PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF COIR INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

Coir industry provides employment opportunities and generates income to the people particularly in rural areas and thereby promotes country’s economy. It is a labour-intensive industry which provides employment to more than 7,00,000 persons of whom majority are from rural areas belonging to the economically very weaker sections of the society. Nearly 80 percent of the workers are women in the fibre extraction and spinning sectors. India accounts for more than two-thirds of world production of coir and coir products. In India, 8 percent of the coir and coir products are exported to foreign countries and remaining 92 percent is domestically consumed.

The coconut husk is the basic raw material for the coir industry. In India, only 50 percent of the husk is utilized by the coir industry and the remaining 50 percent is being used for the purpose of fuel. Further, 1,000 husks yield 104 kgs of fiber and the availability of the fibre from husks may vary from state to state. The industry also fetches crores of foreign exchange by export of coir and coir products. It is expected that the export will cross more than 1000 crores in 11th Plan Period. Therefore, an attempt is made in the study for highlighting various problems faced by the coir industry in Indian and indicating opportunities for its future prospects.

Key words: Coir Industry, Employment, Exports, Problems and Prospects.