

Need to set up a National Coir Training and Design Centre in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh-laid

SHRI G. M. HARISH BALAYOGI (AMALAPURAM): Coir is a coarse fiber extracted from the fibrous outer shell of coconut, traditionally used as ropes and cordage. India is the largest producer of coir in the world. 80% of the coir workers in the fiber extraction and spinning sectors are women. Coir Vikas Yojana, Skill Upgradation and Mahila Coir Yojana (MCY) provide training programmes on manufacturing of value-added coir products, spinning, weaving and other product diversification processes to women SHGs and NGOs. But the number of women trained under the MCY scheme in Andhra Pradesh has seen a decline of almost 95% from 1,240 in 2012-13 to 59 in 2022-23. This statistic is very concerning as Andhra Pradesh is the fourth largest coconut producing state in the country. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District alone shares 50% of Coconut Cultivation in Andhra Pradesh, where coconut is the designated One District One Programme (ODOP). Currently only a Regional Coir Office exists in Rajahmundry, which provides skill development training. Therefore, I would like to suggest setting up a National Coir Training and Design Centre (NCT&DC) in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District. Furthermore, I would also suggest the adoption of more robust awareness campaigns and information disseminating mechanisms to promote higher participation in the state.