

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3844
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2006
CENTRAL SILK BOARD ACT, 2006
Pateriya Smt. Neeta

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has proposed any changes in the provisions of Central Silk Board Act, 2006
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps the Government proposes to improve the productivity of sericulture sector; and
- (d) the details of current demand and supply of the silk in the country and the manner in which the Government meets the shortfall?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Certain amendments to the Central Silk Board Act, 1948 (LXI of 1948) were notified in Part-II (Section 1) of the Extraordinary Gazette of India published on 14.Sept.2006, as Central Silk Board (Amendment) Act, 2006. (Notification No.42 of 2006).

The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, is in the process of formulating the Rules to enforce the provisions of the aforesaid amendments.

(c) Major steps taken to improve the productivity of sericulture sector are:

1. During the X Plan period, under the Catalytic Development Programme necessary provisions have been made for providing assistance to sericulture farmers/reelers to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming at improvement in quality and productivity.
2. The Central Silk Board (CSB) has evolved new Bivoltine breeds with assistance from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). 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 tropicalizing the Bivoltine Silkworm and Development of new varieties of mulberry plants with higher yields resulting in significant improvement in Silk productivity.
4. The Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI) under the CSB has developed improved devices, new machines and equipments which have helped improvement in silk quality and productivity.
5. CSB is making necessary efforts to import and popularize the automatic silk reeling machines to raise the quality of yarn at international level.
6. Government of India has encouraged production of value added mulberry and Vanya Silk Products with internationally acceptable design input with the help of well-known designers.
7. 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 centers.
8. The CSB has taken-up a separate project approved by the Government of India, viz. "Quality Certification Systems for Silk" for implementation in the country during the X Plan. The objective of the project is to ensure quality maintenance at different levels of production/ process (Silkworm Seed, Cocoon & Raw Silk production). As a part of this programme, CSB has launched "Silk Mark" Scheme which is a Hall-Mark for the products made from pure natural silk and it guarantees the purity of silk products.

(d) Production, import and consumption of raw silk for the last three years is given below:

(quantity in Metric tones)

Year	Total Raw silk Production	Import of Raw silk	Consumption of Raw silk
2003-04	15,742	9,258	25,000
2004-05	16,500	7,948	24,448
2005-06	17,305	8,383	25,688

The current production of silk is approximately 17,305 M.Ts. against an estimated demand of approx. 26,000 M.Ts. The production forms only 66.5% of the demand, and the gap is being met by imports. India has a large domestic market and 85% of the silk goods namely, sarees, made-ups, etc., are consumed locally. Since 94% of the mulberry raw silk produced is of multi-bivoltine variety of not export quality for warp, Government of India is giving high priority for improving the quality of silk through special programmes like Catalytic development Programme covering all stages of production in Sericulture.