

time of existing bulletins was increased by 120 minutes.

Treaty on Nuclear Non-proliferation

8. **Shri Nath Pai:**
Shri Bairaaj Madhok:
Shri Ram Kishan:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bibbuti Misra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the negotiations on reaching an agreement on a treaty on nuclear non-proliferation;

(b) the attitude of the principal nuclear powers; and

(c) the role Indian Delegation played in these negotiations?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) The last session of the General Assembly passed a resolution calling upon the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee in Geneva to give high priority to the question of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in accordance with the mandate outlined in the General Assembly resolution 2026(XX). That Committee reconvened in Geneva on the 21st February, 1967, and its session is in progress.

(b) The differences between the points of view of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., who have been having private negotiations, on several aspects of non-proliferation are reported to have become narrower. It is understood that they have reached agreement on some articles of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and that these articles impose various disabilities on the non-nuclear powers without any balancing obligations on the part of the nuclear powers.

(c) The Indian delegation to the 21st session of the General Assembly of the United Nations fully participated in the discussions on this subject.

Its main role was to state consistently and firmly that any treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should be balanced and non-discriminatory and be a step towards general and complete disarmament.

Theft of Tyres and Tubes from Palam Air-port

9. **Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavalaya:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 739 on the 7th November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the investigation into the theft of tubes and tyres at Palam airport has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how long it will take to complete the investigation?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The investigations are still in progress.

(c) It is not yet possible to give a definite period during which the investigation will be completed, but every effort will be made to complete it as soon as possible.

Accident on Mahabaleshwar Road

10 **Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavalaya:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 740 on the 7th November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the report of the Military Court of Inquiry into the accident on Mahabaleshwar Road has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the further time likely to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main findings of the Court are that (i) the accident was not due to any mechanical defect in the vehicle, (ii) the exact cause of the accident is difficult to determine but the possibilities are, faulty judgement

or temporary incapacity or death on account of a recurrence of heart attack before the accident of the officer who was driving the jeep, (iii) the journey was unauthorised and besides the officer and the driver of the jeep, all the others were individuals not entitled to travel in the military vehicle, and (iv) the loss to the State is about Rs. 9,000 00.

(c) Does not arise.

Explosion in Shooting Range in Jhansi Distt.

11. Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavalaya: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1282 on the 14th November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the death of three boys as a result of an explosion in the shooting range of Armed Brigade in Jhansi District has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the next of kin of the boys have submitted any application for compensation?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) The Court of Enquiry has been completed.

(b) Babina Field Firing Range is a fully restricted area and unauthorised persons are not permitted in the ranges at any time of the day or night. The villagers of Bhandra Buzurg were fully aware of this. However, four boys from village Bhandra Buzurg went inside the Babina Field Firing Range at about 15.00 hrs. on 24th September, 1966 to round up some grazing cattle that had strayed into the Range Area. These boys were wounded by a shell burst mid-way between village Keshodhan and village Jhanda. Two Boys (Amar Singh and Asa Ram) died on the spot and another boy (Akhe Raj) died after reaching his village. The villagers could not go into the range area on the night of 24th/25th September, 1966, since firing by an Aircraft

was going on. The villagers reported the matter to the civil police on the morning of 25th September, 1966 and with the help of the police, both the dead bodies were recovered on the evening of 25th September, 1966, from inside the Range area.

(c) No application for compensation has been received from the next of kin of the boys. We have, however, initiated action on our own to pay *ex-gratia* compensation.

Fire in C.O.D. Cheoki

12. Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavalaya: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1275 on the 14th November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the report regarding the causes of fire in the Central Ordnance Depot, Cheoki, (near Allahabad) has since been received by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the further time likely to be taken?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has not been possible for the lower formation to submit the report to Government so far through Army Headquarters due to several administrative reasons. However, instructions have been issued to ensure that the report is submitted to Government within a month.

Indian Embassy in Peking

13. Dr. Karni Singh: Will the Minister of External Affairs, be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the recent political upheavals in China, any steps have been taken to ensure the safety of the lives and property of the officials of the Indian Embassy in Peking; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?