

**Press Release****Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Climate Change****Thiru. Siva. V. Meyyanathan, Avl Presided Meeting on Categorization of Coir Industries - with Coir Industries Manufacturers Association on 08.08.2023 at Secretariat.**

Large numbers of coir manufacturing units are located in Coimbatore, Theni, Tirunelveli, Pudhukottai, Erode, Namakkal, Karur, Dindigul and Kanyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu. Earlier, as per the Central Pollution Control Board & Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board categorization of industries, manufacturing of Coir items from Coconut Husk falls under "White" category and hence exempted from obtaining consent of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. In this regard, the Hon'ble Minister had convened a meeting with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board officials during September 2021 regarding re-categorization of Coir Units. Various Coir Industry manufacturers association submitted representations to the Hon'ble Minister for Environment Climate Change to revisit the categorization of the Coir Industry based on the manufacturing processes involved. Meanwhile, the Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 25.08.2021 in OA. No. 216 of 2021 directed the Central Pollution Control Board to revisit categorization of coir industry for monitoring and regulation.

Based on the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) vide order dated 08.10.2021, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board constituted a committee and the committee worked out the Pollution Index Score for the coir industries and based on that, the TNPC Board vide Proceeding dated 10.11.2021 categorized the 'Coconut husk retting/de-fibreing/pith processing industry' under Orange Category. The Hon'ble High Court in its order dated 03.12.2021 in W.P No. 25737 of 2021 filed by the Coconut Fibre Manufacturers Association against the re-categorization of coir industries directed the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to maintain status quo on the "White" category for Coir industry. At present, the coir industries are under "White" category.

Now, the Central Pollution Control Board has released a draft notification in July 2023 regarding Classification of Industrial Sectors into Red, Orange, Green and White Categories, wherein the Manufacturing of coir (wet/dyeing process) is classified under Orange category, Manufacturing of coir (Dry process) is classified under Green category and Manufacturing of Coir items is classified under White category. The same is yet to be notified. In this regard, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and

Climate Change Thiru. Siva. V. Meyyanathan, has convened a meeting on 08.08.2023 at the Conference Hall, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, NKM Building with various Coir Industries manufacturing Associations Tmt. Supriya Sahu, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change & Forest, Dr. Jayanthi. M, IFS., Chairperson and Thiru. R. Kannan, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and other Government Officials have participated in the meeting. During the meeting, the issues and challenges of the coir industries were discussed and certain advise were recommended. Further it was clarified that at present the coir units are under “White” Category. Also the coir associations were requested to submit comments/suggestions on the draft notification issued by Central Pollution Control Board in July 2023 regarding Classification of Industrial Sectors – Coir Units, before 31.08.2023.

Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department.

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