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Title : Need to provide financial assistance for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI C. SIVASAMI (TIRUPPUR): Madam Speaker, Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu is one of the biggest and very famous export oriented industrial town known for knitting industry. This town contributes to the earning of foreign exchange to the tune of about Rs. 11,000 crore every year. This industrial town is also providing job opportunities and livelihood both directly and indirectly to five lakhs of people.

An important ancillary industry that go about along with the knitting industry is the dyeing industry. The dyeing units in thousands that are carrying out their industrial activity give rise to huge amount of effluent that are being treated as per the orders of the judicial courts and the High Court of Madras. At a cost of about Rs. 800 crore, 19 Common Effluent Treatment Plants have been established. In anticipation of proportionate subsidy both from the Union and the State Government, the industrialists have raised a loan of about Rs. 600 crore from commercial banks. It was evolved that 25 per cent of the total cost involved would be contributed by the industrialists which has been done accordingly. The remaining 75 per cent will have to be shared by both the State Government and the Government of India at the rate of 15 per cent and 60 per cent respectively. This long-pending demand of the industrialists are yet to be attended to causing great concern to all concerned.

For the past two years, the demand for subsidy before the Union Government is lying unattended. Continuance of these Effluent Treatment Plants is much dependent on the subsidy that has to come from the Centre. Otherwise, they are facing closure. This would result in a huge loss to the Government of

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

being deprived of foreign exchange earnings. About five lakh workers will be rendered jobless when production is affected hugely in the knitting units. Export trade will also have a huge fall. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to extend the Central grant at the earliest to these 19 Common Effluent Treatment Plants in the same fashion as it was extended to Tanneries dealing with animal hides. The Centre must attend to this problem on a war footing extending this subsidy as a special grant and earnest steps must be taken by the Government.

I would like to point out that whenever the Government extends subsidy or grant under various other heads, they may not fetch a rich dividend to the Government. In this case, the subsidy that is sought to be extended to these dyeing units in order to augment the performance of knitting industry will only help the Government to earn more foreign exchange and revenue earnings. Excise and other duties levied and collected both directly and indirectly will fetch more for the Exchequer. In order to meet the competition with both China and Pakistan in the knitting industrial sector, the Central Government must act on a war footing by way of granting this subsidy as a special grant to promote export of knitted goods from Tiruppur. Hence I urge upon the Government to extend this subsidy for the Common Effluent Treatment Plants in Tiruppur at the earliest.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (CHENNAI NORTH): Madam, it is an important issue and I would like to associate myself with what has been said by him.

MADAM SPEAKER: You may please send your notice to the Table.

Next, Shri K. Karunakaran. Shri M B Rajesh has given notice for the same issue. He may associate with Shri Karunakaran.