

(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.