

Need to set up a world class training centre and research facility at Thippampatti in Pollachi, Tamil Nadu-Laid

SHRI ESWARASAMY K. (POLLACHI): There is a long pending demand from the Coir manufacturers for setting up a World class Training Centre and Research facility in the precincts of Coir Board at Thippampatti of Pollachi in Tamil Nadu.

Russia-Ukraine war and increase in container fares have adversely impacted Coir industries for the last three years. Sixty percent of coir industries remain closed. I urge that the Banks should come forward to revive such industries. There is a government scheme for providing 50 percent subsidy for transporting agricultural produce. Similarly the Union Government should announce a special subsidy scheme for transporting coconut and related products from Pollachi to other States of our country. Moreover, a Scheme should be announced for providing coconut oil to all the beneficiaries of Ration shops under PDS throughout the country. Research initiatives are being undertaken in some foreign countries on the use of coconut oil even as a fuel for vehicles. We should also find the feasibility of engaging ourselves in such new research programmes.

We can make boards and other similar products using Coir in place of wood and through which there is feasibility in reducing felling of trees. Union Government should take measures for setting up of public companies in this sector. There is extensive research taking place on vegetable production using coco peat as a medium through soilless agriculture particularly in the developing countries. Almost 60 to 80 percent of coconut coir is largely exported for this purpose from Tamil Nadu. Similarly I urge that Union Government should formulate a separate policy on soilless agriculture.