

an>

Title: Regarding providing subsidy in raw material and increase export incentives of five percent to the match boxes industry.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): Hon. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity. India was one of the exporters of match boxes. This industry is particularly a cottage industry employing about a million people. Over the last decade, about 8,000 of them are closed down. There are only about 2000 that are left. Most of these are situated in Sivakasi, Kovilpatti and Gudiyattam which are within my Vellore Parliamentary constituency. Now the industry is in doldrums. It is facing troubles. The cost of raw materials has gone up because of that. The export incentive has been reduced by the Government and there is competition from other foreign countries. I would request the Ministry of MSME and the Commerce Ministry to look into the problem, increase export incentives of five per cent and give subsidy to the raw material.