

SHGs urged to promote hygiene among rural women

Napkin manufacturing unit inaugurated

Special
Correspondent

TIRUCHI: Self-help groups should focus on promoting health and hygiene among rural women, many of whom were found to be facing various health problems during the health camps organised under the Kalaingar Health Insurance Scheme for Life Saving Treatments, said T.Soundiah, Collector.

Inaugurating a sanitary napkin manufacturing unit, promoted by Woman, a voluntary organisation, in Srirangam on Monday, Mr.Soundiah said menstrual hygiene management was neglected among rural women.

SHGs and voluntary organisations should take up the challenge and bring about a change, he said.

Unit cost

Kannagi, Director, Woman, said the manufacturing unit has been set up at a cost of Rs.2.50 lakh.

The organisation has so far set up six sanitary napkin pro-



IT'S NEW: Collector T.Soundiah inspecting a sanitary napkin manufacturing unit which he inaugurated at Srirangam on Monday.

duction units that were being run by SHGs. The units produced about five lakhs sanitary napkins per month, she said.

Consortium

N.Manimekalai, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, said that a new State level Menstrual Hygiene Management Consortium has been formed recently to take up the challenges of this neglected aspect of sanitation. Rani Muralidharan, Presi-

dent, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Tamil Nadu, urged SHGs to produce low cost sanitary napkins and popularise them among rural women.

M.Subburaman, Director, SCOPE, said sanitation was generally accorded low priority and emphasised the need for taking up a mass movement to promote use of toilets.

V.Ganapathy, Advisor, District Exnora, urged the NGOs and SHGs to promote scientific disposal methods of sanitary napkins.