

(c) It is a scale drawn by the late Director of Indian Institute of Sugar Technology, Kanpur—Shri R. C. Srivastava for working out the cost of manufacturing sugar on the basis of recovery of sugar from cane and length of working season.

(i) No. It is extremely difficult to determine with any degree of accuracy the cost of production of cane because the factors influencing its cost are many and complex. Such factors vary widely from year to year, from place to place and even from cultivator to cultivator.

(e) The information is being collected.

LAND RECLAMATION

7. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the work of land reclamation carried on by the Central Tractor Organisation ;

(b) what is the area of land reclaimed so far, and how much more land remains to be reclaimed under the plan;

(c) whether the fertility of the soil so reclaimed has been tested ; if so, how and with what result ;

(i) when the reclaimed land will be made available for agriculture;

(e) how these lands will be cultivated and which crops will be grown thereon; and

(/) to what extent the food problem of the country will be solved by such reclamation of land ?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI) : (a) and (b). A total area of 7,20,870 acres has so far been reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organization in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Bhopal and Punjab. It is proposed to reclaim an additional area of approximately 980,000 acres by the end of the 1955-56 reclamation season in all of these States except Punjab.

(c) Tests to determine the fertility of reclaimed lands have not so far been carried out on an adequately large scale. However, crop-cutting experiments were conducted on some of the lands by the officials of State Governments concerned, under the technical guidance of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The Results of experiments conducted last year show an additional production of 10 maunds per acre from fallow lands, and 1 maund per acre from prior cultivated lands. Further experiments are being conducted to see whether these figures hold good as a general rule or whether the results obtained last year, especially in regard to cropped land, were sub-normal.

(d) Reclamation operations in the Kans-infested areas extend from October of one year to the end of May next year. The reclamation operations are stopped about three weeks before the start of the monsoons, and it is possible to grow a *kharif* crop immediately thereafter, although *kliarif* crops are not usually raised and the land is sown only in the following *Rabi*. There is a general belief that the raising of *kharif* crops immediately after reclamation leads to re-infestation of Kans.

(e) In the Kans-infested areas, the land is mostly owned by private cultivators who, for the most part, cultivate their lands with bullocks power and indigenous implements. In some cases mechanical means are also employed. In the Tarai area of Uttar Pradesh, where the Central Tractor Organisation has been doing jungle clearance work, a part of the reclaimed land has been allotted to displaced persons and ex-servicemen settled in co-operative colonies. In the rest of the Tarai area, State Farms have been established. Mechanical cultivation is carried on to a large extent in the State Farm.

The main crops grown are *Rabi*. I Wheat, Barley, Gram and Oilseeds and I *kharif* paddy and *Jowar*.

(/). 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 («) 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 (REGULATION) 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.