

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6206

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012

PRICE OF COCOONS

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Sugavanam Shri E.G.;Tanwar Shri Ashok

**Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the sericulture farmers have been facing huge losses due to steep fall in the prices of cocoons;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to announce special package to silk farmers/reelers in the country;
- (c) whether there is a need to increase the production of raw silk because of mismatch of demand and supply in the sericulture industry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to improve the availability of raw silk and to increase the production of silk during the next Five Year Plan;
- (e) whether there is any demand to set up of an institute for Silk and Biomaterial Technology at Kodathi, Bangalore; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): During the period between April 2011 and March 2012, there was a significant drop in the prices of cocoons in various cocoon markets from about Rs.275/- per Kg. to about Rs.175/- per kg as a result of reduction in prices of raw silk in the domestic market. However, prices improved in the recent months and cocoon prices have gone up to about Rs.220/- per Kg.

The Government has taken steps to improve productivity of cocoons and raw silk, strengthen the extension support to the farmers and develop improved seeds and host plants. Government has also permitted import of modern Automatic Reeling machines and Dupion Reeling machines alongwith their accessories and packages at concessional duty of customs to bring down cost of production, and make the sericulture and reeling sector competitive.

The estimated demand-supply gap of silk in the country in last 5 years is given below:

| Years       | Estimated Demand for<br>Silk in MTs | Actual Raw Silk<br>production (MTs) | Demand-Supply Gap<br>(in MTs) |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2007-08     | 28,579                              | 18,320                              | 10,259                        |
| 2008-09     | 31,381                              | 18,370                              | 13,011                        |
| 2009-10     | 31,408                              | 19,690                              | 11,718                        |
| 2010-11     | 32,152                              | 20,410                              | 11,742                        |
| 2011-12 (p) | 30,406                              | 23,000                              | 7,406                         |

(p) Provisional

The demand supply gap of raw silk is being met through imports, mainly from China.

The Government envisages enhancing domestic production of silk through strengthening the existing programme, i.e. Centrally Sponsored "Catalytic Development Programme" (CDP), being implemented by the Government through Central Silk Board (CSB), for development of sericulture and silk industry.

(e) & (f): Central Silk Board has a proposal to establish an "Institute for Silk and Biomaterial Technology" within the CSB Campus at Kodathi in Bangalore, in collaboration with Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology. CSB has taken up the proposal with the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology and has identified the land for the above.