

Title: Suggested to convene an all-party meeting of the leaders of handloom weavers to solve their problems in the country, particularly those of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (CUDDAPAH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the of handloom weavers in the country. In Andhra Pradesh alone, the State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, APCO, is yet to clear the arrears of over Rs.13 crore to various handloom units. The weavers in Andhra Pradesh are suffering due to steep hike in the prices of cotton and silk, and have demanded that the Government should supply the raw materials at cheaper rates. The State Government has decided to close down APCO which is incurring losses. The weavers' association has sought the reopening of APCO. It has further urged the Government to drop the idea of winding up of APCO and the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Corporation. I urge the Government that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh should convene a meeting of leaders of handloom weavers from all parties to find a solution to their problem and send concrete proposals to the Union Government for the development of weavers in the country and for assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh.