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Title: Need to release the fund earmarked for the welfare and debt relief for the people working in handloom sector in Kerala.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Handloom is an old form of weaving of Kerala in which thousands of people are working for their livelihood. Chendamangalm at Paravoor in Ernakulam District, Balaramapuram in Thiruvananthapuram and other parts of the country are famous for their hereditary Handloom clothes. Due to the widespread introduction of power looms, the Handloom sector is facing severe competition and struggle for its very existence. The people working in this sector are patiently waiting for the assistance of 3000 crores from the Government, which was included in the previous budget, mainly intended for the development of the handloom sector and for helping the people engaged in this sector. As the financial year is about to end after two three months, if the amount is not spent immediately, there is possibility of lapse of the amount meant for the welfare and debt relief of the people in this sector. It is understood that the proposal is before the Planning Commission for approval and after that the approval of the Cabinet Committee is also needed for the release of the amount. Hence, I request that the necessary procedures may be completed as early as possible so that the amount can be made available to each unit under the Handloom sector immediately.