently corrected by the

Hon. Minister.