

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:390
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000
DEMAND AND AVAILABILITY OF RAW SILK
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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- (a) the annual production of raw silk in the country;
- (b) the estimated annual demand of raw silk in the country;
- (c) whether there is a gap between availability and demand of raw silk in the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES

(SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b) The annual production and the estimated demand of raw silk in the country during the last three years is indicated below:

(in tons)

Year	Production	Demand
1997-98	15236	18,500
1998-99	15544	20,000
1999-2000	16190 (estimated)	22,000

(c) & (d) To meet the shortfall in the domestic availability of raw silk vis-a vis demand Government has permitted import. Presently Government has permitted import under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) wherein, the exporters are allowed to bring in duty free raw silk which is linked to export obligation. In addition, to meet the demand for superior quality mulberry raw silk, the Government has permitted import of mulberry raw silk of Grade 2A and above by canalisation through Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation (HHEC), National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) and other State Corporations dealing with Handlooms/Powerlooms and silk.

Besides, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/ programmes for promoting development of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural and extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units and implementation of certain developmental/incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk.