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Title: Need to withdraw increase in VAT on imported silk yarns and also take measures for growth of handloom sector in the country.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Handloom sector is one of the ancient sectors in Tamil Nadu. Next to agriculture, handlooms occupy the important position and have largest network.

Nowadays those who are dependent on handlooms are facing tremendous challenges against mill goods. Handloom textiles especially sarees are reasonably priced and they are liked and suited for middle class women and they are manufactured under the name and style of CHINNALAPATTI on large scale throughout the year in Dindigul constituency.

These kinds of textiles especially sarees are woven at Salem, Erode, Tirupur, Karaikudi, Aruppukottai, Thiruchengodu, Pallipalaya and Namakkal. More than one crore weavers and their families are depending on handlooms.

For the last 10 years silk yarns are being imported from China through National Handloom Development Corporation. Sarees made out of these silk yarns are regularly exported throughout the world. Very recently the Government has imposed 5% VAT on imported silk yarns from China.

This increase has made the situation difficult for the weavers and already quite a number of weavers have left the trade and opted for various other jobs. The remaining weavers are struggling hard to earn their livelihood.

Hence, I urge upon our Government to withdraw the increased VAT on silk yarns and also announce other reliefs for the handloom sector.