

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1510
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2022

DEVELOPMENT OF COIR INDUSTRY

1510. ADV. A.M. ARIFF:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for the development of coir industry, which provides livelihoods for lakhs of workers, especially women, who are badly affected by COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has been able to achieve the target of using coir geo textiles for constructing 1674 KMs of roads under PMGSY Phase III in seven States as announced by it in May 2020.
- (c) if so, the details thereof, along with the quantity of coir geo-textiles used and the amount spent in this regard State-wise;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the present status thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance for the development of coir-based and related industries in the State of Kerala especially in Alappuzha district, which is a hub of coir manufacturing; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SHRI NARAYAN RANE)

(a): As far as Coir Industry is concerned, no report has been received that the coir sector has been badly affected by Covid-19 pandemic. However, there was a temporary standstill in the coir sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown. It affected the production, movement of raw materials, finished products, marketing, etc. resulting in business loss to several stake-holders of the Coir industry. There was a corresponding increase in the activities of coir sector and reportedly coir industrial units have slowly resumed to normal functioning when the lockdown measures were relaxed/lifted in phases. During the year 2020-21, the coir exports registered an all time high of Rs.3778.98 crore in terms of value with a growth rate of 37% compared to the previous year.

(b): There is no target set for Coir Board with regard to construction of the rural roads using coir geo textiles.

(c) & (d): Do not arise

(e) & (f): Coir Board is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) scheme of this Ministry for assisting aspirants to set up coir industry/ units and also to generate more self-employment in coir industry. Coir Board has been designated as an agency for implementing PMEGP in Coir Sector since 2018-19.

Since 2018-19 (as on 02.02.2022), Coir Board had assisted 176 nos. of coir units in the state of Kerala for which an amount of Rs.277.78 lakhs has been released by the KVIC as Margin Money Subsidy under the scheme. Out of this, 107 nos. of coir units have been set up in the district of Alappuzha.
