

Title: Regarding a hike in the excise duty on spindle yarn.

* SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (GOPICHETTIPALAYAM): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the plight of handloom weavers who are hard hit by the levy of duty on spindle yarn to the tune of about 9.2%. Due to the steep increase in the excise duty levied by the Union Government, the small weavers in the districts like Erode, Karur, Salem and Coimbatore District are the worst hit. Some units are on the verge of being closed. Large number of weavers face the threat of being rendered unemployed. The Government has not yet responded positively to the weavers' just demand to withdraw the enhanced duty on spindle yarn.

This has resulted in price rise of the yarn and also the manufactured products. This has affected the handloom exporters making the price less competitive. This has disabled us to compete with our neighbouring countries like China, Pakistan and Bangladesh. At least 20% of such weavers who depend on spindle yarn are in Tamil Nadu. In my native district and in the neighbouring districts like Coimbatore, Salem and Erode the weaving industry and the ancillary units have been hit hard by the increase in duty on spindle yarn. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to withdraw the enhanced duty that affects handloom sector.

Now in Tamil Nadu we have a Government headed by our dynamic revolutionary leader following the footsteps of late beloved Arignar Anna. We have committed to ensuring a responsive Government that would wipe out the tears from the eyes of the toiling masses. Our leader had a dream to uplift the handloom weavers to give a boost to economy. Our AIADMK Government is committed to extend a warm hand for a cordial relation with the Centre and at the same time we will not lag behind to raise our voice from our rights. I urge upon the Union Government to coordinate with our Government in Tamil Nadu taking care of the interests of the handloom weavers of Tamil Nadu in particular and handloom sector all over the country.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (SOLAPUR): Fortunately, my name is also figuring in today's list.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will get your chance.