

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to exempt handloom weavers and small traders from the ambit of GST.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, at present, the weaving industry, particularly, the handloom weavers and small traders are facing lots of difficulties to sustain and continue their work. The GST has increased the burden on weavers as more than 90 per cent of the power-loom units are in the small and minor sector, and 12 per cent tax is being paid for the yarn used in weaving and tax is also being paid for processed textiles. Hence, the additional tax in the form of GST is unjustified.

In my Arani Parliamentary Constituency, there are thousands of handloom weavers engaged in weaving and textiles sector traditionally for several decades. Most of them are illiterate and depend solely on weaving industry for their livelihood. They have no access to computers and cannot even think about filing GST online. The GST rules and online filing are impossible and absolutely out of reach of these traditional weavers. With their very meagre income they cannot afford to have computers or engage any computer-literate accountants.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Union Government to consider these ground realities and hardships faced by weavers, and exempt the handloom weavers and small traders from the ambit of GST. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, I support the issue that has been mentioned by the hon. Member.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes.

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena and

Dr. Kirit P. Solanki are also permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri V. Elumalai.