

**Title:** Need to reconsider the decision to withdraw rebate for khadi items.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the serious situation arising out of the decision to withdraw rebate on Khadi items.

Over 15,000 workers are engaged in Khadi industry in Kerala and most of them are women. They are getting only a meagre wage. The Khadi sector is surviving with the help of Central and State Governments such as rebate. The central Government is giving two types of rebate, one 15 per cent annual, another one is 10 per cent in the festival periods. Th State Government also provides 10 per cent rebate on Khadi items. Because of the withdrawal of this rebate Khadi sale is in a deadlock. This will create unemployment in the unorganised village industry sector and ultimately it will affect the economy of the State. Now the non-marketing stock is coming to Rs.40 crore.

In the circumstances, I request the hon. Minister to reconsider the withdrawal of rebate and to allow rebate on Khadi items and save this village industry.