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Title: Need to declare Sircilla as a Special Economic Zone Area by setting up a Textile Park in Karimnagar parliamentary constituency, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (KARIMNAGAR): I would like to draw the attention of the House regarding the dire need to set up a Textile Park in Sircilla, which falls in my Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency in Andhra Pradesh. In this regard, it is evident that the problems being faced by weavers in Sircilla are plenty. There are about 2,50,805 handlooms and 45,064 power looms in Andhra Pradesh. Sircilla area is pre-dominantly a power loom centre as there are about 35,000 power looms and 220 handloom units. More than 18,500 weavers are working as power loom weavers and almost all are running in losses resulting in the incidents of suicides. Recently, there are high incidents of suicides by the power loom weavers in Sircilla and the reasons are a) lack of regular jobs, b) inadequate wages, c) indebtedness and resultant harassment by the micro-finance companies, d) closure of power loom units on account of piling of unlifted stock and non-availability of loans from banks to face the competition from multinational companies. They are suffering with lack of pension plan, ESI and EPF schemes and they need exemption from paying VAT on yarn including silk and zari so that they are not burdened with income tax also. They need a handloom policy and implement Handloom Reservation Act. Already, the proposal is pending for the necessary approval of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the setting up of a Textile Park in Sircilla. It is pointed out that society & farmers loans were waived off but the Government is not waiving off loans of individual weavers. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister for Textiles to declare Sircilla as Textile Special Economic Zone by setting up a Park in my Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency.