

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:722
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2003
WOMEN IN SILK INDUSTRY
AKHILESH SINGH

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women presently engaged in the silk industry;
- (b) the percentage to the total number of workers;
- (c) the place where the women are engaged in the largest number;
- (d) whether the condition of the women who are engaged in the silk industry are pitiable and the medical as well as other facilities for them have been discontinued;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the conditions of these women workers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

- (a) to(c) About 21.85 lakhs women are estimated to be engaged in the silk industry, which constitutes approximately 39% of the total number of workers in the silk industry. The largest number of women is reportedly engaged in the State of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Assam in rearing and reeling.
- (d) The working conditions of women workers in industry are governed by the State Government labour laws/rules and regulations.
- (e) & (f) Women who are engaged in the silk reeling activity work on traditional and obsolete equipment. To improve their working conditions and their productivity Central Silk Board has developed and is popularizing low cost reeling technologies like multi-end reeling machines for mulberry sector, motorized-cum-pedal operated reeling-cum-twisting machines for the non-mulberry sector and hot air dryers which improve working conditions by reducing drudgery, creating a smoke free atmosphere and reducing pupae smell.