

this procedure a number of vehicles available at any period of time with the Defence Services are not sufficiently reliable for operational use. The earlier policy involved a larger reserve, maintenance of an elaborate workshop organisation for overhauls, continuance in Service of obsolescent vehicles with consequent difficulties in regard to spares etc., and an uneven and fluctuating demands for vehicles on production establishments. Under the new policy, vehicles will be discarded when they have completed a specified number of miles or number of years, whichever is later, or otherwise require a complete overhaul.

By adoption of this policy, it is expected that not only Services will be having with them dependable vehicles at all times but also that there will be saving on account of lower reserves, maintenance repairs and overhauls.

AWARD AT THIRD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

*225. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the award given to the best film at the Third International Film Festival was of Golden Peacock, if so, whether the gold was pure one or of 14 carats purity?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): The awards for the best long and short films shown at the International Film Festival were golden peacocks. The gold used was of 14 carats purity.

AMALGAMATION OF MINISTRIES OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND C.D.C.

*226. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has taken any decision on the amalgamation of the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and Community Development and Co-operation;

(b) whether it is proposed to make any changes in the subjects of other ministries to make their working more rational; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure more coordination between the various ministries of the Government of India?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): (a) No.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(c) For ensuring coordination, the Cabinet has appointed a number of Standing Committees. At the official level there are several inter-departmental Committees. The Department of Coordination in the Ministry of Finance also coordinates work relating to important economic matters.

WITHDRAWAL OF WEST GERMAN FILM FROM INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

*227. { SHRI U. S. DUGAL:
SHRI V. M. CHORDIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a West German Film invited for screening for the International Film Festival recently held in New Delhi was withdrawn at the last moment; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The U.S.S.R. Embassy in New Delhi considered that the film contained anti-soviet material.

P.M.'s DISCUSSION IN LONDON ON CHINA'S EXPLOSION OF ATOM BOMB

*228. { SHRI SURESH J. DESAI:
SHRI P. ABRAHAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the discussions which the Prime Minis-