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Title: Need to provide a special package for traditional industries especially to handloom and beedi workers in Kerala.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): The traditional industries in our country like beedi, handloom, coir, textiles, khadi, bamboo-based handicrafts, artesian and village (cottage) industries etc are plagued by problems of high cost production, low quality, absence of diversified product range, inappropriate technology and incapacity for professional marketing and export. Due to the new liberal policy, the increased mechanization, large scale of production and global competition in quality and price posing, the workers are facing much hardship and threat of massive redundancies in these high employment sectors of Kerala which may result in unemployment, poverty and social problems.

There is an urgent need to provide the special package to the traders. Various trade Unions and Governments have submitted a representation to the Central Government requesting for special package especially to handloom and beedi workers in Kerala.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to consider the plight of these traditional industries and extend a special package as early as possible.