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Title: Regarding financial assistance to hand-woven textile industry in West Bengal -laid.

SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR (RANAGHAT): The Government is aware that the country is going through Covid pandemic for more than one a year. Shantipur, Eulia in my constituency are well known places for hand woven textile industry. This industry is popular in Shantipur, Fulia, Nabadwip, Ranaghat, Birnagar, and vast areas of Krishnanagar in Nadia district. Almost 6 Lakh people of the entire West Bengal are associated with this industry, out of which, in Nadia district only, there are two lakh seventy thousand people, who are directly involved in this sector. One Lakh Fifty Six Thousand people are men and one Lakh Thirteen Thousand are women. It is unfortunate that during these difficult times, the condition of the weaving industry has become extremely bad and the financial condition of the people associated with this sector has also worsened. These weavers are gradually shifting to other trades. If this continues, this hand woven textile sector will get obliterated. Particularly, this pandemic has come as a setback to their economic and psychological progress. If the central government doesn't take any positive and effective step, then the future generation will lose interest in this profession. I think that in order to save this dying hand woven textile industry, the government has to take immediate action so that the people involved get direct relief. We must save this industry, as it is the heritage of Bengal. More importantly, during such pandemic situation, the central government will have to stand by these hapless people.

I appeal to the Hon'ble Textile Minister to ensure that all the facilities and assistance extended by the central government reach these marginal weavers. I also demand an economic package for the weavers during this pandemic as early as possible.