

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1222

ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010

EXPORT OF COIR FIBRE

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Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representation from the Government of Kerala to ban export of coir fibre as it adversely affects the employment of workers in the manufacturing and marketing of coir based products; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b) The Government of Kerala and the Federation of Indian Coir Exporters Associations had made representations to the Government of India during 2009 for banning/restricting the export of coir fibre and make available the same to the coir industry in Kerala. The shortage of white fibre used in the export oriented sector in Kerala was mainly due to non availability of green coconut husk in the market caused by a fall in price of coconut. In addition, there has been a slow down in the fibre production activities in Kerala due to drudgery in operation, increasing awareness of pollution aspects of the environment due to retting, increased use of coconut husk for firewood purpose, etc. The non-existence of adequate number of functioning fibre extraction units and husk collection mechanism in Kerala are also causes for shortage of coir fibre. However, the shortage of coir fibre in the State of Kerala is temporary and seasonal during the months of October to December every year and the availability of coconuts increases in the market during January resulting in the fall of price of coconut fibre.

The Coir Board, a statutory body under the administrative control of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, in association with the Government of Kerala has initiated several steps to improve the supply position of coir fibre in Kerala. The Board has taken up a project for revival of two defibering units, established by the Govt. of Kerala, by modernizing the machinery so that the State Government could take up the work of revival of remaining units. The Coir Board has also facilitated the COIRFED, an apex federation of Government of Kerala to source coir fibre from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in addition to Tamil Nadu. The Central Coir Research Institute (CCRI), Kalavoor (Coir Board) has developed a mobile defibering machine which can be taken to the interior villages where the small quantities of husks collected can be converted into coir fibre. The first mobile defibering machine developed by the CCRI has been transferred to the Government of Kerala for popularization.