

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** I maintain it. We also made it clear to China, when we accepted the position that Tibet was part of China, that China would respect the autonomy of Tibet and that she would grant as much autonomy as possible. This is the position. Now, the hon. Member wants us to completely change our policy. It is really a suggestion for action. If the House wishes, we will certainly give another look at our policy. But the policy so far, all these years, of the Government has been that Tibet is an integral part of China. But she is bound to give Tibet as much autonomy as possible, to respect her fundamental rights and human rights to which all citizens are entitled.

**Shri Tulshidas Jadav:** The hon. Minister stated that China is not a member of the United Nations. May I know how long it will take to solve this question? The position is that China is not a member of the United Nations and the United Nations is not willing to take her. For how long will this go on and when will this question be solved?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** When the United Nations passes a resolution, it does not mean that it binds only those who are members of the United Nations. Those who are not members may refuse to carry it out but a resolution passed by an international organisation, by the United Nations, especially on the question of human rights, is one which binds the whole world, and if China has any respect for international opinion, she would respect the view taken by the United Nations.

**Shri F. K. Deso:** In 1954, when this question was raised in the United Nations by El Salvador, India opposed the question to be discussed, that is, the illegal occupation of China over Tibet. May I know whether the new Government still follows the same policy or there has been any change in the outlook of this new

Government regarding illegal Chinese occupation of Tibet?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** My hon. friend is going to the very past history. In the last many sessions India has supported the Resolution on Human Rights which has been tabled at the instance of the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama himself wanted a particular Resolution to be tabled and we have supported that Resolution.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

##### Deraiment of Assam Mail

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**SNQ2 Shri Hem Barua:**

**Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**

**Shri Yashpal Singh:**

**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:**

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many passengers were injured and some died, when six bogies of the Up Assam Mail went off the rails near the Sitalpur Station on the Sonepur-Gorakhpur Section of the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the causes of the accident;

(c) the total number of the passengers injured and died; and

(d) the total amount of loss to the railway property due to this accident?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (c) The train which derailed between Nayagon and Sitalpur Stations of the North Eastern Railway on 18-3-1967 was 9 Up Kanpur Express and not Assam Mail. In this accident no one was killed; however 18 persons sustained injuries, of whom 17 proceeded on their journey after being rendered first aid on the spot.

(b) The cause of the accident is under investigation.

(d) The cost of damage to railway property has been estimated at approximately Rs. 28,000/-.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether any preliminary investigation was conducted on the spot as soon as the accident took place, and if any preliminary investigation was conducted, what is the result of that?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** Investigations were taken up on hand immediately by the authorities concerned and it was found that some fish-plates were removed and the track seems to have been tampered with. Further investigations are proceeding.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Whenever there is an accident, the habit of the Railway Ministry is to say that this must be an act of sabotage without taking into consideration the negligence on the part of the inspecting staff to inspect the rail track. May I know whether the Government have the same story to say about this also—that it is because of the removal or misplacement of fish-plates—or Government have a different story to say about this accident?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** After the investigations are completed, we will be in a better position to say what was the cause exactly.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** It is not clear from the reply of the Minister as to who held this inquiry in which it has been established that fish-plates were removed. May I know whether there is any evidence in this matter, whether any case has already been instituted against the persons, whether they have been spotted out?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** The District Superintendent of Operations, Safety went to the spot and he has conducted certain preliminary investigations. The Police are also investigating into the matter.

**Shri Hem Barua:** We don't have the results?

**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:** May I know whether the Government will consider

granting some sort of insurance cover to the passengers who were involved in the accident?

**Mr. Speaker:** Insurance cover to passengers.

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** It is not so at the moment.

**Shri Nambiar:** Is it not a fact that repeatedly we hear the excuse of sabotage whenever accidents occur? What is the alternative to the travelling public to find out the real reason of the accidents so that accidents can be averted by ascertaining the actual fact and not put forward the sabotage theory?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** After the investigations are over, we will be able to place the facts before the House in detail. It is not as if (interruptions) every case of accident is caused by sabotage. The other day I was giving some information in the other House: within a short period, we had as many as 225 accidents, of which only two related to sabotage while the rest of them were due to either human failure or mechanical failure and things like that. So, it is not as if generally every case is presumed to be an act of sabotage; it is not so.

**Shri Hem Barua:** When I put my supplementary question my purpose was to know about the human failure and the steps taken by Government to avoid human failure and to maintain security so far as travelling is concerned. But the hon. Minister has not said anything about that.

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** May I explain the position? Earlier to the accident, two trains had passed through the same sector; the time between the earlier train which had passed on the same sector and the time of the accident was 45 minutes. The track was patrolled and it was inspected,

and yet within this short period, the accident happened . . .

**Shri Hem Barua:** There cannot be any sabotage then.

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** Immediately, investigations were conducted and we found that there was evidence of the track having been tampered with. This is a fact.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Within an interval of 45 minutes, if the track was being patrolled, how would it be possible for the people to remove the fish-plates?

**श्री रणवीर सिंह :** जनाबे स्पीकर मेरा ख्याल है कि हमारे देश में दुनिया में सबसे ज्यादा ऐक्सीडेंट होते हैं इसका क्या कारण है? इनएफिशियेंसी है या क्या बात है ?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister has explained the whole thing. The hon. Member is just asking him to repeat it. The hon. Minister has said that there were a number of accidents due to human error, technical error and so on. If the hon. Member were to answer the hon. Member's question, he would have to repeat the whole thing.

**Shri Shri Chand Goel:** In view of the fact that our former Railway Minister had to lose his election, and one of the reasons for it is said to be the fact that there were a number of accidents and he did not have the courage to resign, as Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had done, will Government now evolve some fool-proof machinery so that the present Railway Minister may not have to face such an even-uality once again?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not necessary to answer this question.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### China's Admission to United Nations

\*59. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attitude of Government with regard to the admission of China in the United Nations has changed in any way;

(b) if so, the present position in this regard;

(c) whether there has been any change in the attitude of other important countries which have been opposing China's admission to the World Body; and

(d) if so, the nature of such change discernible?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d): A comparison of the voting pattern during the XXI Session (1966) of the General Assembly with that of the XXth Session (1965) indicates certain shifts in the attitudes of some countries on this question. A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No. LT-100/67 dated 27-3-1967] which will explain the position.

### चीनी और पाकिस्तानी सेनाओं के जवाब

\*64. **श्री अकाशवीर शास्त्री :** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत की सीमाओं पर चीनी तथा पाकिस्तानी सेनाओं के भारी जवाब में कोई कमी हुई है ;

(ख) क्या पिछले तीन महीनों के दौरान उनकी ओर से कोई उल्लेखनीय कार्रवाहियाँ भी हुई हैं; और