

Title: Request to take immediate steps for the continued operation of Balmer and Lawrie Company at Aroor in Kerala and save the workers.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (ALLEPPEY): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the serious situation arising out of the delay in taking expeditious steps for the continued operation of Balmer and Lawrie company at Aroor in Kerala. Due to lack of timely decision to save the company, all the workers and their families are facing acute hardships. Now it is learnt that the Government of Kerala have submitted a viable project report to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, as per the decision of the Conference held at Kochi in the presence of the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik, the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas and also the Petroleum Secretary. But no effective steps have been taken so far. The hon. Minister is present here. I had also discussed this matter with him and he has been responding positively in this matter. I hope that he would take immediate steps for the continued operation of the company and save the workers. The sentiments of the workers and the feelings of the people have to be taken into consideration and I hope immediate steps would be taken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I had gone to Kerala and I had a detailed discussion with the Industry Minister of the Government of Kerala, Shrimati Suseela Gopalan. Thereafter, they have decided that they would submit a plan which would be workable. They have submitted a plan, but that plan is not workable. So, accordingly, I have informed the Government of Kerala that if they want to run this unit, we are agreeable to give it to them and I am awaiting their response.