INTRODUCTION:

In the economy of India agriculture play’s a very important role and next to it is a small scale industry. Entrepreneur is backbone of the economic development. Business industries and organization’s are the comparative fields. In order to acquire success in this field everybody has to show his capability. The leadership of any industry is not the dictatorship or ownership but one has to be alert to manage it efficiently.

India’s stand first in the word to export cashew nuts. Not only in the metropolitan cities but even in the smallest villages there is a great demand for cashew nuts. In the Sindhudurg district there is a great important for the cashew industry as a source of self earning.

Unemployment is a burning problem in our Sindhudurg District. The development of industry is the remedy to the above problem. Generally Maharastrian people give preference to job not to business. If we want to involve today’s youth turn to the industry, it is very essential to give them intensive training and guidance in this line. Even though the land of konkan is not favorable for agriculture yet it is quite favorable for horticulture.

There are many big cashew factories in Sindhudurg. It is noticed that some of the cashew factories continue only for one or two years and then they are closed. In order to find out of reasons, why this some of the units are not continued, also to get the information about there working, also to have a overview of the problems, as well as to know the present conditions are fact of the factories, also to study the facts and figures about the change that can be brought in economy in our district. As well as to know about how many people can be involve as workers in the factories. In order to get the solutions to the above problems and guide them. How do improve the economic condition of these factories the researcher has chosen this subject for his thesis.

The small – scale industries play a significant role in the economy of Sindhudurg district. There are various types of small- scale industries in this district. Most of the units are based on horticulture products. Others are forest, mineral, fisheries, chemical, engineering etc. most of the units are agro-based particularly processing industries.

Sindhudurg district is a hilly area having very few transportation facilities and few roads. In the early five year of this decade road transport is the only available transport facility in Sindhudurg district. So naturally there are many limitations on the development of other types of industries like engineering, Mineral, chemical etc. as they require raw material from other places.
while in the case of agro based industries. The raw material is available in the district in the case of horticultural industries mango, cashew, coconut, Kokam, Jamun, Karonda etc.

In all there are 160 agro-based units in the Sindhudurg district out of maximum factories are cashew processing factories. Cashew is major horticultural crop in Sindhudurg district, next to mango. The soil, climate and rainfall of the entire Sindhudurg district are suitable for cultivation of many horticultural crops. It is most suitable for cashews.

The cashew a topical dollar earning fruit. Considered to be a nature of America was introduced in India from Brazil. Some 400 years ago by the Portuguese settlers. It is called ‘Parangi Andi’ or ‘Portuguese nut’. In Kerala of India earned maximum millions in foreign exchange through this nut.

Sindhudurg District is the origin of cashew trade in India. In the early twenties of this century. Mr. Dajisaheb Torane of Vengurla and Mr. Mahadev Bapu Prabhu-Zantye of Malvan started taking interest in this commodity and started cashew processing in Vengurla and Malvan Taluka respectively. Cashew is an important commercial crop. It ranks third amongst export turning crop. India gets considerable foreign exchange by the way of export of cashew kernel and CSNL (cashew nut shell liquid). It is an important agrobased industrial raw material which helps many factories involved in its processing. As a commercial crop it plays an important role in rural economy as its cultivation is mainly in waste (varkas) land.

Cashew is mainly a horticultural crop in Sindhudurg District of Maharashtra. Cashew nut processing industry is concentrated in this district. There are many processing factories in this district. Thanks to the evolution of these varieties. There would be a revolution in cashew production in this region in the near future.

So the researcher has selected this topic. “Growth and prospects of cashew processing industry with special reference to cashew nut factories in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.” As there are growth potentials for this industry in this district. Most of the land in this district could be brought under cashew cultivation.