

various areas in Assam as mentioned below:—

Name of place	Area to be reclaimed (in acres)	Number of families to be settled
Garo Hills District	9,000	3,000
Nowong District	3,500	1,200
Dharm Reserve in Goalpara District	1,420	500
Gurma in Cachar District	1,000	500
Total :	14,920 or say, 15,000	5,200

Information about the actual acreage of land so far reclaimed is being obtained from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha when available.

(d) Does not arise.

Investment of Provident Fund in Industrial Securities

208. Shri Sudarsanam: Will the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund have urged the Centre to invest Provident Funds in high yielding industrial securities; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation (Shri Hathi): (a) The accumulations in the Employees Provident Fund are now invested exclusively in Central Government securities. The Central Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund has made a recommendation that it may be allowed to invest the accumulations in other types of deposits, securities, etc., so that it may earn more income and be enabled to pay interest to the subscribers at a higher rate, without prejudice to the security of the funds.

(b) The Board's recommendation is under consideration.

Holiday on Election Day in Visakhapatnam

209. Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not declaring holiday for Central Government establishments and Offices on the day of by-election on the 27th April, 1987 in Visakhapatnam I Constituency;

(b) whether the Collector of Visakhapatnam declared a local holiday, if so, why the Central Government offices disregarded the Collector's directive in the matter;

(c) whether Government are aware that out of about 68 thousand voters in that constituency, employees in the Central establishments and offices constitute more than ten per cent of the Electorate; and

(d) whether voters in several offices were not allowed to leave offices till 3 p.m., rendering it impossible for most of them to exercise their franchise?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri K. S. Ramaswamy): (a) The practice is that Central Government offices located in the area in which a bye-election to a State Legislature is held, are not closed on the day of polling. However, Central Government employees are given full facilities to cast their votes. The same practice was followed on the day of bye-election in Visakhapatnam.

(b) Central Government offices are governed by orders of the Central Government and not those of the State Government or the local Collector.

(c) Government do not have exact information about the proportion of Central Government employees among the voters in the Visakhapatnam Constituency.

(d) Government have no reason to believe that the instructions referred to in part (a) above were not followed.