

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2581

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2005

SILK PRODUCTION

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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the demand for silk products has increased manifold in the domestic and international markets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government/Silk Board has taken any steps to boost silk production in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELIA)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The demand for silk products has increased in the domestic and international markets. Export earnings from silk goods during the year 2004-05 was Rs 2897.56 crores (640.90 million US\$) and registered an increase of 3.6 % in rupee terms (6.0% in dollar terms) over the previous year's performance, which was Rs.2779.19 crores (604.70 million US\$). The estimated domestic demand of raw silk has also increased by 4.0 % during the year 2004-05 as compared to the previous two years.

(c)&(d) Several programmes and schemes to increase the production in the country have been instituted. The important ones are

1. During the X Plan period, under the Catalytic Development Programme, a provision of Rs.181.00 crores has been made for providing assistance to sericulture farmers / reelers to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming towards improvement in quality and productivity;
2. The Central Silk Board (CSB) has evolved new bivoltine breeds with the assistance from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). The commercial exploitation of these breeds has resulted in the production of international standard import substitute grade of mulberry raw silk in the country;
3. Through R&D efforts, the CSB has made a break through in tropicalising the bivoltine silkworm and has developed new varieties of mulberry plants with higher yields resulting in significant improvement in silk productivity;
4. The CSB has developed improved multi-end reeling units to encourage large-scale production of international grade quality silk. These improved machines are being popularized among the reelers through the Catalytic Developmental Programme at important reeling clusters all over the country and are producing gradable quality raw silk using the reeling package developed by Central Silk Technological Research Institute of Central Silk Board;
5. The quality of yarn and fabrics in non-mulberry sector has also improved considerably through the introduction of motorized silk reeling / spinning machines and setting up of Common Facility Centres. The CSB has developed new designs in non-mulberry sector and the same are being popularized under the brand "Vanya Silk";
6. The CSB has launched the "Silk Mark" scheme through the Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI), which is a hallmark for the products made from pure natural silk and guarantee the purity of silk products. Silk mark scheme will also play an important role in brand promotion of Indian silk in domestic and foreign markets; and
7. The CSB has recently launched futures trading in cocoon and raw silk through National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange Ltd (NCDEX), which can be effectively used as a tool to cover the risks associated with price fluctuations to boost the production of silk in the country.