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Title: Need to revive the muslin industry.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR): In the history, there is no name more famous than that of Muslin. Archaeologists believe that Muslin of the finest quality found from the excavated sites in India was produced during the Indus valley civilization about 5000 years ago. But the first documented origin of this finely woven fabric is from Dhaka. The original Bengal Muslin was exported to far off Rome under the name textalis- ventalis 'Woven air' and other fancy names like 'Evening dew' and Morning Mist'. Historically, Muslin has been recognized as a 100% cotton. Muslin was produced from a cotton plant that grew exclusively along the banks of a certain stretch of the Brahmaputra river.

However, the Muslin industry started declining following the battle of Plassey.

The muslin revival effort actually started at Nabadwip in neighbouring Nadia Distrit in West Bengla in 1992. A group of Weavers there managed to produce 500 count Muslin that is, a thousand metres of yarn spun so fine as to weigh only two grams. However, later on its production was not cost effective. Now the West Bengal Khadi and Village Industries Board has taken up a project to revive and promote Bengal Muslin through a historical approach.

I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to kindly take up the project Muslin wherein various linkages of revival and growth are addressed comprehensively comprising interventions like skill development, technology support, design inputs, product diversification, credit linkage, marketing support etc.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sultan Ahmed - not present.

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.