

and Class II officers who have officiated for more than 3 years should be protected to a legitimate extent.

RECLAMATION OF LAND BY THE C.T.O.

*317. SHRI B. M. GUPTE: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 35,000 acres of forest land has been cleared for cultivation by the Central Tractor Organisation?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): Yes, Sir. The exact acreage reclaimed is 36,251.

AMENDMENT OF THE MINIMUM WAGES ACT

*318. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Dock labourers' organisations in Calcutta and Bombay regarding the Government's proposal to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; and

(b) if so, what points have been raised in those representations?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI): (a) Yes. Representations have been received from the Calcutta Port Trust Employees' Association, the Bombay Port Trust General Workers Union and the Dock Mazdoor Union, Calcutta.

(b) The main requests of the workers' unions are:—

(i) that the Minimum Wages Act should be implemented immediately and provisions thereof should be enforced with effect from the 15th March 1951;

(ii) that the proposed amendment empowering the appropriate Government to direct that the Act shall not apply to any class of employees in a scheduled employment where on an average the wages payable are Rs. 75 or more per

month or Rs. 3 or more per day should be withdrawn; and

(iii) that the Minimum Wages Act should be extended to cover all the categories of workers under the Port Authority (including dock labour) which should be covered but have not been covered so far.

FLYING CLUB FOR GAUHATI

*319. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to set up a Flying Club at Gauhati; and

(b) the amount of annual subsidy proposed to be given to that club?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). The Assam Government have been advised to constitute a Club and get it registered. They have also been informed that when this is done, they will be allotted aircraft for training purposes and allowed free operational facilities and hangarage accommodation at Gauhati aerodrome and also granted subsidy on the scale allowed to other Flying Clubs, provided the Club enrolls 100 members and employs necessary instructional and engineering staff. A statement showing the scale on which subsidy is paid at present to Flying Clubs is placed on the Table.

Statement showing the scale on which subsidy is paid to Flying Clubs

A fixed annual subsidy of rupees thirty thousand payable in four quarterly instalments on and towards meeting the standing charges of the Company. The fixed subsidy is payable quarterly in advance.

Supplementary Flying Bonus.—A sum of Rs. 5 per hour of instructional flying (dual and solo by members) flown by the Company in excess of 1,000 hours per year at the headquarters of the Company or at the