

Title : Need to take steps to revive the handloom sector in Andhra Pradesh.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (BHADRACHALAM): Sir, the plight of handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh is very much heartrending. In the last 100 days, 300 handloom weavers have committed suicide due to hunger and misery, mostly in Karimnagar and Chirala. The situation is alarming and pathetic. The weaving sector has suffered heavily with the hike in the rate of yarn and short supply of yarn, competition from powerloom and more severely by the violation of the Reservation Act which provides for reserving the production of 11 items exclusively to the handloom sector. As a consequence of this, stocks of handloom goods are piling up. The weavers have become unemployed, leading their lives to shambles by penury, starvation, debt-trap and suicides. The Government must immediately come to the rescue of the handloom sector, as it is a traditional sector by age-old and also the second to agriculture sector, is providing employment to the millions of people.