

>

Title: Need to open a training centre for Coir products and Regional Office of Coir Board at Salem in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to bring an important issue to the kind attention of the hon. Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Sir, my native district, Salem, is a pioneer district in Tamil Nadu in coir products. During 1960 to 1980, Salem had more than 25 coir industrial cooperative societies with an apex body. Through this, thousands of people in rural areas were getting benefits.

Salem ropes were marketed not only in our country but they also had an export potential. After the coir manufacturing units are mechanized, new units are moving to different parts of Tamil Nadu, particularly to Pollachi area in Coimbatore District. Presently, Salem coir industries are producing, on an average, 200 metric tonnes of coir ropes per day and the market is being exploited by major manufacturers of mattresses of other States.

The honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, my leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. Jayalithaa has allotted Rs. 100 crore in the current financial year for the development of coir and jute industries in Tamil Nadu. If the Centre, particularly the Ministry of MSME, extends its helping hand to them, it will boost the coir industry.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister for MSME to sanction a Regional Office of Coir Board at Salem with a Training Centre to educate the unemployed youths of Salem on modern technology.