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Title : Need to protect interests of workers engaged in textile industry.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (MADRAS NORTH): Sir, the Indian textile industry is the second largest provider of employment next to agriculture and as such, the Government is duty bound to look after the welfare of the workers. Due to globalisation and liberalization, textile magnates are going for over-competition and exploitation of labour force and violation of labour laws to face the fierce competition.

Chapter V (B) of the Industrial Disputes Act is the most important vital part of the Act and only through these provisions, job security of millions of workers is guaranteed. Diluting this provision will only encourage the employers to exploit the workers and throw away them out of employment. Moreover, labour in the Indian scenario is cheap and skilled. Therefore, the labour cost would be low for a garment or textile item in India a compared to other countries.

Similarly, the suggestion to amend section 2(n) of the Industrial Disputes Act with regard to strike, is highly objectionable. Longer notice period will be beneficial only to employer as he will be having ample time to wind up his business and to adopt unfair labour practice. Textile Industry should be treated as a public utility service. Similarly, the suggestion to extend the working hours from 8 to 12 hours is unfair and unjustified. It is against ILO norms observed all over the world and India is a signatory to it. It is inhuman and against natural justice.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government, especially Hon'ble Labour Minister and the Hon'ble Textile Minister that the workers of textile sector should be protected and no changes should be made in the labour laws detrimental to the interests of working force.