

(b) what steps are being taken to absorb them in gainful employment in other Departments?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Baghuramajah): (a) There are no surplus un-skilled workers in the Ordnance Factories' Organisation at present.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Fire in Delhi University

\*242. { Shri Radha Raman:  
Shri Vajpayee:

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fire broke out in Delhi University building in the beginning of June, 1957 and several thousand examination papers and valuable articles were destroyed as a result thereof,

(b) if so, the exact nature of the losses and the causes that led to the outbreak of the fire;

(c) whether any enquiry was made, and

(d) if so, what are its findings?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir A large number of answer books which had been marked by the Examiners and which were stored in one of the rooms were destroyed by the fire. The loss was of the following kind:

(i) Answer books which had been valued; and

(ii) Other loss relating to furniture, electrical fittings, wooden fittings like doors, ventilators etc., of the room.

The matter has been reported to the Police who are investigating it

#### Amalgamation of Collieries

\*243. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh;  
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the report of the Expert Committee on the amalgamation of small collieries, and

(b) if so, whether any conclusions have been arrived at regarding the implementation of the recommendations made in the report?

The Minister of Steel, Mines, and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The report of the Committee is still under consideration

(b) Does not arise

#### Stowing Equipment

\*244. Minin, Shri: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal Board grants loans for stowing equipment on the same terms as the Finance Corporation; and

(b) if so, how many colliery owners have been granted stowing loans so far?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No. The Industrial Finance Corporation charges interest at 7 per cent. per annum, with a rebate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for punctual repayment, with effect from 23rd April, 1957. The Coal Board charges interest at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., depending on whether stowing is for conservation or for safety

(b) Nine

#### Schools in Delhi

149. Shri Vajpayee: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state the number of Primary, Middle and High Schools