

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