

in the Central and Regional Offices of the Employees Provident Fund Organization ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) to (c) . There has been some increase in the work-load of the Employees 'Provident Fund Organisation due to the introduction of the Employees' Family Pension Scheme, 1971. The following posts on *ad hoc* basis have been sanctioned in the ministerial cadres in the Central Office and Regional Offices of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation for the work connected with the Employees' Family Pension Scheme, 1971 :-

<i>S. N.</i>	<i>Category of post</i>	<i>No. of post</i>
A. Central office		
1.	Superintendent	1
2.	Assistants	2
3.	Lower Division Clerk	1
4.	Peon	1
B. Regional offices		
1.	Head Clerks	13
2.	U. D. C.-in-charge	5
3.	Lower Division Clerks	258
4.	Peons	18
Total		299

Protest to U. S. A. against sending of seventh fleet to bay of Bengal

*55, SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA :
SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have lodged protest against the despatch of the U. S. Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal in December, 1971 ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of U. S. A. thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a)

and (b) . The Government of India did not lodge any protest as such against the despatch of the U. S. Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal. However, the Government of India considered this action of the U. S. Government as unfriendly and dangerous and expressed our concern and views to the U. S. Government.

Sino-pak strategy against India

*56, SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards a news item appearing in the *Indian Express* of the 1st February, 1972 about Peking-Pindi strategy against India ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Government have seen the *Indian Express* news item of 1st February, 1972.

(b) The news item is of a speculative nature and Government do not think it necessary to give their reaction to such unauthorised reports.

U. S. Peace proposal for vietnam

*57, SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE :
SHRI B. V. NAIK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied President Nixon's new Vietnam peace proposal ; and

(b) if so, Government's views thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Government of India have always welcomed every effort, in public or in secret, between the parties concerned to