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title: Need to bring the handloom weavers under MGNREGA.

SHRI N. KRISTAPPA (HINDUPUR): Hon. Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the problems of handloom weavers.

It is good that the NDA Government is continuing with the NREGA. The announcement made by the hon. Finance Minister allotting Rs. 38,500 crore in the Budget for the year 2016-17 is the highest allotment announced so far for the Scheme. This reflects the concern of the Government for providing employment for the needy people.

Since a higher allocation is proposed for NREGA, I have a small request for the consideration of the hon. Finance Minister which is also the request of the hon. Minister of Textiles and also of the weavers of this country at large. The House is aware of the pathetic condition of the handloom weavers in the country, particularly in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Even though the weavers are very skilled, so earn very little. They stick to this profession due to family tradition and strong association with the art. Some surveys reveal that when compared to NREGA workers the weavers are getting lesser wages. At present, only silk farming is covered under NREGA but not the handloom weavers. I request the Government to depute a Central team to find the ground reality.

I would like to mention that weavers are like unskilled workers and are now at the bottom of the pyramid. Their average daily earnings are below the mandatory wages given to unskilled workers under NREGA. Wages under NREGA range from Rs. 159 to Rs. 241 per day but weavers are getting less than this, even though the textile sector is labour intensive, employing 4.38 million workers, contributing to country's 11 per cent textile production and make a significant contribution to earnings through exports. In view of this, I request the hon. Prime Minister to personally intervene in the matter and ensure that handloom weavers are also covered under NREGA so that they can live with minimum security of earnings which may help to stop the suicides of the weavers.

Thank you, Madam.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :**

श्री सुधीर गुप्ता,

कुंवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चंदेल और

डॉ. मनोज राजोरिया को श्री एन. क्रिस्टप्पा द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।