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Title: Request to protect handloom and handicrafts in India.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH (KAKINADA): Sir, all over India, lakhs of weavers and artisans are dependent on handlooms and handicrafts. Handloom sector has played a vital role in the country's economy. It is the second largest employment generating sector after agriculture and it provides both livelihood and clothing to millions of people, especially in rural areas. These artisans are there all over India.

Fortunately, in our two Telugu States, in Pochampally, Gadwal, Vetapalem, Uppada and Peddapuram, Uppada Saree has a patent right. Now, it is a problem that we are witnessing there is illegal production of handlooms/patented items by powerlooms and they are selling them in the domestic market in the name of handlooms; Imitation business affects the livelihood of the artisans and weavers and, as a result, thousands of weavers are leaving their weaving trade. So, I urge upon the Government to protect handlooms and handicrafts in the country.