

(b) About a month and a half.

(c) Mainly due to unprecedented rainfall in and around Durgapur in September—October, 1959.

Saugar Cantonment

565. **Pandit J. P. Jyotishi:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cantonment area at Saugar has fairly large tracts of cultivable land; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to lease the land to the people for cultivation?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir. A sizeable amount of land is temporarily surplus to military requirements.

(b) The question of cultivation of these lands by Military Farms, Regimental Centres, Units, Ex-Servicemen's Co-operative Societies is under consideration and only if these agencies are unable to cultivate them, can their lease to private parties be considered as the lands are only temporarily surplus to requirements.

Ordnance Parachute Factory, Kanpur

566. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Lance Naik of Ministry of Defence Security Corps was shot dead at the Ordnance Parachute Factory guard-room at Kanpur on the 24th October, 1959;

(b) whether he was shot by army sepoy;

(c) whether the sepoy escaped with ammunitions and rifles; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) The case has been handed over to the civil police for investigation. A court of enquiry is also being held by the military authorities in the matter.

Fire Fighting Personnel in Defence Installations

567. **Shri Ram Garib:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the uniforms for fire fighting personnel in Defence Installations have not yet been finalized;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the instructions for uniform for such staff were issued in June, 1957; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for delay?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) to (d). Orders were issued in June 1957 sanctioning the scale of uniforms to be issued to civilian fire fighting personnel employed in the various Defence Installations. The Installations were also instructed to procure the items of uniforms from Ordnance Depots, Ordnance Clothing Factory and if any of these items was not available from Ordnance, to obtain it by local purchase. It is possible that in some cases delay has occurred in the issue of some items of uniforms on account of non-availability with Ordnance stores. The sanction given in 1957 was subject to review after two years. This is now taking place. Suggestions received from certain quarters for including certain further items in the scale of uniforms are also being considered.