

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5311
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005
REMUNERATIVE PRICES TO THE SILK PRODUCERS
Chauri Shri Bapu Hari

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the Government proposes to take any concrete steps to ensure remunerative prices to the silk producers for their yield in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have taken several initiatives to safeguard the interests of domestic silk industry and to improve the quality and productivity of silk production thereby ensuring remunerative price to the producers of silk in the country. These initiatives include the following:

(i) Antidumping duty has been imposed by Govt. of India with effect from 2nd January, 2003 on all imported mulberry raw silk (not thrown) of international grade 2A and below, originated in or exported from People's Republic of China, so as to keep the landed value of these goods at US\$ 27.97 per kg.

(ii) Several programmes and schemes to increase the quality, productivity and the competitiveness of the domestic silk industry have been instituted. The important ones are: -

- Research and Development efforts of Central Silk Board have been stepped up to improve quantity and productivity of sericulture, by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry food plants and silkworms; and development of low cost reeling and processing technologies in silk;

- Seed Support & Technical Assistance is being given by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers & reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed, and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds;

- Central assistance is being extended to States through Centrally Sponsored & Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen seed supply, cocoon & silk testing systems;

- Low cost and productivity enhancing technologies developed by the Central Silk Board are being popularized through central assistance to beneficiaries, training to the States' extension machinery and beneficiaries, organizing of various awareness programmes, etc;

- For technology upgradation of the indigenous silk industry loan at 5% point less than applicable bank rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textiles sector is available inter alia to silk sector.

- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.

- Establishing quality certification systems for silkworm seeds, cocoons, yarn and fabric.

- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the Sericulture sector to support the above strategy & programmes;

- Export of value added silk items is being encouraged through assistance to exporters for participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad, market research & surveys, etc.