

>

Title: Need to take steps to ameliorate the plight of power-loom weavers of Karimnagar district, Andhra Pradesh facing unemployment due to crisis in power loom industry -laid.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, I would like to bring to your kind attention and the Government towards the plight of power loom weavers who are committing suicides in Karimnagar District of Andhra Pradesh. The power loom weavers are committing suicide due to unemployment and increasing debt. They are unable to find work, as there is no market for the fabric produced on the power loom. Among other reasons that led to the power loom crisis is heavy taxes imposed on polyester yarn and other raw materials. Besides, the erratic power supply is also adding to the woes of the weavers in Sircilla. Recently, an all-party delegation also visited Sircilla. A number of power loom workers are not getting pension provided by the Government to poorer sections of the society. The distribution of house sites and houses to the workers under various schemes has also been a failure.

On 5<sup>th</sup> October, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour has also visited Sircilla to assess the problem of weavers in the region. The Committee suggested several measures including provision of social security network, medical insurance and housing to address the issue.

I urge upon the Central Government to intervene in the matter and announce necessary measures to put an end to the weavers' problems. The Government should announce the Sircilla region as a Textile Economic Zone, set up a Commissionerate in the town, enhance the pension of weavers which may enable the weavers to get treatment in big hospitals, establish a special government organization to purchase cloth produced on the power loom from the weavers and enhance the ex-gratia amount to Rs. Five lakh.