

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:137

ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008

SILK PRODUCTION

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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production and demand of various varieties of silk in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated, released and spent for silk production during the said period, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between production and demand; and
- (d) the measures adopted by the Government for the production of high quality silk alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 137 FOR ANSWER ON 27.10.2008 REGARDING "SILK PRODUCTION."

(a): Present production of Silk in the country is 18,320 MTs (2007-08) and the demand for silk is estimated around 26,000 MTs. The details of State-wise and variety-wise Raw Silk production in the country for the last three years (2005-06, 2006-07 & 2007-08) and for the current year (2008-09) are given in the enclosed Annexure-I.

(b): The year-wise details of amount allocated/released and spent by the States under Catalytic Developmental Programme (CDP) during the said period to improve silk production is given in the enclosed Annexure-II.

(c): The following steps have been taken by the Government through Central Silk Board (CSB) to bridge the gap between production and demand:

To increase the production of Raw Silk, an additional area of 26,000 hectares of mulberry plantations largely for production of BV mulberry silk is proposed to be raised during XI plan.

The Sub-Group on sericulture for XI Plan has recommended a Raw Silk production target of 26,000 MTs (at 8% growth rate for the XI Plan period) which includes production of 5,000 MTs of superior quality BV Raw Silk and 3,000 MTs of Vanya silks.

In order to achieve the aforesaid targets during XI Plan, a centrally sponsored Scheme viz. Catalytic Developmental Programme (CDP) is being implemented by the Government through Central Silk Board in coordination with different States. Under CDP, support is being provided in the form of subsidy to the stake-holders of silk industry to develop Seed, Cocoon and Post-Cocoon sectors. These Schemes aim at improving quality silk production and productivity through adoption of improved technology packages.

The above approach will support in achieving the overall target of 26,000 MTs of Raw Silk production proposed by end of XI Plan, which can bridge the gap between the production and demand for silk in India.

(d): Following steps have been taken for production of high quality silk in the country during the XI Plan period –

Strengthening the Research and Development systems to improve the levels of cocoons production and productivity.

The Government through Central Silk Board 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.

Through R&D efforts, the Central Silk Board has made a break through in tropicalising the Bivoltine Silkworm and Development of new varieties of mulberry (Viz V1, S36, AR11, AR12, S13 and S34). Plants with higher yields resulting in significant improvement in silk productivity.

The Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI) under the Central Silk Board has developed improved devices, New Machines and equipment which have helped improvement in Silk quality and productivity.

The Central Silk Board has established Silk Conditioning and Testing Houses to undertake Testing of Raw Silk for its quality.

The CSB has taken-up a separate Project approved by the Govt. of India, viz. "Quality Certification System for Silk" for implementation in the country during XI Plan. The objectives of the Project is to ensure quality maintenance at different levels of production process (silkworm seed, cocoon and raw silk production) which ultimately results in the production of quality silks of international standards.

Bring down the cost of production of mulberry raw silk closer to that of imported silk, through adoption of integrated farming methods.

Focus on quality silkworm seed production in private sector through required technical and financial support for the establishment of Silkworm Seed Production Centers with all required facilities and adopted seed rearers so as to ensure self sufficiency in seed requirement.

Facilitate production of quality raw silk in bulk through setting up of automatic/semi-automatic reeling machines and multi-end reeling machines in selected clusters to meet the demand of domestic powerloom and export sector.

Continuation of Catalytic Developmental Programmes with certain modifications and higher levels of central subsidy for transfer of improved technology in the field. The Components under CDP are together aimed at development and expansion of host plantations, development of farm infrastructure, up-gradation of reeling and processing technologies in silk, Enterprise Development Programme etc.

Fund allocation: The Government has approved an allocation of Rs.1476.24 crores for implementation of the CDP during the XI Plan period and, out of this, CSB's share is Rs.661.62 crores.