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Title: Need to take suitable measures for the upliftment of handloom weavers in the country.

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the suicides being committed by the handloom weavers especially in Kurnool parliamentary constituency where weavers constitute a sizeable population of around 2 lakhs.

The basic reason for these tragic incidents is poverty. The handloom weavers are not able to sell their products and are not getting remunerative prices. There is a dire necessity to include handloom sector in MNREGA. Unable to survive in this industry, many are diverting to other activities and converting as labour.

There is a need to entrust marketing of handloom products to National Textile Corporation so that these products can be marketed throughout the country.

I strongly request this Government to re-introduce house-cum-work shed scheme for handloom weavers. Further, the weavers shall be encouraged to use modern equipment for weaving.

In the light of the above, I strongly urge upon the hon. Prime Minister of India and hon. Minister for Textiles to take immediate steps and come to the rescue of handloom weavers by devising necessary schemes to bring them out of poverty and take suitable steps for the upliftment of handloom weavers.

HON. CHAIRPERSON:

Shri P.K. Biju is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Butta Renuka.