

**Title:** Need to look into the recommendation of the Satyam Committee recommending scrapping of Handloom Reservation Act.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH (MACHILIPATNAM): Sir, the handloom weavers and the industry representatives are expressing serious concern at Government's move to accept recommendations of the Satyam Committee for drafting the new textile policy regarding scrapping of Handloom Reservation Act.

The All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society Limited has urged upon the Union Government not to accept the recommendations of the Satyam Committee for drafting the new textile policy which recommended that the Handloom Reservation Act should be scrapped. It would spell doom for nearly six crore people directly and indirectly depending on the weaving sector because if the reservation is scrapped, they would not be able to meet the competition of mills and powerlooms.

The Satyam Committee made recommendations without soliciting opinion from the weaving sector and their complaints and suggestions were also not recorded specially from the affected weaving committee.

In Andhra Pradesh alone, there are 780 cotton weavers' societies apart from 600 sericulture societies which would be adversely affected if handloom sector reservations are scrapped. That would result in mills and powerlooms sectors encroaching upon the traditional handloom items and endangering the survival of the weavers.

I, therefore, once again urge upon the Government that the particular recommendation of the Satyam Committee for scrapping the Handloom Reservation Act should not be implemented unless the Government comes out with alternatives for the handloom weavers.