

Shri Humayun Kabir: We have not as Government received any offer of assistance for education from the Rockefeller Foundation. When we receive an offer, we shall certainly consider this allocation.

Army Trucks

*723. **Shri Parulekar:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an order for supplying 1,500 3-ton 4x4 Dodge vehicles was placed with Messrs Premier Automobile Company Limited, Bombay in 1952;

(b) whether any complaints were received that defective vehicles had been supplied;

(c) if so, whether Government have investigated into the complaints made against the Company; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken on the investigation report?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Two orders for the supply of 1500 3-ton 4x4 vehicles were placed with the firm in 1952.

(b) to (d). A complaint regarding supply of defective vehicles was received and it was investigated by the Special Police Establishment. After investigation, it was found that no charge under the Criminal Law could be established against the firm. The case was departmentally investigated and it was found that the firm had used some reworked parts. The firm have given a guarantee to replace the reworked parts free if they fail prematurely within a period of three years although the normal warranty is for three months only. These instructions have been modified and Army Inspectors will no longer be allowed to pass any vehicle as new which contains any reworked part.

Shri Parulekar: May I know whether it is a fact that the person who brought these matters to the notice of

Government has been victimised by the Premier Automobile Company?

Sardar Majithia: That does not concern Defence in any case and it is not within the knowledge of the Defence Department.

Shri Nath Pai: In view of the fact that this company has supplied defective parts to our Armed Forces, will Government still consider giving orders to the company for the supply of further vehicles?

Sardar Majithia: As I said, there were no defective parts, but they were re-worked. I am quite sure the hon. Member knows what that means. When the parts are received in the knocked-down condition, there might be slight dents which are pruned by the machines. This is the standard practice not only here but in the U.K. and the U.S. as well.

Shri Jadhav: May I know whether the vehicles asked for were to be new or reconditioned ones?

Sardar Majithia: The vehicles were new; but certain parts were re-worked; and I have already mentioned what re-worked is.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Central Zonal Council and Dacoit Menace

☐ * 694. { **Shri V. C. Shukla:**
Shri Ramachwar Tandia:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1730 on the 18th April, 1958, and state:

(a) whether the problem of dacoit menace in Madhya Pradesh and U.P. was taken up for further consideration in any subsequent meeting of the Central Zonal Council; and

(b) if so, the conclusions reached to bring about an early elimination of this long standing problem?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G B Pant). (a) and (b) The matter came up for consideration during the discussion on the question of formation of a common Police Reserve Force in the Zone at the third meeting of the Central Zonal Council. The Council has appointed a Committee to examine the feasibility of having a common Police Reserve Force for the Zone.

Committee on Amalgamation of Small Collieries

*600. { **Shri T B Vittal Rao.**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 992 on the 17th March, 1958 and state

(a) when a decision on the Report of the Committee on the Amalgamation of Small Collieries will be arrived at, and

(b) when action on the report will be taken?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh). (a) and (b) Government have accepted broadly the principle of amalgamation of collieries and have decided to proceed with the amalgamation in the lines suggested by the Balwantray Mehta Committee. The Committee to promote voluntary amalgamation has been set up already. A copy of the relevant order is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No 86]. The other important issue is the drafting of suitable legislation to deal with the various aspects of amalgamation. The examination of this issue is presently in hand and the details are being worked out.

Jantar-Mantar, New Delhi

700 { **Shri D C Sharma:**
Shri Bhakt Darshan:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state

(a) the efforts made so far to renovate the Jantar-Mantar at Delhi; and

(b) whether it has been taken over from the Rajasthan Government?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir) (a) Jantar-Mantar is structurally sound and needs no general renovation. Steps are however being taken to execute necessary minor repairs to it.

(b) It was declared a protected monument on 8th January 1958 but the staff has not yet been transferred to the Union Department of Archaeology.

Parachutes

*709 **Shri M R Krishna:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to lay a statement showing

(a) the total amount spent for the purchase of parachutes during 1956 and 1957,

(b) the country or countries from which the parachutes required for the Armed Forces are procured,

(c) whether the parachutes manufactured in the country are found suitable for the job, and

(d) how does the cost of the Parachutes manufactured in the country compare with the imported parachutes?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon). (a) It is not in public interest to divulge the information on the floor of the House.

(b) U.K., U.S.A., and France.

(c) and (d) Trials on samples of indigenously produced parachutes have not been completed. The cost