

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 23.]

OIL PROSPECTING IN NAHARKATIYA

381. Shri Amjad Ali: Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the latest information regarding the oil find in Naharkatiya area in Assam;

(b) to what depth the exploratory boring has gone;

(c) the possible minimum oil yield in the 2nd and 3rd wells in Naharkatiya area; and

(d) the distance of Naharkatiya oil area from the Digboi Oil Fields?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) to (d). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 24.]

EX-CLERKS OF THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

382. Shri Ramananda Das: (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the ex-clerks of the Military Accounts Department appointed to clerical posts in the civil offices of the Central Government after the war, were allowed to continue to draw the same pay?

(b) Is it a fact that this concession has not been extended to other war-service candidates in civil offices and if so, why?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Only such ex-clerks of the late Military Accounts Department as have been appointed in civil offices of the Central Government to clerical posts carrying scales of pay identical with those in which they were employed in that Department, have been allowed the pay last drawn by them in that Department.

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(b) Similar treatment has also been extended to other war service candidates appointed to civil posts carrying scales of pay identical with those in which they rendered war service, but not to those who have been appointed on scales of pay which are different from the scales in which they were employed while in war service.

FIRE OUTBREAKS IN AGARTALA

383. Shri Dasaratha Deb: (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state how many times fire broke out in Agartala Bazar from 1952 to the 10th March, 1954?

(b) What were the causes for the outbreak of fire in these cases?

(c) What steps have been taken to avoid recurrence of this nature?

(d) Do Government contemplate to compensate the affected persons?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) There were five cases of fire in the Agartala Bazar during the period.

(b) The fire was accidental in all cases and due to the negligence of the shopkeepers.

(c) Arrangements are being made to set up a Fire-Fighting Unit. The shop-keepers have been warned to be careful to put out the fire in their hearths and not to keep kerosene lamps too close to the bamboo walls of their shops and kitchens which are inflammable.

(d) Some of the affected persons were given gratuitous relief and some of the refugees whose shops were gutted were given business loans. Cases are given due consideration on merits after due inquiry.

TEACHERS' SALARIES

**384. { Shrimati Ronu Chakravarty:
Dr. Rama Rao:**

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the proposals for implementation of the recommendation on teachers' salaries made by the