

**Title: Need to protect the interest of workers engaged in *Zari* industry.**

**SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA):** Sir, "The *Zari*" embroidery is an old handicraft in our country and several lakhs of workers are engaged in this cottage industry. There are important centres of *Zari* embroidery at Mumabi, Surat, Delhi, Kashmir, Jaipur and many other cities. Thousands of *Zari* workers from West Bengal work in those centres. The embroidery works are exported to many West Asian countries. But after the Gujarat riot, this has been hampered and exports reduced from Kandla port.

The Western countries like the USA, UK, Germany etc. are imposing duties and preventing exports on the flimsy ground of child labour. The Central Government also imposed heavy excise duty on this *Zari* embroidery saree and dresses.

I urge upon the Government to make a special plan for improvement of *Zari* embroidery work. The Government should allow to import sarees and dress materials on which *Zari* embroidery work is done and then help export of those embroideries.

The Government should also make a special package for *Zari* industry by giving bank loan and by opening training centres for *Zari* workers and designers and provide assistance to *Zari* producers, exporters and *ostagars*.