

[Shri Pannooose]

sales tax on these products. For the time being, the sales tax has been suspended by the State Government concerned. It is calculated that about 1,200 kandies of coir are produced everyday which in normal times will get about Rs. 390,000, and it must be specially noted that about Rs. 260,000 are spent on merely wages alone. There are several stages in the coir industry—husking, soaking etc. All these are performed as cottage industry. I do not object to any sales tax being imposed on coir products during normal days, but in the case of coir, it has been deceptive in the past, the fluctuations have been so violent and everytime the price of coir products goes down, lakhs and lakhs of people are thrown into difficulties, and therefore, I very strongly urge that this amendment be accepted.

For the time being, there is no sales tax on these products. It was only a few weeks ago that this was lifted owing to very strong agitation. If my amendment is not accepted, there is every likelihood of its being re-imposed again.

I very strongly urge that the importance of the industry must be realised, and so I suggest that the words 'coconut husks, coir fibre, coir yarn and coir products' be also included in the Schedule.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

In page 1, line 19, after "coconuts" insert "including coconut husks, coir fibre, coir yarn and coir products".

Shri Viswanatha Reddy (Chittoor): I beg to move:

In page 2, line 17, after "exercise books" insert "slates and slate pencils".

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

In page 2, line 17, after "exercise books" insert "slates and slate pencils".

Shri N. P. Sinha (Hazaribagh East): I beg to move:

In page 2, after line 18, add:

"17. Mica (except finished mica meant for export)".

Sir, with regard to this a little explanation is necessary. So far as the nature of this industry is concerned, I would like to place in as few words as possible before this House how this particular industry is carried out in Bihar, especially in parts of Chota Nagpur. First of all, I would say at the outset that it has today

become a multiple taxable commodity. It is taxed as soon as it passes from one hand to another. For instance, when mica is mined, it is taken out in the shape of crude mica and this mica is sold in the open in the same state to others. At that point it is taxed. Then it is treated to what is called the 'sickle process'. That also is sold and it is taxed at that point. In the same way it is dressed, it is processed, it is graded, it is classified. It is placed in different baskets according to different qualities and all these different kinds of qualities and different kinds of grades, when they are sold by one dealer to another are taxed. The main point that I want to place before the House and to which I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister in charge is that this mica should be taxed as it used to be taxed internally before the passing of article 286 of the Constitution. When this article 286 was adopted, of course the sales tax which used to be collected by exporters from the foreign buyers ceased. The result was that the tax was distributed internally on the so-called small dealers. Mica, today, has ceased to be the monopoly business of a few rich. It has now become a business of thousands and thousands of small dealers who invest some money, some small capital and do business; sometimes they sell it in the same way as they buy it. So what I mean to suggest is that this mica should not be a multiple taxable commodity, as it affects a large number of small dealers who have to depend for their livelihood on this very trade in our parts of Chota Nagpur. I, therefore, suggest that this should be included in the list of essential commodities.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

In page 2, after line 18, add:

"17. Mica (except finished mica meant for export)".

Now all these amendments and the Schedule are open to discussion.

Before we adjourn, I would request the Secretary to read out the message from the Council of States.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATES

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of the Council of States:

"I am directed to inform the House of the People that the Council of States

At its sitting held on Friday, the 25th July, 1952, has passed the enclosed motion concurring in the recommendation of the House of the People that the Council do join in the Joint Committee of the House on the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of certain Air Force Reserves and also an Auxiliary Air Force and for matters connected therewith. The names of the Members nominated by the Council to serve on the said Joint Committee are set out in the motion."

Motion

"That this Council concurs in the recommendation of the House of the People that the Council do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of certain Air Force Reserves and also an Auxiliary Air

Force and for matters connected therewith, and resolves that the following members of the Council of States be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee:

- (1) Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor
- (2) Shri Jagannath Das
- (3) Shri Kailash Bihari Lal
- (4) Shri M. Govind Reddy
- (5) Shri Pir Mohammad Khan
- (6) Shrimati Mona Hensman
- (7) Shri H. D. Rajah
- (8) Shri K. C. George
- (9) Shri C. G. K. Reddy
- (10) Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar."

The House then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Monday, the 28th July, 1952.