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Title: Problems being faced by the coir industry in Kerala.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): All right, Sir.

I would like to draw the attention of the Parliament as well as the hon. Minister for Agro and Rural Industries to the sad plight of the traditional coir factory workers in Kerala. There are about four lakh coir factory workers out of which two lakhs are women workers. They are working in the traditional sector. There are about 12,000 coir factory co-operative societies. But the future of these coir factory co-operative societies and also those who are working in these factories is in danger.

SHRIRAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Sir, please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all going against you. When I called you, you were not present. You have to wait. Please wait. I will try to give a chance. Do not interrupt others.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Sir, formerly, in order to facilitate production and marketing of coir products, subsidies and rebates were given, but now all the rebates and subsidies are withdrawn. Instead of rebates, MDA, that is, Marketing Development Assistance is given. But this is not given timely. These co-operative societies are not allowed to use the MDA for their day-to-day activities. So, I urge upon the Government that instead of MDA, rebate should be given. Also, formerly there was minimum export price as well as minimum purchase price for the coir products, but now it is not there. So, the small-scale manufacturers as well as the co-operative societies have to give their products at a very low price. The exporters make them sell their products at a very low price. So, I urge upon the Government that minimum export price as well as minimum purchase price for the coir products should be re-instituted, and instead of MDA, rebates should be given to the coir products.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gadhavi, kindly listen. I am trying to accommodate everybody. The only thing is that you are raising a matter on which the Government has made its position absolutely clear at the level of the hon. Prime Minister. Do you want to thank him today?