

(c) The courses which will be run have not yet been finalised. For the basic courses, which are being run at present, there will normally be 24 trainees in each course. Details of the instructional staff are given in the statement placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 12.]

(d) Trainees must have sound physical fitness with capacity for grasping the essentials of the syllabus. As regards trainers, no minimum qualification has yet been prescribed and selections have been made on an *ad hoc* basis.

FIRE IN I.A.F. STORE AT KHERIA

*555. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a store room of the Indian Air Force at Kheria (Agra) caught fire in the month of October, 1954;

(b) if so, what was the total loss as a result of this fire;

(c) whether the cause of the fire has been ascertained; and

(d) if so, what was the cause?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the fire and assess the loss. The findings of the Court are awaited.

TRIPURA JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION

*556. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been made by the Tripura Journalists' Association to the Government complaining that no Press Conference is being called by the Chief Commissioner of Tripura, though it was assured by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on the floor of the Council of States in April 1954;

(b) whether the said Journalists' Association has demanded any sub-

sidy on air charge for importing newsprint; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government intend to take in the matter?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The Government of India have received copies of certain resolutions passed at the first annual conference of the Tripura Journalists' Association which relate to the holding of regular press conferences and reduction of air freight charges on newsprint.

(c) Government do not consider that there is justification for the grant of subsidy for the air-lifting of newsprint into Tripura as it can be brought by surface route *via* Pakistan. As regards the decision relating to the holding of press conferences in Tripura, the Chief Commissioner will convene such conferences as and when necessary.

बतन की उच्चतम सीमा

*५५७. श्री बी० पी० सिंह : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार अपने कर्मचारियों के बतन की कोई उच्चतम सीमा निश्चित करने की बात सोच रही हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो वह निश्चित रकम क्या होगी ?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) and (b). Based on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission, Government have already fixed a maximum limit of Rs. 3,000 as pay for their employees under the Revised Pay Rules.

U.S. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AID AGREEMENT

*558. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who were sent to U.S.A. during the year 1953-54

under the Technical Co-operation Aid Agreement;

(b) the method adopted for their selection; and

(c) the percentage of the cost that had been borne by Government on this account?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) Eighty-one.

(b) The applications received from the Central Ministries, State Governments and the Private Sector were first screened by the Ministries concerned with the subject-matter of the training facilities desired. Such of the training proposals as were recommended by the Ministries concerned were referred to the Central Committee of the Planning Commission for final approval. Proposals finally approved by the Central Committee were forwarded to the Technical Co-operation Mission of the United States Government.

(c) The entire cost of training including passage from India to U.S.A. and back was borne by the U.S. Government. The local cost such as internal travel from place of duty to the port of embarkation and the salaries payable to the trainees were borne by the Sponsoring Authorities of the trainees.

CENTRAL BOARD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
AND RECREATION

***559. Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 964 asked on the 15th September, 1954 and state:

(a) the names of the Members of the Central Board of Physical Education and Recreation; and

(b) the rules and procedure with regard to its meetings and other activities?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 13.]

MINING INDUSTRY

***560. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases referred by the Controller of Capital Issues for advice to the Ministry for issue of capital to the mining industry during the last one year; and

(b) the number of cases in which applications were granted during the same period?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Six.

(b) Five

LALIT KALA AKADEMI

***561. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the main activities of the Lalit Kala Akademy during 1954 so far; and

(b) the total amount spent during the same period?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 14.]

(b) The total amount spent by the Akadami upto 31st October, 1954, was Rs. 15,981.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES RE-ORGANISATION
COMMITTEE

***562. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Report of Ordnance Factories Re-organisation Committee has been submitted to Government?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): The Ordnance Factories Re-organisation Committee expect to submit their report within the next week or so.