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Title : Problems being faced by match industries due to non-availability of Chemicals.

*SHRI P. LINGAM (TENKASI): Sir, at the outset I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an urgent matter of public importance regarding the sufferings faced by small scale industrial units of the match industry. In several parts of our country, we find matches manufacturing units as cottage industries in the small scale sector. Match boxes are meant for common people. In Tamil Nadu, we find these units in Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Dharmapuri and Vellore. This is an important industrial activity and livelihood for many people living over there. Several lakh families are dependent on these units to earn their livelihood. Potassium Chlorate is an important chemical that is used in the making of matches. There is a huge scarcity of this chemical associated with Potassium Chloride which is in short supply. About 20 industrial units that were manufacturing Potassium Chlorate have been closed due to many reasons like power cuts and so on. The alternate arrangement of obtaining this chemical from Puducherry has also met with problem due to the ban on moving this chemical from there. The manufacturing of matches in small units have been hit in a big way due to the short supply and scarcity of these chemicals. In about 3,500 units, more than 2,000 units have been already closed and many more are facing closure. All the workers employed by these units have been rendered jobless and their families have been hit hard.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

Hence I urge upon the Union Government to ensure the supply of Potassium Chlorate by importing, even by importing in adequate measure to help save this industry and thousands of people who have been left high and dry. I also urge upon the Union Government to provide adequate financial compensation as special allowance for the workers who have been rendered jobless because of the closure of these units.