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Title: Need to engage 'Central Silk Board' in procurement of raw silk and its supply to weavers at a reasonable price.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): There has been a phenomenal increase in the procurement price of yarn Zari and raw Silk pushing handloom and silk weavers virtually on the brink of poverty. Steep rise in the price of raw materials has thrown their lives out of gear. On an average, our country produces just 15,00 tonnes of raw silk against the demand of 30000 tonnes approximately. This shortage was met through imports mostly from china. Taking advantage of the shortage, few silk exporters procured the raw silk from China and sold at higher price. So Government should intervene to ensure that the market mechanism is not influenced by the private traders, besides directing the Central Silk Board to procure the raw material and supply the same to the weavers directly.