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Title: Need to look into the problems faced by handloom weavers in the country.

DR. KRUPARANI KILLI (SRIKAKULAM): India is the largest producer of handlooms and handlooms account for more than 23% of total textile production. Handlooms are the second largest employment provider after agriculture in the country providing livelihood for approximately 4.5 million people. Despite being one of the vital segments of livelihood for a huge rural people, the weaving sector has not been given proper attention in various budgets and Government policies. Though a 5000 year old vocation, still the weavers continue to live in distraught and suffer a life of despair, poverty and agony. The handloom census of 2009-10 shows that nearly 57 % of the handloom worker households live below the poverty line. The suicides of weavers due to poverty and indebtedness continue to haunt the weaver's community particularly in Andhra Pradesh. My Parliamentary Constituency Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh has about 10,000 weaver's families who are struggling for one square meal a day. The government agencies fail to give any assistance as the handloom weavers' hail from backward rural communities living in clusters all over the country and are less educated. To improve the condition of handloom sector and to bring change in the lives of weavers, the Government should provide adequate quantities of yarn, dyes, chemicals and proper training to them. The Government should also provide credit with low interest rates. There shall be a separate grant for modernization of handlooms with subsidy. The Government should also arrange marketing of the handloom produce.

Hence I request the Hon'ble Minister for Textiles to kindly look into the matter and resolve the problems of handloom weavers at the earliest.