

Need to address the problems being faced by handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh- Laid

SHRI G. LAKSHMINARAYANA (ANANTAPUR): In the drought-prone villages of Rayalaseema, where crops often fail, it is the loom that has sustained generations. Weaving is not just a livelihood here—it is a legacy of patience, pride, and skill. Across Andhra Pradesh, over 3.5 lakh handloom weavers, many of them aging artisans, continue this tradition against all odds. Recognising their contribution, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, has taken important steps. Over 90,000 weavers above the age of 50 are now receiving ₹4,000 per month through the NTR Bharosa Pension. The state has also announced a 200-unit power subsidy for handloom units—an essential relief in reducing production costs. But the support of the Central Government is equally vital to ensure sustainability. I urge the Union Government to take urgent steps to exempt GST on handloom products to protect traditional markets and boost sales; strictly enforce the Handlooms (Reservation) Act to prevent illegal imitation by powerlooms and provide subsidised jacquards and modern weaving tools to enhance productivity and competitiveness. These are not demands—they are lifelines for a community that continues to weave India's cultural identity, thread by thread.