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Title: Need to check the steep hike in prices of thread and yarn in West Bengal.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY):

I wish to bring the notice of the Government the issue of exorbitant hike in the prices of thread and yarn particularly in last 6 months in West Bengal. It is a very serious matter as it is affecting acutely thousands of weavers in the handloom and powerloom sector of rural West Bengal. It would be worthwhile to state here that the abnormal hike in prices of thread and yarn has created a crucial problem, as these are the only raw materials for the handloom and power loom industries in West Bengal. For example, at present the price of cotton year 100 count (wrap) is Rs. 2500 (2 half) but the price of the year was Rs. 2000 (2 half) 6 months back. The cotton year 100 count (Wrap) is Rs. 2,300. Tesar silk was Rs. 3050 per kg six months ago but now it is Rs. 4,200 and more than 100% hike and similar increase in silk, jari yarn has been witnessed. As the Hon'ble Minister is aware that West Bengal is a major producer of thread and yarn and next to Agriculture, weaving is the major industry in West Bengal. If this situation continues, poor weavers in handloom and powerloom sectors would suffer and their lives would become miserable. I would strongly urge the Hon'ble Minister to take initiative on war footing to address this issue of sudden spurt in prices of thread and yarn to bring down the prices which would undoubtedly reinvigorate the lives of poor weavers in rural West Bengal.