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Title: Need for national level policy for home-based workers in the country -laid.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (TIRUPPUR): Home-based workers are a category of workers who work from their homes and around their homes. They are employed by contractors, sub-contractors, individual firms or intermediaries. They are paid on the basis of piece rate. The National Sample Survey Organization 2011-12 puts their number at around 37.4 million in India. Manufacture of garments and apparel is the largest employer of home-based workers in manufacturing with share of 23.7 per cent in 2011. Latest official figures are not available.

My constituency Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu is a major hub of garment production in India. It accounts for 46 per cent of the total knitwear garment exports from the country. According to official estimates, the Tiruppur cluster has a total of about 800 garment manufacturing and exporting firms and 1200 merchant exporters. As per the 2015-16 data of MSME, the cluster firms employ about 5.71 lakh persons directly and 10 lakh workers indirectly. Out of the indirectly engaged workers, there are more than one lakh home based workers. Home-based workers are engaged in other export intensive sectors also. Majority of such workers are women. These workers stay at home and do the work that is brought to them by subcontractors and intermediaries. They are invisible workers. Despite their active participation in the robust garment supply chain, they are left out of the purview of any legal protection with regard to wages and other social security benefits.

So I urge upon the Government to evolve an exclusive and specific National Level Policy defining the home-based workers, their minimum

wages equal to that prevalent in the industry, the working conditions, social security, occupational safety, redressal mechanism etc.