

SHRIMATI BEDAVATI BURA-GOHAIN: May I know when the work will be completed?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We will try to complete it as soon as possible.

CULTIVABLE WASTE LANDS IN ASSAM

\*260. SHRIMATI BEDAVATI BURA-GOHAIN: Will the Minister for Food AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of cultivable waste land in the State of Assam;

(b) whether Government of Assam have applied to the Government of India for any grant for the purpose of reclamation of waste land; and

(c) if so, the amount of grant asked for and the amount sanctioned, if any?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) The Government of Assam have intimated that there are 2,75,000 acres of cultivable waste lands in the seven plain Districts of the State.

(b) and (c). The State Government made a request some time back for a grant of Rs. 17 lakhs. The amount sanctioned by the Government of India is Rs. 11½ lakhs.

MEMORANDUM BY THE ANDHRA RASHTRA MICA WORKERS' UNION

\*242. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (ON BEHALF OF SHRI J. V. K. VAL-LABHARAO): Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum has been received from the Andhra Rashtra Mica Workers' Union;

(b) if so, what demands have been made in that memorandum; and

(c) whether Government have conceded these demands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 62.]

REVISION OF WAGES OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS OF TRIPURA

\*246. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR (ON BEHALF OF SHRI N. C. SEKHAR): Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state what steps Government have taken for the revision of the minimum rates of wages of tea garden workers of Tripura?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): The Government of Tripura have set up an advisory committee under section 6 of the Minimum Wages Act.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, whether the labour organisations there are also represented on this advisory committee?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, there were representatives of the workers there.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Did the hon. Minister say they "were there" or they "are there"?

SHRI ABID ALI: Another committee has been set up or is going to be set up and the workers' representatives will be there. Also the committee which fixed the wages which are prevalent at present had representatives of the workers.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Am I to take it then that there has been a re-constitution of the committee? Or is it that this committee is meeting simply for a revision of the wages which were fixed previously?

SHRI ABID ALI: The rates which are prevalent at present are to be revised again and, therefore, a committee either has already been set up or would be set up soon.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But I want definite information.

(No reply.)