

[Shri Vasudevan Nair]

lished. Shri K. D. Malaviya, when he was Minister, came there and laid a foundation-stone for a particular mill. I may assure the Government that that stone is very safe, that foundation-stone is there and it will be there because it is a stone which cannot just be removed very easily. Beyond that one foundation-stone laid with great ceremony by a Minister, nothing has happened.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): A great thing has happened to him.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The Government had appointed a committee to make specific proposals about the starting of alternative industries in that area. The committee worked upon the scheme and produced a report. But what has happened to that report? That report is very safe in the shelves of the Kerala Government. It has not even seen the daylight till now. I say, you proceed with mechanisation, you give money—I do not want to oppose it as such—you make that experiment but I want an assurance, a definite assurance, not like the usual assurance, that all the workers who may be unemployed as a result of this mechanisation will be given an alternative employment. Mr. Manubhai Shah should give that assurance. I want that assurance from the Minister here. There is no meaning in getting any assurance from the Kerala Government. They cannot do anything in the matter. So, my point is this. Apart from the difference of opinion about the great benefits which may come out of mechanisation—let us leave it; let that controversy be there—let us come to this practical question of employing all those workers who may be thrown out of employment. The Government should guarantee their employment in some alternative industries.

17.00 hrs.

Now, another point is about the duty. It is good that you are now trying to give more grants to the Coir Board beyond the amount that you collect by way of duty. In this con-

nection, I would like to remind the Minister that of late the duty on the manufactured articles was brought on a par with the duty on coir yarn. As a matter of fact, during the last many many years, right from the time of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, in order to protect the manufacturing industry and in order to give preference to the manufacturing industry as compared to the coir yarn industry, the duty on the manufactured articles was kept at a minimum and the duty on the coir yarn was more. Last year, Government thought it fit to increase the duty and keep it on a par with that on coir yarn. There was a lot of hue and cry against it, because it was feared that an industry which was already hard hit might be hit again. The Coir Board unanimously made a recommendation to Government that that amount should be reimbursed. I do not know why a decision has not been taken by Government till now. As far as I know, the Coir Board has again made that recommendation to Government re-emphasising the necessity of paying it back. I hope that Government will take an early decision in this matter in favour of the recommendation of the Coir Board.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Maniyaganadan will speak tomorrow.

17.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF
MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF
THE HOUSE

NINTH REPORT

Shri Khadiikar (Khed): Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

17.01½ hrs.

The Sabha then adjourned till Eleven o'clock on Friday, May 1, 1964/Vaisakha 11, 1886 (Saka).