

>

Title : Need to take policy decisions to resolve the long pending problems of Weavers in Nagpur Region.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the serious problems and miserable conditions of Halba Kosti (weavers) community in Nagpur Region. Nearly 20 lakh weavers in Vidarbha are seriously hit by Government's casual attitude towards the problems of weavers in supply of yarn, credit support and other related facilities. As a result, a large chunk of weavers are on the brink of starvation. The continued neglect of their basic problems has witnessed growing frustrations and mounting tensions and the situation which is turning explosive.

It is a pity that Vidarbha Region which enjoyed the glorious reputation of Manchester of India in early days stands nearly diminished and neglected. Most of the textile units in this region have either closed down or gone sick rendering thousands of Mill hands unemployed and in desperate conditions. Nagpur Sahakari Soot Girmi, a cooperative venture of Halba Kosti community employing 1,400 workers is closed down for the last two years and attempts for its revival have turned futile due to rigid policy of the State Government. All the workers engaged in this unit and their family members are badly hit and the education of their children is severely affected. This calls for Union Government's intervention.

It is most unfortunate that in spite of Government's declaration and resolve for the economic emancipation of weavers, there is hardly anything done to address their problems seriously. May I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take appropriate policy decisions to resolve the long pending problems of weavers in Nagpur region immediately before it is too late?