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Title: Problems being faced by the workers of Primary Co-operative Handloom Societies.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Labour Minister and also the Textile Minister with regard to the serious problems of the handloom workers in my State.

Sir, as we know well, handloom is one of the major traditional industries in our country as also in Kerala. There are about thousand primary cooperative handloom societies working there, and 75 per cent of the handloom workers are depending upon these cooperative societies. Half of the cooperative societies are really in a very difficult position. Due to lack of working capital and also due to lack of fund for modernization, they are unable to compete with power looms. So, all the trade unions have come and met the hon. Minister. The handloom workers are getting very low wages and also have less number of workdays. They are really in debt. So, the cooperative societies and also the trade unions have requested the Government to have a special package for writing off the debt of the handloom workers as we have done in the case of farmers.

I would request this Government to take this issue with an urgent importance.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I would request Shri Santosh Gangwar to raise only one of the matters.