

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2460

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012

SILK PRODUCTION

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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a mismatch in demand and supply of silk in the country;
- (b) if so, the production during the last three years, State-wise along with the efforts made by the Government and Central Silk Board to increase the silk and mulberry silk production/expansion plan during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (c) the names of countries from whom transfer of technology for processing dyeing, conversion and finishing of silk fabrics are under process to meet such expansion targets;
- (d) the funds allocated under various schemes for promotion of silk industry across the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) the funds allocated for promotion of silk sarees of Karnataka during the last three years;
- (f) whether there has been a decline in export of silk products due to recession in the European countries and United States of America and stiff competition from Asian countries like China; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof along with alternative markets explored by the Central Silk Board to boost the exports during the next Five Year Plan?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. The production of the raw silk in the country during 2011-12 was 23,060 MT against the estimated demand of around 29,000 MTs. There is a shortfall in supply of approximately 6000 MTs of raw silk per annum. The demand supply gap is being met through imports mainly from China. State-wise raw silk production in the country during the last three years is given in Annexure-I.

Efforts are being made by the Government through Central Silk Board (CSB) to increase the silk production during the XII Plan by intensive R&D intervention for developing robust silkworm races and food plant, improving productivity and quality intensive extension support to farmers through the State Governments for adoption of best farm practices and silkworm rearing, modernization of reeling segment by facilitating establishment of Automatic Reeling Units, Multi-end Reeling Units and Dupion Reeling Units through the flagship Catalytic Development Programme.

(c): Presently only indigenous technologies are being adopted as far as processing, dyeing and printing/finishing of silk materials are concerned. In order to promote large scale reeling and spinning, Automatic Reeling Machines and Spun Silk machines have been imported from China. These machines are producing international grade quality silk. Government has recently reduced customs duty on import of Reeling equipments including Automatic Reeling Machines & Dupion Reeling machines alongwith their allied accessories to facilitate modernization of the reeling sector.

(d): Government of India through CSB is providing support under Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Catalytic Development Programme' (CDP) which is being implemented since IX Plan period in collaboration with the State Sericulture Departments of all the States. Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 650.18 crores have been provided to 26 States during the last three years (2009-10 to 2011-12) of the XI Plan Period. State-wise and Year-wise details are given in Annexure-II.

(e): Under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS), the funds allocated for promotion of Handloom, including silk sarees, of Karnataka during the last three years are as under:-

Year Funds allocated (Clusters+Groups)
Rs. in lakh

2010-11 74.70

2011-12 511.98

(f) & (g): Yes, Madam. The Silk export have declined in the last year due to economic depression in United States & Europe which are major markets for India's silk goods. Apart from this, the value of Indian Rupee appreciated against the US dollar rates and has resulted in higher costs for importing raw silk which is making Indian silk exports less competitive against the Highly competitive Chinese exports.

Year-wise details in respect of export of silk products during the last three years are given below:-

Year	Value (in Crore Rs.)
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2009-10	2892.4
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2010-11	2863.8
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2011-12	2285.08
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In order to address the situation, effort is being made to explore new potential markets in Asia, Latin America and African countries through buyer-seller meets by Indian Silk Export Promotion Council. Vanya Silk (Tasar, Muga & Eri) is being popularized in the overseas markets as eco-friendly Organic silk. Eri is also being promoted as Ahimsa Silk. Export potential of Silk Carpets in Asian markets is also being explored to boost export of silk goods.