

Title: Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Orissa to rehabilitate the weavers and artisans affected due to recent super- cyclone.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSINGHPUR): In the recent Super Cyclone of the 29th/30th October 1999 in Orissa, Jagatsinghpur parliamentary constituency which is worst hit and totally ravaged, thousands of weavers' families are devastatingly affected. All the work sheds (Tantashala) which are normally built of mud walls with straw thatches have been razed to the ground. Frame looms and their accessories like Tani Drum, Nurge Guria, Beam, Barnish Baw, Sara Pania, Shuttle (Manku) and Duby, etc. have been fully damaged. The cost of a "frame loom and its accessories" would be nearly Rs.10,000 (Ten thousand rupees) only. Processing yarn which normally they receive from the society has been soiled and damaged under the mud. These village artisans are not accustomed to manual works other than weaving. Villages, where weavers' concentration is more and weavers' societies exist in Jagatsinghpur District are Bada Bag, Sidhala, Dada Pur, Dendua, Kanpur, Alanahat, Kendal, Odisa, Purohitapur and many other villages. I urge upon the Textile Ministry and National Handloom Corporation to undertake relief and rehabilitation programme of these worst affected artisans on war footing by giving them adequate grants for erecting their worksheds" obtaining new handloom sets; repairing if possible, damaged sets and writing off the loans for processing yarns which have been soiled and damaged under the mud. Till they are rehabilitated, gratuitous relief should be granted in favour of weavers' families.

Textile Ministry should act promptly to rehabilitate the affected weavers and bring about substantial change in their quality of life and financial status.