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Title : Need to safeguard the interest of Handloom Industry by bringing a legislation to check duplication of designs.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): Sir, as you know, after agriculture the handloom sector of the country provides maximum employment. Of late, this handloom sector is facing a very serious problem. My State of Orissa is particularly famous for texture, design, durability of colour etc. of the handloom products. Large scale of duplication is going on in the handloom designs and the market is flooded with duplicate saris, bed sheets, etc. which is gradually eroding the prospects of the handloom weavers. This has created a very big problem. There is only one organisation in my constituency, called the Sambalpuri Vastralaya, which is being run in the cooperative sector. This is the only registered organisation and it employs more than 10,000 weavers. Such organisations of the weavers, which are run in the cooperative sector are facing this serious danger.

My submission to the Government is that this imitation should immediately be stopped by legislation. My request to the Government, particularly to the Textile Ministry, is to brand the handloom product and give it a heritage tag so that these handloom designs cannot be duplicated in the mill sector and cannot be produced in huge quantities and flooded into the market. Unless this is done, a large number of weavers are going to be affected which will ultimately affect the economy of those areas.