

Title : Regarding measures to uplift the plight of Khadi workers in the country-Laid.

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): I would like to bring to your kind attention about the Khadi workers in India. We are well aware of the importance of Khadi in rural India. In the last one year, the Khadi sector has registered a growth of 43.20% from Rs 3528 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 5052 crore in 2021-22. Despite all the performance, the spinning workers suffer from heavy workloads and get meager wages fixed by the KVIC. Their pitiable condition in India is a shame and it's Government's duty to protect and uplift their lives. Workers are mostly women and marginalized sections of society, forced to work without basic amenities and fair wages and are hit hard by various challenges such as inconsistency of supplies and GST on various Khadi products which is 5%. Hence, I request the Ministry to come up with provisions for stocking the cotton at the time of harvest and supplying it at reasonable prices, making the National Minimum Wage Scheme applicable and allowing financial assistance to ensure subsistence wages and exempt GST on Khadi products.