

HABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction work of the staff quarters and Office building for the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners' Office at Trivandrum; and

(b) whether the process of acquisition of land has been completed; if so, the brief outline of the work done so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): The Provident Fund authorities have reported as under:

(a) and (b). Drawings and estimates for the construction of office building for the Regional Office, Kerala, at the present site of the office in Thycaud, Trivandrum were sanctioned in January, 1972 and tenders for pile foundation were also invited. When the work was about to be started, a proposal for acquisition of a plot of land in the Pattam Palace compound was getting matured. In view of the central location of the Pattam Palace area, and other facilities like transport, schools and hospitals available, in that locality, the proposal to construct the building at the present site of the Regional Office was kept in abeyance. In the meantime, the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund, had also been considering a proposal for the establishment of a sub-Regional Office for Kerala. Since this would have considerably changed the requirements of the Regional Office, construction of building could not be taken up. The Central Board of Trustees have recently decided on 6th February, 1973 not to have a sub-Regional Office.

A plot of 7.5 acres of land has been acquired through the State Government in Pattam Palace compound and possession of the land to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation was given in December, 1972. The proposals with regard to construction of staff quarters and office buildings are expected to be finalised shortly.

Enactment of Law by States for payment of Gratuity of Workers

415. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of **LABOUR AND REHABILITATION** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which have enacted laws for payment of gratuity to the workers on the lines of the payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, enacted by Parliament and the date or dates on which such Acts and the Rules made thereunder were given effect to;

(b) whether Central Government have received representations from labour and other organisations about the inadequacy of such laws; and

(c) if so, the nature of such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) to (c). After the enactment of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, it is not necessary for State Governments to enact their laws on payment of gratuity to workers. The State Governments have to issue rules under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 in respect of establishments for which they are the "appropriate Government". Information regarding framing of rules by State Governments and any criticism of these Rules is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

Import of Fertilizers from Kuwait

416. SHRI BAKSI NAYAK: Will the Minister of **SUPPLY** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India propose to import fertilizers from Kuwait;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange allocation for this purpose?