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Title: Need to set up a Textile Park in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM): Madam, Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak during the `Zero Hour' today. I am ever grateful to my leader, people's chief, beloved and hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma because of whom I am in this Parliament.

My Parliamentary Constituency Kancheepuram is well known for its thriving handloom industry. It is also known as Silk City as it makes the best silk sarees in the entire world.

The economy is mainly dependent on handloom industry since the main profession of the people living in and around Kancheepuram is weaving silk sarees. Nearly 75 per cent of the population in Kancheepuram is dependent on silk sarees and they are an integral part of the Indian weddings and celebrations.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the guidance of hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is giving various subsidies and has launched various welfare schemes for the silk weavers, namely, awarding scholarships under the MGR Handloom Weavers Welfare Trust; Co-operative Handloom Weavers' Family Pension Scheme and Old Age Pension Scheme; Co-operative Handloom Weavers' Savings and Security Scheme; Development Schemes like free power supply to handloom and powerloom weavers and Scheme of free supply of uniforms to school children.

Various measures have been initiated by hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. The Central Silk Board has allocated a sum of Rs. 1642 lakhs.

The Tamil Nadu Government has sanctioned Rs. 1261.57 lakhs to implement various schemes. An amount of Rs. 2904.21 lakhs has been allocated by the Central Silk Board and the Government of Tamil Nadu for the year 2013-14.

The Central Government in its Budget has announced a Textile park in Tamil Nadu. In view of the importance of the handloom sector, particularly silk, I urge upon the Central Government and the hon. Minister for Textiles for bringing a Textile Park in Kancheepuram which will only add to the glory of Kancheepuram.