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Title: Need to take steps for revival of handloom industry in Orissa.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): Orissa is famous for its tie & dye work in handloom fabrics. Orissa's handloom productions, particularly the Sambalpuri handloom sarees and other productions like wall clothes, door and window screens, bed-sheets and shirting are famous all over the country. The country earns good amount of foreign exchange through export of handloom products of Orissa. The pioneer of Orissa handloom is the Sambalpuri Bastralaya handloom Cooperative Society which was founded during the freedom struggle by late Padmasree Dr. Krutartha Acharya who was great disciple of Mahatma Gandhi. The Sambalpuri Bastralaya is one of the largest primary cooperative societies in handloom sector in the country having more than twenty five thousand weavers in its fold most of whom belong to SC and ST community. This organisation once occupied a pivotal position not only in the handloom sector, but also in the cooperative movement of the country. But this great organisation, whose foundation was linked with the freedom movement, has now begun to decline. Its financial condition is precarious. If proper remedial measures are not initiated forthwith, not only thousands of poor weavers will be thrown to bewilderment, the great weaving art of the country will also meet a dark fate.

I, therefore, urge upon the Textile Ministry of Government of India to extend all possible help and assistance to this organisation for its revival and proper existence.