

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2603
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011
SILK CENTRES
Patil Shri C. R.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some silk centres including at Navzari (Gujarat) are on the verge of closure jeopardising the livelihood of a large number of farmers, engaged in silk farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the government to save such centres, particularly centre at Navzari (Gujarat)?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SMT. PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The Government of India through Central Silk Board (CSB) has established a Research Extension Centre (REC) at Navsari in Gujarat to extend Research and Development support for catalyzing the effort of State Government during the implementation of National Sericulture Project in Gujarat State. But at present, there are no active farmers in the area that can be served by the Centre for production of silk. In the absence of sericulture activities in Navsari area, over a period of time, farmers have been drifted away to other remunerative agricultural crops due to lack of attention and support from the Govt. of Gujarat. CSB has approached to Govt. of Gujarat time and again to implement the Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) for the development of Silk industry in the area. However, no positive response has been shown so far by the Gujarat Government to implement the CDP in the State. The centre has limited activities in the region now.

(c): Sericulture development is a State subject, whereas Central Silk Board extends all the required Research & Development support and training inputs to catalyze the efforts of the State Governments. CSB has not received any action plan so far from the State Govt. to promote sericulture in Navsari area during last one decade. But considering the scope for the development of Eri silk in the State, Govt. of Gujarat has initiated a pilot Project in Banaskantha district for promoting Ericulture. In this regard, the Central Silk Board has established a separate Unit at Himmatnagar, which is fully equipped with the required staff for extending necessary technological and training support for Eri Silk p.roduction in Gujarat, as other varieties of silk such as Muga and Tasar are found to be unsuitable for growing in Gujarat due to different climatic conditions. The state Govt. of Gujarat has also been requested to initiate necessary action for its involvement in the project. REC, Navasari has been advised to extend necessary technical support to Project Development Center (PDC), Himmatnagar.