

Title: Need to provide a financial package for revival of handloom industry in Orissa. – Laid.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR) : Orissa is famous for its handloom products and a large number of weavers earn their bread out of weaving which is next to agriculture in terms of employment. Most of the weavers in this State belong to *Bhulia*, *Kostha* and *Ganda* community which comes under the SC/ST category, living below poverty line (BPL). Of late, the economic condition of the weavers community is further deteriorating due to adverse market position and other related reasons. The handloom sector in Western Orissa, which is famous for its tie and die technique are particularly suffering due to the influx of emulated design manufactured in large number in the mill sector. The loopholes in the market development assistance scheme (MDAS) of Government of India have also adversely affected weavers co-operative societies viz. The Sambalpuri Bastralaya Handloom Co-operative Society is one of the largest co-operative of its kind in the whole of the country. This organisation founded by veteran Gandhian late PadamShri Dr. Krutartha Acharya has been working as the economic backbone of a large number of downtrodden weavers of Orissa, but now it is on the verge of closure due to serious financial problems.

I would urge upon the Government of India to take a serious note of the precarious condition of lakhs of weavers of the State and their representative organisation i.e. The Sambalpuri Bastralaya and come out with a package to safeguard the interests of the weavers and revive the Sambalpuri Bastralaya.