

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to consider re-location of Central Cottage Emporium, Mumbai.

**SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH):**The World famous Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIC), conceived in 1952, is the India's window to the world for over 60 years for authentic handloom and handicraft products. This gives Indian crafts its rightful place and enthuses the creative spirits of millions of crafts persons across the country and help them to earn a decent livelihood. In Mumbai, we have two branches of "Cottage Emporium" catering to vast clientele of domestic, foreign and NRI tourists.

Sadly the Management propose to close the Mumbai Emporium citing its financial non-viability. This is a retrograde step. I request the Government that the proposal to windup the Mumbai Emporium be dropped. An alternative site for leasing big showroom at Flora Fountain, south Mumbai is available at a very reasonable rate Rs. 90/- per square feet; this is owned by LIC of India Limited and has been offered to CCIC. This may be considered for location of the Mumbai Emporium.

The leasing of LIC showroom in Mumbai is the best option /opportunity for management to plan major Cottage Emporium in Mumbai and restore the pride of Handloom & Handicrafts Industries in the commercial capital of India.

