

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2646

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015

IMPORT OF SILK

Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the import of silk during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the custom duty on silk during the said period;
- (c) whether the Government plans to bring down the import of silk to zero by 2020;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to improve the quality of silk being produced in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a): The Raw silk import during the last three years and current year is given below:-

Raw Silk Imports into the country during the last three years & current year

| Year | Qty (MT) | Value (CroreRs.) |
|---------|-----------|------------------|
| 2011-12 | 5685 | 1111.53 |
| 2012-13 | 4959 | 1238.56 |
| 2013-14 | 3260 | 896.44 |
| 2014-15 | 2647 | 735.28 |

(Apr to Dec-14)
Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

(b): The basic customs duty on imported Raw silk was reduced from 30% in 2010-11 to 5% in 2011-12. Even since the duty structure has been as below:-

| Year | Basic Customs Duty (%) |
|---------|------------------------|
| 2012-13 | 5 |
| 2013-14 | 15 |
| 2014-15 | 15 |

(c): No Madam.

(d) & (e): Does not arise

(f): Yes, Madam. The Government has taken the following measures to improve the quality of silk produced in the country:-

Production of Import substitute Bivoltine (BV) and Improved Cross Breed (ICB) Silks adopting cluster approach & promoting use of high-end technology. The activities of cocoon production, reeling & weaving are clustered and linkages are strengthened between the producers and industry at all level. Large scale processing units such as fully Automatic Reeling units are established with a view to produce international quality raw silk of uniform grade.

Under XII Plan, 176 clusters have been organized under Cluster Promotion Programme (CPP) to augment the production of bivoltine silk production in the country.

Automatic reeling units are set up in the country for production of 3A-4A grade raw silk from bivoltine hybrid cocoons

Government through Central Silk Board is implementing Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) in association with State Governments in a package-mode to improve the facilities and make the farmers, reelers and weavers to adopt the modern technologies with the aim to increase productivity and quality of silk produced in the country.

Under CDP, incentives are provided for reelers for the production of quality bivoltine silk (Rs.150 per kg for 2A grade and above silk and Rs. 100 per kg for other gradable silks below 2A grade).