

**Title:** Demand to reconsider the Textile Policy and give protection to the handloom industry and handloom weavers.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I rise to raise a very important issue regarding the textile industry in India. Now the Textile Policy has been declared by the Government of India...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the Policy is detrimental to the textile industry as a whole. Not only that, it will directly affect the handloom industry in India. Kerala is one of the foremost States which is having an ancient handloom industry. We were exporting handloom goods to other countries but now all these have been stopped because of this declared Policy. The Policy is anti-national, anti-industrialists and is against the workers' interests. Our ancient handlooms are now still; they are not functioning. All the restrictions on the import of handloom goods have been withdrawn. The multinational companies and foreign agencies can import even handloom cloth to India. This has adversely affected the interests of thousands of handloom workers, especially in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and AndhraPradesh. All these States have been very much detrimentally affected. There is complete starvation in Kerala State, especially in Cannanore, Kozhikode and other northern districts. The handloom industry is facing a very serious crisis. Same situation is there in the southern districts also. I request the Central Government to reconsider the policy, give protection to the handloom industry and protect the handloom weavers, otherwise they will be facing a very very serious situation. I warn them...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): This is a very serious matter, Sir....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you can associate yourselves with Shri Radhakrishnan.

â€¦*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that I am going as per the list.