

Title : Regarding need to ameliorate the lot of Khadi weavers in the country.

( vi) Need to ameliorate the lot of Khadi weavers in the country

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY (ONGOLE): I would like to bring the notice of this House about the problems being faced by the Khadi industry. From the last 100 years, Khadi industries have been facing many challenges from both within and outside the country and still trying to establish its presence. However, in the changed scenario of globalization and liberalisation, the problems faced by this sector have multiplied due to competition from machine run textile mills, lack of proper Government support and various other factors. This has led them to poverty, hunger-deaths and migration to other places as daily wages workers.

In view of this, I would like to request the Government to reserve certain segments of the markets of Khadi sector, like making Khadi uniform compulsory for school children in Government run schools throughout the country. Such programmes will bring relief to the millions of poor Khadi workers, help strengthen rural economy and bring in more employment opportunities. It will also help imbibe a spirit of swadeshi and patriotism in the young minds. I once again strongly urge the Government to consider this proposal and thus help the Khadi industry which was once the backbone of Indian economy.