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Title: Need to sanction funds for upgradation of power looms at Sircilla town of Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (KARIMNAGAR): As the Government is aware that Textile Industry has played a pivotal role in the economic growth of our country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, and it is the third largest producer of cotton with about 76 lakh bales of cotton production out of 340 lakh bales produced in the country. There are 180 Spinning Mills and 4250 Ginning Mills in the state. However cloth production is only 2239.40 lakh Meters which includes Handloom Sector.

There are about 60,000 plain over pick Power-looms in the state, out of which 30850 Power-looms are located in Sircilla town of Karimnagar District alone. The main production is white polyester cloth, cotton casement cloth, polyester and Blended yarn shirting and suiting etc, which are low quality fabrics. The low productivity, high operating cost, no diversification of products, coupled with marketing problems are severally affecting their incomes and they are caught in debt trap and leading miserable life. Unable to come out of debt trap, in distress they are committing suicides. Out of 813 suicides took place in the state since 1997 both in handloom and Power-looms sector 374 suicide cases are from Sircilla town alone. The State Government is already providing 50% power tariff concession but it is not enough. IL & FS which has conducted a study on Sircilla cluster has also pointed out the immediate need for technology up-gradation and induction of modern technology to improve the output, quality and productivity. Unfortunately, these semi automatic looms are not eligible to get subsidy under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme of G.O.I. The Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Andhra Pradesh has recently submitted a proposal to Government for sanction of a special project.

In view of the above facts and circumstances, I request the intervention of the Hon'ble Minister for Textiles, for early sanction of the project from Government of India funds for up-gradation of the Power-looms at Sircilla Town of Karimnagar Parliament Constituency, Andhra Pradesh.