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Title : Need to establish a cluster-cum-handloom park at Mangalagiri in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Mangalagiri is world famous for handloom products especially cotton sarees, and these exquisite sarees are having huge demand globally. Nearly 4,000 weavers are depending on weaving on self-owned 1,000 looms and 2,800 hired looms. Out of these 4,000 weavers, about 2,000 are enrolled under co-operative fold and others are still outside co-operative fold. Secondly, about 40% of people from Mangalagiri are dependent on handloom weaving and allied industry i.e., yard dealers, traders, wrappers, dyers etc. Thus, around 4,000 looms and 10,000 people are directly or indirectly dependant on the industry for their livelihood.

There is no problem as far as raw material is concerned since Guntur district is a large cotton growing area in Andhra Pradesh and there are about 80 spinning mills around it.

Unfortunately, these skilled weavers are committing suicides as they are not having required infrastructural facilities, proper guidance from experts and marketing facilities. Their problem aggravates during monsoon as water enters pits and looms are immobilized and thus their work is affected.

Mangalagiri has close proximity to NH 5, Vijayawada and Guntur. If handloom park is established, it would attract weaving and garment industries which, in turn, bring in customs, containers, banking and quality control facilities under one roof.

In view of the above, I request Government of India to kindly consider setting up of Cluster-cum-Handloom Park at Mangalagiri with processing and other units which will not only push the world famous Mangalagiri cotton sarees but also help in providing gainful employment to thousands of youth and to keep the tradition alive.