

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6725
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015
ORGANIC FARMING IN SERICULTURE
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the organic farming in sericulture is imperative to sustain the industry and any intensive research on production of organic silk is in the pipeline, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that though chemical farming initially yields good results, its negative impact on leaf yield, quality and cocoon productivity is pronounced in a few years; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Madam. Organic farming in sericulture is imperative for sustaining the soil health and fertility on long-term basis, especially for the production of mulberry foliage to feed silkworms. The Central Silk Board's Research Institutes have developed technology packages for cultivation of mulberry plantation for sustained leaf production through organic farming methods. During the current year, a Research Project is initiated for the production of organic silk encompassing the entire production chain from soil to silk, involving the production of mulberry leaf, silkworm rearing, silk reeling and processing to develop complete organic silk production systems in mulberry and meeting the standard requirements of (Global Organic Textile Standards (GOTS) Certification.
- (b): Yes Madam. Use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in farming over long term has adverse effects on productivity, soil health and fertility & microbial populations in general and leaf quality and cocoon productivity in particular.
- (c): The Government of India through Central Silk Board is promoting organic farming in sericulture through mission mode approaches like Cluster promotion programmes (CPP) and Institute Village Linkage Programmes (IVLP) in close coordination with the State Sericulture Departments. The organic farming in mulberry cultivation includes application of farm yard manure, vermin-compost, bio-fertilisers, neem oil cake, green manuring, trenching and mulching, use of bio-control agents for management of diseases and pests of mulberry and silkworm.