

(f) Other things being equal, an additional production of about one-third of a ton can be assumed in respect of newly reclaimed land. In respect of Kans-infested land on which a crop is grown notwithstanding, the extra yield is still a matter for conjecture. Roughly 40% of the land reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation is new land.

#### OPERATION OF THE MINIMUM WAGES ACT, 1948

8. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether minimum wages were fixed by Government in 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951 for employees in (i) Government owned industries and (ii) private factories and industrial concerns ; and

(b) whether there have been any instances of contravention of the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act in those years ; if so, what action has been taken by Government in such cases ?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

#### PRIVATE PRACTICE OF DOCTORS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

9. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Health Ministers' Conference of 1948 made any recommendations to the Government for restricting private practice of doctors in Government service ;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard ; and

(c) whether views of the State Governments have been ascertained in this matter ?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The recommendations were commended to the state Governments for necessary action. A statement showing the action taken or proposed to be taken by the State Governments is attached. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 4.]

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE FORWARD CONTRACTS (REGU- LATION) BILL, 1952

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report to the Council the following message received from the House of the People, signed by the Secretary to the House:

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Bill, 1952, which has been passed as amended by the House at its sitting held on the 24th November 1952."

I lay the Bill on the Table.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI G. B. MOHTA

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have to inform hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Shri Gopaldas Bulakidasji Mohta :

"My old revered mother who has been suffering since about a year on account of old age and infirmity, has now lost her consciousness and is in a delicate health, so much so that there is no guarantee as to what will happen to her at any moment. In the circumstances, I am required to attend on her day and night. Further being the son, I cannot leave her at this stage, as in an untoward event. I shall have to perform the obsequies.

I would, therefore, request that I may be either permitted to remain absent or granted leave for the complete period of session.