

visit holy shrine of Dera Sahib in Lahore have been refused permission by the Pakistan authorities;

(b) whether Government have taken up this issue with the Pakistan authorities; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Pakistan authorities thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Housing Schemes for Central Government Employees at Giri Nagar, Cochin

* 776. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government offered 20 acres of land at Giri Nagar at Cochin for the proposed Housing scheme of the Central Government for the Central Government employees;

(b) whether the Kerala Government withdrew the offer later due to the lack of response from the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the rejection of the offer?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) The Government has no scheme for general pool accommodation for their employees at Cochin and no such offer was received by the Central Government from the Government of Kerala. It is, however, understood that the Central Services Welfare Board, Cochin, approached the State Government direct and that they were informed that the State Government would assist the Central Government in acquiring any land required at Cochin for the construction of quarters for Central Government employees.

(b) and (c). These questions do not arise.

Setting up of a Marine Diesel Engine Factory at Ennore, Tamil Nadu

* 777. SHRI BHUVARAHAN: Will the

Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was proposal to construct a Marine/Diesel Engine Factory at Ennore, Tamil Nadu with Japanese collaboration;

(b) whether the site was also selected and approved by both the Central and the State Government; and

(c) if so, the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJWAN RAM): (a) and (b). In 1962, it was proposed to set up a Marine Diesel Engine factory at Ennore, Tamil Nadu and a site for this purpose was selected. The foreign collaboration envisaged was with a West German firm and not a Japanese firm. A Technical Collaboration Agreement for the licensed manufacture of marine diesel engines was concluded with Messrs. M.A.N. of West Germany in October, 1962.

2. According to the original proposal, this plant was intended to be a fulfilled manufacturing unit for the marine diesel engines. It was, however, subsequently found to be necessary to review the scope of the project, including its economic viability in the light of different alternatives. Doubts regarding the suitability of the site at Ennore also arose as a result of soil testing. It was, therefore, decided to further examine the scope of the project as well as the best possible location. On the invitation of the Government, a team of engineers from M/s M.A.N., the collaborators for this project, visited India during June-August 1965 to advise on the basic manufacturing plan for this project and also the location. After taking into consideration various factors, e.g. geographical situation, communication, availability of labour, investment, and factory costs, etc. and carrying out a relative assessment of the different sites, they recommended first preference to Ranchi and accordingly it was decided to locate the marine diesel engine factory at Ranchi. The most important consideration influencing this decision is the close proximity of the Marine Diesel Engine plant to Heavy Engineering Corporation complex who are the main components suppliers.

(c) The factory building of the Plant at Ranchi has been completed. The machinery