

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:802
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
DEVELOPMENT OF COIR INDUSTRY
Antony Shri Anto

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

- (a) whether the country exports coir/coir fiber;
- (b) if so, the total quantity and value of coir/coir fiber exported during each of the last three years, State-wise and Country-wise including to China ;
- (c) whether the coir industry is facing crisis due to scarcity of coir fiber in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) the quantum of the demand of coir fiber including availability of coir products in the country, State-wise;
- (f) whether the Government has established any institution for the promotion, research and development of the coir industry in the country; and
- (g) If so, the details thereof including value added products developed by such institutions during each of the last three years?

Answer

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

(a) & (b). Yes, Sir. Country-wise details (including China) of export of coir and coir products including coir fibre during the last three years is given in Annexure I. The export figures from the major ports located in different States are given in Annexure II.

(c & d) The coir industry in the export oriented production centres at Alleppey (Kerala) is facing scarcity of coir fibre, of late. The industry is mainly dependent on Tamil Nadu for sourcing fibre and it is estimated that around 80,000 MT to 1,00,000 MT of coir fibre is annually transported from the places like Pollachi, Tenkasi, Cumbam, Theni and Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu. to the export oriented production centres at Alleppey, Kerala. Now the supply of the coir fibre by the production centres in Tamil Nadu has come down as coir fibre is being increasingly exported. As against an export of coir fibre of 11,102 MT in 2007-2008, 19444 MT of coir fibre was exported during 2008-2009. In the current year, 18,262 MT of coir fibre has been exported till October, 2009 as compared to the export of 4,835 MT in the corresponding period of the previous year. In addition, there has been a slow down in the fibre production activities in Kerala due to a number of reasons like unattractive remuneration, drudgery in operation, awareness on the pollution aspects of the environment due to retting etc.

The scarcity of coir fibre has not so far been reported in other coir producing States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa though there appears to be some shortage in the curled coir industry in Tamil Nadu.

(e) It is estimated that a total quantity of 299000 M.T. of coir fibre is consumed in the domestic market sector. State-wise details of estimated production of coir fibre during 2008-09 are given below:

(f) & (g) For the promotion, research and development of Coir Industry two Research and Development Institutes viz.

(i) Central Coir Research Institute, Kalavoor, Alleppey, Kerala and

(ii) Central Institute of Coir Technology, Peenya, Bangalore have been set up. The details of value added products developed by these Institutes during each of the last three years are given in Annexure III.