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Title : Need to take steps to promote sericulture in Murshidabad district of West Bengal.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sericulture is considered an important wing of the textile industry. It shares a good deal by preparing silk materials in the export sector also.

West Bengal is such a state where lies the enormous potentialities of Sericulture which is yet to be tapped.

In my district Murshidabad, hundreds of farmers cultivate mulberry in their land for supplementary generation of income. A large tract of the district is also fertile for producing mulberry.

However, for procuring Cocoon they have to rely upon the supply from Karnataka.

The farmers (sericulturists) do not have adequate funds to run any enterprise based upon sericulture including age old technology which impedes the growth of this sector.

There exists a regional research centre of Sericulture in the headquarters of district Berhampur. However, research centre cannot contribute the necessary inputs to the sericulturists.

The outcome is that in spite of all necessary skills and attributes the sericulturists in the district can not avail the benefits of research activities.

I think a comprehensive mechanism to develop the Sericulture sector in the district is called for.