

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) For the development of coir industry in Kerala, the Coir Board undertakes, assists and encourages scientific, technological and economic research, promotes export of coir and coir products, develops domestic market, promotes co-operative organisations among the producers, collects statistics on all matters relating to coir industry and progressive modernisation is undertaken in the manufacture of coir and coir products. In order to achieve these objectives, the Coir Board has been implementing certain schemes in Kerala since the beginning of Eighth Plan period. These Schemes are as under :

- (i) Science and Technology;
- (ii) Domestic Market Development;
- (iii) Export promotion;
- (iv) Strengthening of National Level Training Institute;
- (v) Indigenisation of Hindustan Coir;
- (vi) Support for Training Infrastructure;
- (vii) Welfare Measures;
- (viii) Quality Improvement, Modernisation and Training; and
- (ix) Mahila Coir Yojana.

Implementation of various development schemes by the Coir Board has accelerated the pace of development of the industry in Kerala. Through intensive research undertaken by the Coir Board, it has been possible to find new methods for extraction of fibre and processing and manufacture of end-products have been introduced. Other achievements are : identification of new user areas for potential utilisation of coir, coir waste, coir pith; development of motorised ratt and automatic spinning machine; introduction of a new bio-technological product 'coir ratt' for reducing retting period of coconut husk; etc. More than 450 candidates received training at National Coir Training and Design Centre at Alleppy. An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs was released to Kerala State Coir Workers Welfare Fund Board for implementation of welfare schemes such as monthly pension, medical assistance, marriage assistance, etc. to coir workers. Under 'Mahila Coir Yojana', 163 women from Kerala were trained in spinning coir yarn on motorised ratt out of whom 100 were provided financial assistance to purchase motorised ratt. Financial assistance were provided for the construction of RCC tanks to 100 societies in Kerala. Some of the societies were supplied with pith plus and urea to convert coir pith into organic manure. Rs. 22.05 lakhs have been released during the period as financial assistance for modernising 324 loom shades in Kerala. An amount of Rs. 10.79 lakhs was released as financial assistance for setting up a common facility centre at Alleppy, Aryad, Pattanakkan and Kanjikuzhy. During the observation of quality year in 1993-94, 8201 coir workers participated in 44 quality camps and 105 workers were honoured with awards. Under the Scheme of Cooperativisation, an amount of Rs. 58.21 lakhs was released to Kerala

towards share capital, managerial subsidy, etc. An Integrated Coir Development Project in Kerala with a project cost of Rs. 44.24 crores in being implemented. For domestic market development during the last three years, an amount of Rs. 940.94 lakhs has been spent. An amount of Rs. 455.40 lakhs has been released to Government of Kerala for settlement of rebate claims during the last three years. Through efforts made towards development of brown fibre, its production in Kerala increased from 10,000 tonnes to 16,500 tonnes. Ninety seven percent of total export of 118,391 tonnes of coir products valued at Rs. 397.16 crores during the last three years was from Kerala.

(b) Coir Board has not formulated separate action plan for development of coir industry in Kerala. However, the Board has formulated a 10-year plan for development of coir industry in India. The 10-year plan envisages stepping up of production of fibre to 5 lakh tonnes by the end of the terminal year, i.e. 2005-2006 from the current level of production of 2.5 lakh tonnes. Kerala State will benefit from this plan as 80 percent coir industry is located in Kerala.

Blasting of Rocks

3653. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a platoon of Border Roads Organisation is posted at Ratura (Rishikesh-Badrinath Road);

(b) if so, whether the explosive meant for blasting the rocks are stored at a place which proper from the safety point of view and is a hazard to the population residing near the store;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to shift this explosive store somewhere else; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir. Only a small detachment is located there.

(b) No explosives are kept at this location.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Electronic Units

3654. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electronic units in public sector and turnover of each during the last three years and April to September 1995-96, Unit-wise;

(b) the particulars of the units which are making profits and incurring losses for the last three years;

(c) the reasons for the losses, Unit-wise; and