

at Muzaffarpur in the near future, with a view, to mitigate the inconvenience to the employers and workers, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The provident fund authorities have reported that the proposal for opening of a Sub-Regional Office at Muzaffarpur, is under consideration and that it would be placed before the Central Board of Trustees at their next meeting.

#### **Representation from West Bengal Tea Employees' Association**

1500. SHRI SONGDOPAL LEPCHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation dated 27-7-80 has been received from West Bengal Tea Employees' Association, Jalpaiguri, for amendment of Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 so as to cover those employees with income upto Rs. 1000/- under the scheme in view of the reduction in purchasing power of the rupee; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various proposals for amendment of the Gratuity Act, 1972 including amendment of the salary limit are under consideration. The suggestion of the Association will be given consideration while taking decisions on the proposals.

#### **Tripartite Conference on Beedi Industry**

1501. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tripartite Conference on Beedi Industry was postponed twice; and

(b) whether Government proposes to convene the meeting in this regard, if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The meeting is being convened early in January, 1981.

#### **Issue of Provident Fund Pass Books to Employees**

1502. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Provident Fund pass books are proposed to be issued to employees contributing the Employees Provident Fund Scheme on an experimental basis in selected areas;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal; and

(c) how far this is likely to improve the working of the said organisations and benefit the contributors?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a) to (c) The Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund at its 86th meeting held on the 13th and 14th October, 1980 decided that a scheme for issue of pass books be prepared by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner in consultation with the Chairman of the Regional Committees of Delhi, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh where it is proposed to be tried on an experimental basis. The Board felt that the issue of such pass books will benefit the contributors by having with them a running record of their account.

#### **Delay in Payment to Retiring Officers**

1503. SHRI NAND KTSHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 504 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1980 and state: