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Title: Need to introduce "Mill Gate Price Scheme" for Coir Yarn and Coir Products.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Coir fibre is an eco-friendly natural fibre like silk and jute yarn. Coir industry is one of the major traditional industries in the country. More than 6.5 lakhs of workers, 90% of them are women are depending on this industry for their livelihood. "Alappuzha Coir"-The Golden Yarn of God's Own Country is very famous in the world. There is great demand for coir carpets and floor mattings all over the world. But, there is great shortage of raw material that is, Coir fibre. This along with other inherent problems in the industry has created crisis in the coir industry sector. Urgent intervention is essential to tide over this crisis. In the Textile industry Government, has introduced a scheme ie, *Mill Gate Price Scheme* to make available all types of yarn at mill gate price to the eligible handloom weavers so as to facilitate regular supply of basic raw materials to the handloom sector and help to utilise the full employment potential to the sector. Similar to this ,Mill Gate Price Scheme should be introduced in the coir sector and Coir Board may be entrusted to implement and monitor this scheme.