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Title: Need to check the steep hike in prices of thread and yarn.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): I wish to bring to the notice of the Government exorbitant hike in the prices of thread and yarn particularly in the last couple of years. It is a very serious matter as it has affected acutely thousands of weavers in the handloom and powerloom sector of rural West Bengal. It would not be an exaggeration to state here that the hike in the prices of thread and yarn has created a crucial problem, as these are the only raw materials for the handloom and powerloom industry in West Bengal. Prices of cotton yarn have gone up steeply. Of late, the price of Tussar silk too has gone up. So is the case with other materials. There is a need to initiate immediate and urgent measures to check the price hike otherwise weaving industry would suffer a great deal and the poor weavers would have to face the brunt of this huge hike. As the Hon'ble Minister is aware, the West Bengal is a major producer of thread and yarn and next to agriculture, weaving is the major industry in West Bengal. Hence, I strongly urge the Government to take measures on war-footing to address this issue.