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Title: Regarding economic condition of weavers in Bankura Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal -Laid.

DR. SUBHAS SARKAR (BANKURA): Recently concluded Census in 2019 shows the precarious economic condition of Handloom workers in West Bengal with 65% of Weaver households earning less than Rs. 5000/month. In my parliamentary constituency Bankura, situation is more serious. Earnings per weaver for one *Gamchha* is a meagre Rs.20-25 and one produces 2-3 pieces a day.

Earnings being less than the MNGREGA wages for unskilled labourers and often lower than the daily wages of construction workers or auto rickshaw drivers, their economic status is lower than that of unskilled casual labourers in the unorganized sector.

Workers are shifting from handloom to other occupations in urban areas like construction, shop- keeping and transport (mainly auto-rickshaws). The Clusters in most cases are functioning with much less than the declared number of weavers or not functioning at all.

I request the Ministry of Textiles to look into the matter and take measures so that the economic condition of the weavers in Bankura could improve.