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Title: Need to set up a mega cluster for handloom sector in Nalgonda district, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY (NALGONDA): The once flourishing handloom industry of Andhra Pradesh is going through tough times since last few years. To mitigate their troubles, Government of Andhra Pradesh announced a series of measures. Among the series of relief packages is a loan up to Rs. 50,000 at a nominal interest of 3 percent per annum. But when the State of Andhra Pradesh is in dire need of Central Government programmes in handloom sector, the new Union budget did not choose to propose to sanction even one mega cluster for hand loom, though the population of hand loom weavers is very high in Andhra Pradesh than in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to sanction a mega cluster to Andhra Pradesh in the Budget year 2009-2010 to the Nalgonda district where weavers' population is high.