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Title: Need to set up an office of Employees Provident Fund Organisation at Palakkad, Kerala.

* SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Palakkad is the second largest industrial town in Kerala. In Palakkad alone, there are about 1500 establishments with a strength of about 80,000 workers and about 25000 pensioners covered under Employees Provident Fund Scheme. The new unit of Bharat Earth Movers Limited, the proposed new Coach factory and the consequent Industrial development in this area will add to the number of workers covered under EPF. Presently the workers covered under EPF scheme have to depend on Sub Regional Office at Kozhikode, situated at a distance of 200 km from Palakkad. Poor and aged labourers and widows are facing extreme hardship due to the absence of an EPF office at Palakkad. They have to travel to Kozhikode which involves a tiresome journey, not to speak of the expenses. Thus, their right to proper and speedy service is denied and delayed. A service fee is also debited to their bank accounts as collection charges as the cheques are drawn at Kozhikode. A number of establishments are not covered under this social security scheme. Hence, in the interest of thousands of poor working people, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to open an EPF Office at Palakkad, Kerala.