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Title: Need to set up a Knitwear board in Tirupur Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR): Thank you, Madam Speaker. With your permission, I speak from this Chair.

The Tamil Nadu Government under the dynamic leadership of hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. Amma is taking all measures to make Tiruppur a most suitable and conducive place for the growth and development of the knitwear industry. The Union Government's support for the development of the knitwear industry is absolutely essential as most of the issues pertaining to the knitwear industry fall under the purview of the Union Government.

Tiruppur is known as the 'knitwear capital of India'. Knitwear exports from Tiruppur have grown to Rs. 20,730 crore in 2014-15 and is expected to reach the target of Rs. 36,000 crore by 2016-17. At present, the all-India market share of Tiruppur in knitwear exports is 44.29 per cent and this would go up once the industry starts exporting synthetic-based garments which have a market throughout the year globally. The total readymade garment exports from India had for the first time crossed the Rs. 1 lakh crore-mark in 2014-15 to touch Rs. 1.03 lakh crore, which amounts to US \$ 16.82 billion. Of this, knitwear exports were Rs. 46,801 crore with a share of 45.43 per cent. Tiruppur at present has got around 3,000 export units and its allied industrial units provide direct and indirect employment to more than 5.5 lakh people.

The knitwear industry which contributes substantially to the export and foreign exchange earnings does not have any exclusive organisation to focus on its development and growth. It is therefore highly important and desirably to establish a Knitwear Board based out of Tiruppur to spearhead and facilitate growth opportunities for this vital industry. Thank you.