

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:332  
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2006  
UTILIZATION OF COCONUT HUSK  
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

**Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:**

- (a): the total quantum of coconut produced in the U.T. of Lakshadweep;
- (b): whether the existing fibre factories and de-fibring units in public as well as private sector are able to utilize the entire husk of the above coconut produced in the territory;
- (c): if so, the details thereof;
- (d): whether the Government has schemes/proposals to diversify the production, for value addition and export of the finished product to the market outside the territory;
- (e): if so, the details thereof;
- (f): whether there is any proposal by the Coir Board to implement certain schemes related to the coir and coir productions in the UT of Lakshadweep; and
- (g): if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

- (a): According to information available with the Coconut Development Board, 53 million coconuts were produced during 2003- 04 in the Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep.
- (b)&(c): The seven existing fibre extraction units in the UT of Lakshadweep are able to utilise 30 per cent of the available husk.
- (d)&(e): The Lakshadweep Administration provides assistance for schemes/proposals for diversification of production, value addition, spinning of coir yarn on motorised ratts/motorised traditional ratts and export of finished goods outside the UT. The Coir Board also provides assistance to the UT for development of the coir industry. During 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 10.90 lakh has been earmarked by the Coir Board for this purpose.
- (f)&(g): The Coir Board has prepared an action plan for implementation of schemes in the UT of Lakshadweep for training and providing equipment such as motorised ratts/traditional ratts under the Mahila Coir Yojana. One coir cluster in the UT has been earmarked for development under the Scheme for Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). Steps are also taken to train eligible artisans under the Artisans Training Course and the Advanced Training Course for periods of six months and one year respectively.