

Regarding problems being faced by Silk weavers in Thiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu

SHRI THARANIVENTHAN M. S. (ARANI): Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam.

Arani, referred as king among Silk hubs, is situated in Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. Arani remains a district headquarters as well as an important industrial hub of Tamil Nadu. Arani is known for silk weaving mills and agriculture. Arani is also called as the 'Silk City'. Major source of income of Arani is from rice production and by weaving of silk sarees. There are more than 300 rice mills in this area which are engaged in rice production. Silk weavers having expertise in silk saree production live in large scale in this Arani city. As a result of mechanization, people have changed to use of powerloom. Arani is also a city earning more revenue in Tiruvannamalai district. Arani silk is world famous.

Due to the negative impact in the livelihood of weaving sector, many people do not even prefer their children in getting married to a family of weavers. Arani is also known for handlooms. Besides pure silk is used for weaving high quality silk sarees. GST is levied for the raw material used in this traditional silk production. GST is also levied for rice sold in retail sector, whereas GST is not levied for procurement of rice sold under wholesale. I therefore urge upon the Union Government that GST should not be levied for 25 kg rice bags meant for public purpose. Thank you.