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Title: Need to look into the problems being faced by textile industry.

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (PALANI): I wish to draw your kind attention to the chronic problem faced by the cotton Industries. The textile and spinning industries are reeling under severe recession. The problems engulfing the textile units are due to the poor quality of the seeds supplied to the farmers, the lack of proper technology, power tariff, excise duty, marketing system, export and import policy. As a result of these, the average yield per hectare is less. I remind this House that textile contributes 30 per cent of our foreign exchange and employs more than one million workers.

The problems of the open ended cotton mills depend on the waste cotton produced by the textile industry. This waste cotton caters to 50 per cent of the needs of the spinning mills to produce yarn. The remaining 50 per cent is imported, when this is the case the Government has allowed the export of waste cotton.

The solutions to these problems are a complete ban on the waste cotton export and NTC and Cooperative spinning mills should satisfy the Hankyam requirements of handloom weavers. Other mills can be exempted from the purview of Hankyam obligation. The cotton procurement and distribution system should be regulated by the Government. Weaving also requires the urgent attention of the Government. The powerloom and handloom sectors which again are the important pillars of cotton industries are already performing well without the assistance of the Government.

Due to the magnitude of the problem, several cotton industries have gone in for retrenchment to survive high cost of production. The poor employees have been affected to the largest extent. The problems can be solved by the Government by extending support to cotton producers which in turn can benefit the cotton industries and labourers.

In my constituency, in particular Palani, Dindigul and Vadasanthur, nearly 70 spinning mills are being constituted right now. So, I plead for protection.