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Title: Need to waive off loans taken by Cooperative Silk Handloom societies in the Country.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, I am raising a very important and urgent matter regarding the plight of the weavers.

Sir, the Silk Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies functioning in this country are manufacturing various kinds of silk materials. A large numbers of Handloom Societies are functioning in Kumbakonam, Vellore, Kanchipuram, Salem, Madurai, Chinnalapatti in my District and other places in Tamilnadu. The Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies like Thirubuvanam Cooperative Society, Kumbakonam are producing world class *saaris* and they are not able to sell the finished goods in a profitable manner, with the result they are incurring losses. Since the above Cooperative Societies are sustaining heavy losses, they are not able to provide continuous jobs to poor weavers working under them. The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles had already granted loan to these cooperative societies through Cooperative Banks to the tune of Rs.2,046 crore. For Tamilnadu alone, the loan is Rs.336 crore. Due to continuous losses, all these societies in this country are not able to repay their loan.

Therefore, considering the pathetic situation of the Silk Handloom Cooperative Societies, all the States including Tamil Nadu have sent proposals to the Government of India to waive their entire loan.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to waive their entire loan without any further delay and save the poor handloom weavers working in silk production. Further to save these Silk Handloom Cooperative Societies, the Government of India has to take certain steps to supply Gold Gilt Silver Thread, Real Gold Thread and other raw materials at a genuine and affordable price to these societies without the intervention of middlemen.