

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2599
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2005
DEMAND OF INDIAN TUSSAR SILK
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the demand of Indian tussar silk has risen in the foreign markets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the cultivable area of tussar silk; and
- (d) the funds granted by the Government for the development of the said sector during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

(a) &(b) Yes, Sir. The export earnings from tasar silk goods during the year 2004-05 were Rs.84.42 crores. This is an increase of 13.7 % over the previous years export earnings of Rs.74.25 crores.

(c) The Central Silk Board (CSB) in collaboration with State Sericulture Departments has taken up various steps for the development of tasar sector and to increase cultivable area of tasar silk in the country. Some of the important steps taken in this regard are given below:

1. Catalytic Development Programme:

The Central Silk Board is implementing the Catalytic Development Programme during X Plan in collaboration with different State Governments. Under the Catalytic Development Programme a provision of Rs.181.00 crores has been made for providing assistance to sericulturists in the form of subsidy/incentive to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming towards improvement in quality and productivity. This includes a provision of Rs.16.37 crores for the development of tasar sector mainly for the on-farm sector.

2. Special Projects:

The following state specific projects are being implemented for the development of tasar sector in different States:

- A. Chhattisgarh Sericulture Project with the assistance of the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC);
- B. Special Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojagar Yojana (SGSY) Project for the development of tasar and eri culture in Bihar;
- C. Special SGSY Project for the development of tasar and eri culture in Jharkhand; and
- D. Micro-project for the development of Oak tasar in Manipur.

3. Research and Developmental Support:

The CSB has established a Central Tasar Research and Training Institute in Ranchi. This Institute alongwith its network of Regional Tasar Research Stations and Research Extension Centres in different tasar producing States provides required research support for the development of tasar sector. The Central Silk Technological Research Institute has developed improved reeling-cum-twisting machines and improved spinning wheel to produce quality tasar yarn. Popularization of these machines and replacement of these machines with traditional natwa reeling has removed drudgery and improved the quality and productivity. The CSB has established demonstration-cum-technical service centres for tasar in different States to provide field oriented training and demonstration in post cocoon technology to the local reelers / spinners.

4. Seed Support:

The CSB has established a Basic Tasar Silkworm Seed Organization in Bilaspur. This unit with a network of 21 Basic Seed

Multiplication-cum-Training Centres functioning in different tasar producing States produce and supply basic seed required for the production of tasar.

5. Market support:

The CSB has established a Raw Material Bank in Chaibasa. This unit alongwith its sub depots procure tasar cocoons from tasar cocoon growers to ensure remunerative price to the primary producers.

(d) During the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, the CSB has released/spent Rs.1.83 crores, Rs.2.17 crores and Rs.2.61 crores respectively to different States for the development of tasar sector under the Catalytic Development Programme.