

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF INDIAN SCHOOL
OF MINES

Shri Humayun Kabir: I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of paragraphs 4 and 5 of the late Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel Resolution No. 315(1)/57-MIII dated the 4th May 1957, as amended from time to time, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Governing Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of paragraphs 4 and 5 of the late Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel Resolution No. 315(1)/57-MIII dated the 4th May 1957, as amended from time to time, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Governing Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad".

The motion was adopted.

12.10 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET—GENERAL
DISCUSSION—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: Now we take up the general discussion of the Railway Budget. We have already spent 14 hours 55 minutes. We will have another hour now, and then the Minister would reply.

Shall I call upon the Minister? No Member is prepared to speak? Yes, the hon. Member there.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya (Raiganj): Would you kindly give me some time?

Mr. Speaker: I will see. If I can, certainly.

Shri P. K. Chakraverti (Dhanbad): I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Railway Budget. It is with a heavy heart that I have to make a reference to the grim tragedy that occurred in Dhanbad on the 23rd. It presents a picture of a dismal character and one has to go deep into the matter to see how such catastrophes can be averted.

I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister through you to the fact that the people of Dhanbad had been pressing for some convenient system so that these difficulties might be overcome. It is a long-standing grievance. They had been left in a state of utter helplessness, and that has been evidenced by this tragic occurrence. Naturally one feels that the accident which happened may be due to certain extraneous causes, may be due to certain human failures, but one cannot leave the matter at that. I understand Dr. Kunzru has been appointed chairman of a committee to look into railway accidents, and I would prefer to leave it to that committee. But this accident happened in all its ghastliness and, as was mentioned by the Minister, that already 18 persons died within a few hours of the tragic occurrence, and may be there are some more casualties in the offing. Naturally, I would again press on the Government, and especially the Ministry of Railways, to examine this aspect of the question and see how far these catastrophes can be averted.

Dhanbad stands in a very unenviable position. A mere headquarters of a subdivision, it had been recognised a subdivision, it had been recognised to be the headquarters of the district after the transfer of Purulia, the former district headquarters to Bengal. The people in Dhanbad did not foresee that so much importance would come to be attached to this town. Today, it is interspersed with railways all through, and so many lines and by-lines have been coming up that at the