

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4227
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2002
ACTION PLAN TO BOOST SILK EXPORTS
ANANDRAO ADSUL

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Indian silk exports hit by bureaucratic dithering' appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated January 8, 2002;
- (b) if so, the reasons for such a delay in revoking the notification withdrawing the duty drawback to the silk exporters;
- (c) whether any action plan has been proposed to boost silk exports of our country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. A news item titled 'Indian silk exports hit by bureaucratic dithering' appeared in the Economic Times dated January 8, 2002 wherein the problem of silk exporters relating to Duty Drawback was mentioned. It has been the endeavour of the Government to address the problems of the exporters expeditiously.

(c) & (d) The Government is taking several steps to increase the exports of silk products -

(i) The Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in international fairs, organizing generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like TexStyles India, Publicity in foreign trade magazines, publication of magazine 'Silk India' and colour forecast card for domestic silk manufacturers, dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc.

(ii) For Technological up-gradation of the industry loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the Technological Up-gradation Fund Scheme for the Textiles sector is available inter alia to the silk sector.

(iii) Import of raw silk has been liberalized by being brought under OGL, which has increased availability of good quality silk.

(iv) Input of specified machinery items of silk industry required for reeling, weaving, twisting, processing and printing has been allowed at concessional customs duty of 10%. The import of spare parts for maintenance of such machinery is also permitted at concessional customs duty of 10%.

(v) value addition/Input-output norms have been rationalized

(vi) Govt. have initiated a production programme of high quality of bivoltine silk to improve quality of Indian silk to international standards and its productivity & cost competitiveness. Programmes are being implemented to improve technologies at all stages of the process of silk development, and diversify products with inputs for improvement of looms and designs such that they may expand the export share of the country.