

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

### Need to rescue Agarbathi Industry in the country

SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA (Karnataka): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the difficulties faced by the Agarbathi industry, which has a market size of around Rs. 10,000 crore in India. Crucially, the incense sticks industry, which has a huge export market share, employs close to four lakh people in my state Karnataka alone, of which 80 per cent are women.

India has emerged as the international hub for incense industry and my state Karnataka is the incense capital of the world. The consumption of incense sticks has transcended traditional, ritualistic usages into modern areas of wellness, mental health and meditation. This industry is labour intensive and is vastly helping the underprivileged and marginalized sections of our society to earn their livelihood and financially empowers lakhs of women through employment. The incense sticks manufacturers face problem of raw material and issues of procuring bamboo sticks from the North-East to a southern State like Karnataka. Despite growing competition from countries like Vietnam and Sri Lanka, Indian incense sticks industry is registering consistent growth due to high quality of their products. However, the industry needs help from Commerce, Finance, Forest and other Ministries. If we do not address the industry's concerns and ward off issues at an early stage, the Indian incense sticks industry risks losing its market share to other South-East Asian and African countries.

Our incense sticks industry is striving towards *Atma Nirbhar Bharat*. It employs a large number of rural and underprivileged *Nari Shakti*. The Agarbathi industry and these workers need the support and rescue by the Union Government across Ministries. I urge the Government to take steps in this regard.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI): Dr. John Brittas. Not present. Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar. Not present.

### Need to develop Agroha as a heritage city and tourist destination

ले. जनरल (डा.) डी.पी. वत्स (रिटा.) (हरियाणा): महोदय, मैं आज अग्रोहा शहर को एक विरासत स्थल और पर्यटक शहर के रूप में विकसित करने की अनिवार्य आवश्यकता पर जोर देने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। अग्रोहा, अपनी शानदार सांस्कृतिक समृद्धि और ऐतिहासिक महत्व के साथ, राष्ट्रीय खज़ाने का दर्जा पाने और प्रतिष्ठित "हृदय" योजना में शामिल होने का हकदार है। अग्रोहा हमारे राष्ट्र के गौरवशाली अतीत के प्रमाण के रूप में खड़ा है। ऐसा माना जाता है कि यह