

House rent Allowance for E.P.F.O. Employees at Delhi state :

4328. SHRI R. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state ;

(a) whether employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation are given House Rent allowance @ 20 per cent of their pay at Delhi, while other autonomous bodies like the State Trading Corporation are giving 30 per cent House Rent allowance to their employees ; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to extend the same rate of house rent allowance to the employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : The administration of the Employees' Provident Fund is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and not the direct concern of the Government of India. The Provident Fund authorities have intimated as under :—

(a) Employees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation are given house rent allowance @ 20% of their pay at Delhi.

(b) In pursuance of the decision of the Central Board of Trustees in whom the Fund vests, the employees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation are governed by the scales of pay, allowance and other concessions as are applicable to the employees of the administrative offices of the Central Government from time to time. In the circumstances, the question of comparison with the bodies like the State Trading Corporation does not arise. Owing to the non-availability of the facility of Staff quarters at Delhi which facility is available by way of provision of general pool accommodation to the employees of the Central Government, the staff of the above Organisation posted at Delhi were granted an additional House Rent allowance of 5% over and above the rates of House Rent Allowance prescribed for corresponding categories employees of the Central Government.

Land ceiling (Amendment) Act of West Bengal as Model Law for other States

4329. SHRI BHOGENDEA JHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to

(a) whether the Land Ceiling (Amendment) Act promulgated in West Bengal during President's Rule by the Union Government is being recommended as a model to other States also ; and

(b) if so, the States reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHFR SINGH) : (a) and (b). No specific recommendation has been made to States to treat as a model the West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 1971 which provides for ceiling on agricultural holdings. The West Bengal Act was amended keeping in view the policy laid down in the Five Year Plans and the suggestions made in the Chief Ministers Conferences of 1969 and 1970. All States have been advised to bring there laws in line with the national policy.

Ragi Cultivation

4330. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any step to improve the conditions of Ragi growing in several States ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and the States growing Ragi in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(a) The steps taken include improvement of Ragi by breeding new varieties suitable to different argoclimatic conditions and developing new technology for maximising production per unit area.

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Mysore, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh are the major Ragi growing States.

Construction of Office Building and Staff Quarters for Regional Office of Employees Provident Fund Organisation Patna

4331. SHRI R. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITA-

TION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of office building and residential quarters for the staff of the Regional Office at Patna of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation ;

(b) whether the above proposal has been pending for so many years ; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to expedite the same and the time it would take to decide the issue of the purchase of land and construction thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R.K. KHADILKAR): The administration of the Employees Provident Fund is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and is not the direct concern of the Government of India. The Provident Fund authorities have intimated as under :—

(a) to (c). There is a proposal for constructing an office building and staff quarters for the office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Bihar at Patna ; but no appreciable progress has been made due to non-availability of suitable plots of land at reasonable rates. The State Government of Bihar have already been approached for allotting a suitable plot of land for the purpose.

Construction of buildings for Regional and Central Offices of E.P.F.O. at Delhi

4332. **SHRI R. P. YADAV :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether land has been allotted by the Delhi Development Authority for construction of buildings for offices of the Central Provident Fund Commissioner and the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner at Delhi ;

(b) if so, the time required for this completion and the progress made in the matter so far ; and

(c) the details of the building area, floor, storey and the estimated cost ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : The administration of the Employees' Provident Fund is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and it is not the direct concern of the Government of India. The Provident Fund authorities have reported as under :—

(a) to (c). The Central Government have allotted a plot of land to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for construction of an office building in New Delhi. Possession has already been taken and an idea as to the time required for completion cannot be given at this stage when even the preliminaries regarding preparation of the building plan and its approval by the New Delhi Municipal Committee have not been completed. The Organisation, however, are themselves anxious to have the building completed as early as possible.

Survey of Minerals in Gujarat

4333. **SHRI JADEJA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for surveying area of Gujarat for minerals ;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be taken ; and

(c) the main features of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (c). The Geological and mineral surveys of Gujarat by the Geological Survey of India has been continuing since several decades and a general survey of the State has almost been completed. Geological mapping on modern maps and mineral investigations are in progress as per the Ten-Year Plan (1969-79) of the Geological Survey of India.

The Ten-Year Plan (1969-79) of Geological Survey of India for Gujarat envisages systematic geological mapping and preliminary mineral assessment of an area of 8,500 sq. km. and regional mineral assessment which will include 23,000 metres of drilling, besides pitting, trenching, sampling etc. in the first phase (1969-74).