

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2175  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014  
CONDITION OF BHAGALPUR SILK INDUSTRY  
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**Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the poor condition of Bhagalpur silk industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken/ being taken by the Government to protect the Bhagalpur silk industry?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The change in consumer preference towards coarser varieties and sluggish export market in the recent past have affected Bhagalpur silk industry. The following are the major reasons for the diminishing silk industry in Bhagalpur region:-

- (i) Due to recession in market economics in silk importing countries, export of Bhagalpur silk had suffered a severe slash and there had been a steady down fall in a span of last ten years. There had been a steep cut in export to USA.
- (ii) Silk handloom weavers of Bhagalpur are facing stiff competition from powerloom and mill sector due to high input cost, non-availability of subsidized credit and low productivity.
- (iii) Capturing of export market by other other major silk producing country like China.
- (iv) Scarcity in work force.
- (v) Use of other textile fibres as replacement to silk.

(c): To protect and promote sericulture industry/ activities in Bhagalpur, the Government through Central Silk Board has taken following remedial measures mainly for the development of tasar silk industry in Bihar:-

- i. Basic Seed Multiplication and Training Centre (BSM&TC) for production and supply of superior Quality basic tasar seeds to the state government units, for further multiplication and supply of silkworm seeds to the tasar rearers.
- ii. Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre (DCTSC) for demonstration of improved Technologies to reelers and weavers and to provide required training to the beneficiaries.
- iii. Sub-Unit of Tasar Raw Material Bank (TRMB) for providing local market support for the producers of tasar cocoons, by providing a remunerative price for their produce.
- iv. One big handloom cluster covering 5000 looms and 5 small clusters covering 300-500 looms have been sanctioned for Bhagalpur weavers. Further one Mega Handloom Cluster has also been approved in the budget of 2014-15 for Bhagalpur.

The Government through Central Silk Board is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) in coordination with the Govt. of Bihar, to provide support for development of host plantation, construction of Rearing houses/CRCs/Cocoon storage houses, assistance to Tasar Seed production, support for state Department for strengthening of Eri Farm-cum-Grainages, rearing appliances, establishment of improved cottage basin reeling units, support for hot air driers etc. Under Quality Certification System (QCS) scheme, the Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI) organises structured and well planned Silk Mark Expos in various cities across the country regularly and provides a platform to weavers, traders and exporters to showcase and sell their silk products including sarees. Weavers and Exporters from Bhagalpur region also participate in these expos in a big way and get benefited.

Further, the Government through Office of the Development Commissioner (Handloom) by means of various schemes and programmes has adopted focused, flexible and holistic approach by facilitating marketing of handloom products, infrastructure development, brand building and empowerment of weavers by organizing them under self-help groups, training and skill up-gradation, infusion of new and contemporary designs through design intervention as well as product diversification, technology up-gradation, easy access to raw material at subsidized prices and easy credit flow at low interest rates etc. besides providing better health care

and life insurance under welfare schemes to improve the living standard and sustainable development of handloom sector including weavers of Bhagalpur.