

(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