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Title : Need to take steps to protect the interests of weavers in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. KUMARSAMY (PALANI) : Due to the increase in excise duty, increase of the price of raw material and export of yarn, the price of textile has gone up by 200 per cent. Under the cenvat scheme, 10 percent excise duty has to be paid to the Centre at various levels such as for an yarn procurement, dyeing, printing and processing. Making C Schedule under the Central Sales Tax Registration mandatory has made transport of cloths and raw materials from one State to another difficult. In Tamil Nadu, the districts of Coimbatore, Erode and Karur has good textile concentration with thousands of workers depending on them. They are in severe grip of unemployment due to the recession in textile industry. The Government of Tamil Nadu has launched a scheme to give special skill training to about 20,000 weavers through National Institute of Fashion Technology. Weavers from Virudunagar, Thirunelveli, Madurai, Thiruvallur, Salem, Kanchipuram, Kanniyakumari, Vellore, Cuddalore, Tuticorin, Villupuram, Theni and Namakkal districts are to be trained in modern dress making so that they have competitive edge. The Centre should also take steps to provide relief to weavers without delay. The Centre should stop export of yarn and permit export of only finished textile products. The excise duty should also be abolished. It is time the Centre act to save the livelihood of lakhs of weavers in the country.