

Shri Jhulan Staba: Besides the shrines in Pakistan, may I enquire whether there is any Hindu or Sikh shrine in other Muslim countries and how they are treated there?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There are some shrines in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Is the hon. Member talking of Hindu and Sikh shrines in foreign countries?

Mr. Speaker: In countries other than Pakistan.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There are some in Afghanistan.

Utilisation of Forest Waste

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*258. { **Shri V. P. Nayar:**
Shri Kadiyan:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the possibility of starting an industry to recover useful products from forest wood in Kerala State; and

(b) if so, what are the prospects of the industry?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). At present there are 12 approved plywood units in Kerala State utilising the forest wood there and some of them are already expanding and diversifying their production. 15 match factories in the cottage sector are also at work in that State. There is room for many more such units and the proposals are considered as and when received.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know whether the Government has investigated the possibilities of converting the wood waste in the forest and utilising it in the recovery of useful products for industry.

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are several experiments that are being undertaken in the Forest Research

Institute in Dehra Dun on this particular issue. They are trying to make some hard boards and plastics out of the waste wood. So far none of them have reached a stage where industrial exploitation could take place.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In the process of extraction of paper, a large part of the tree is left in the forest and from such waste it is possible to extract cellulose, wood pulp and peptic substances which are used in several industries. May I know whether Government has investigated the possibility of starting such industries in Kerala?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If the question really relates to wood pulp, there is a proposal for a 100 ton unit under consideration. The Nilampur forest in the Kerala State and the forests near-about are supposed to have got two type of trees suitable for this type of pulp.

Shri Heda: In the advanced countries, about ninety per cent of the forest wood is being used for different industrial purposes while, in India, they say that we use only 33 or 34 per cent. Is it a fact, and if so, what steps are being taken to exploit and use more percentage of wood?

Shri Manubhai Shah: When our country also reaches that stage of industrialisation, certainly our results will go that much height.

Shri Kadiyan: May I know whether the Government has any idea of the quantity of wood waste left in our forests?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No idea.

कास्टिक सोडा तथा सम्बन्धित उद्योग

*२५६. { श्री शर्मा:
श्री नाथूर:

क्या कास्टिक तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बात की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सांभर झील (राजस्थान) से कास्टिक सोडा और उससे सम्बन्धित पदार्थों