

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant):** (a) This is done only in doubtful cases.

(b) No fee is chargeable for registration and issue of citizenship certificates to refugees from Pakistan.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Fire Accidents in Tripura**

1945. { **Shri Dasaratha Deb:**  
**Shri Halder:**

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of markets gutted by fire accidents in Tripura during the last one year;

(b) the total financial loss due to such accidents;

(c) the nature of the financial assistance given to the victims of these fire accidents;

(d) the steps taken to prevent occurrence of such incidents in future; and

(e) whether Government propose to have fire fighting squads in all divisional towns of Tripura?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) to (c). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 65].

(d) Lay-out of shops in the market areas are being revised to avoid congestion and to discourage erection of shops and huts with inflammable materials. Arrangements are also being made for the supply of water and sand at these market places;

(e) In addition to Agartala, where fire service is already functioning, fire stations have been sanctioned for Dharmnagar and Udaipur. Further action for the selection of suitable sites, purchase of equipment and recruitment of staff are being taken by the Local Administration. They are also examining the possibility of opening fire stations at subdivisional headquarters of Kailashahar, Khowai and Belonia.

#### **Central Government Employees in Territorial Army**

**1946. Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Territorial Army personnel, recruited from Central Government employees, who were arrested and kept in military custody in connection with the recent strike of Central Government employees?

(b) the reasons for such arrests;

(c) the number subsequently released and those still in custody;

(d) the number subjected to court-martial trial and sentenced to imprisonment; and

(e) what action is proposed to be taken against those still under arrest?

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon):** (a) and (b). 818 Central Government employees belonging to the Railway and P & T units of the Territorial Army, were apprehended and placed under arrest for failure to comply with notices issued under the provisions of the Territorial Army Act and Rules, calling them up for military service with their respective units.

(c) to (e). Of those arrested no punishment was given to 166 personnel and 588 were released from custody after imposition of small fines. 61 personnel were tried by Summary Court Martial and sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 12 days to 4 months. 14 persons out of these have since been released from jail on completion of the terms of their sentence or as a result of a review which was recently carried out. Three persons, whose cases are pending, are still in military custody.

#### **Association in Central Secretariat**

**1947. Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given recognition to various Associations in each grade in the Central Secretariat;