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Title: Need to extend the benefit of loan waiver scheme for handloom weavers to all the Silk Cooperative Societies in Kancheepuram Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN (KANCHEEPURAM): During 2011, the UPA Government had announced handloom weavers' loan waiver scheme amounting to Rs.3521 crore to help the weavers and revive the handloom sector. The Government is also implementing Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) package for handloom sector for loan waiver of Handloom Cooperatives and individual weavers eligible for waiver under the scheme. The RRR package aims at waiving the overdue loans and interest of eligible Handloom Cooperative Societies and individual weavers and provides fresh credit with interest subsidy of 3% for 3 years with credit guarantee to the Societies and weavers which are covered under the RRR package. Further, interest subvention scheme for fresh credit at interest rate of 6% is applicable to this component also as per the Budget announcement.

This scheme is likely to benefit 15,000 handloom weavers' co-operative societies and approximately 3 lakh individual handloom weavers across the country. In Kancheepuram Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu, there are 21 Silk Co-operative societies. Out of these 21 societies, only 8 profit-making Cooperative Societies received the loan waiver benefit. The remaining 13 Societies comprising approximately 10,400 weavers were kept out of the scheme.

I request the Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles to intervene and save these 13 Societies by providing speedy relief to the families of 10,400 weavers.