

nt>

Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Kerala to safeguard the interests of khadi and village industries in the State.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, khadi and village industries in Kerala are facing serious crisis in the recent time. Majority of the workers are women and they are getting very low wages. The main problem of the industry is marketing. Earlier Central Government had given rebate, but now it has changed to MDA. The Government should also introduce a special incentive scheme to disperse the stocks that are already accumulated. The Government can also direct hospitals, PSUs, Guest Houses and other Central and State Government owned establishments to purchase khadi materials. Many of the societies are unable to pay ESI, Provident Fund and also contribution of the workers to the Government. Neither the State Government nor the Central Government pay adequate attention to this industry.

I request the Government to take immediate steps to give financial assistance to the State Government as well as to the societies.