

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5337
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2014
SILK PRODUCTION CENTRE IN CHANDRAPUR
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the silk production units in Chandrapur of Maharashtra has been closed since the year 2004;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to address the problems being faced by these units and to revive the silk production by them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Central Silk Board had earlier established a BSMTC (Basic Seed Multiplication & Training Centre) at Chandrapur in Maharashtra for production and supply of basic tasar DFLs (disease free layings/silkworm eggs) to the State owned PPCs (Pilot Project Centers) for further multiplication and supply of commercial DFLs to the tasar growers/farmers. The tasar seed production and seed cocoon generation at BSM&TC, Chandrapur was adversely affected continuously due to opening of Coal mines and other industrial establishments in and around the tasar farms and surrounding operational areas of the Center. Increase in mining and industrial activities resulted in accumulation of huge coal dust, smoke and other polluting particles on leaf surfaces of the plantation which caused poor grainage operations in the areas of the Center. This pollution affected the production and productivity of the Center, the dfls production of BSM&TC, Chandrapur fell drastically from 18,477 to mere 1,835 and it became unviable to run the Center at Chandrapur. In view of this situation, the matter regarding phasing out the unit was discussed with the State Govt. of Maharashtra during the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting held at Guwahati during July-2002, wherein it was decided to phase-out the activities of the CSBs unit BSMTC, Chandrapur as the unit was not performing well. Considering this, the BSM&TC, Chandrapur was finally closed by CSB in 2004.

(c) & (d): In order to meet the demand of Maharashtra States tasar seed requirement, another unit of CSB viz. BSMTC, Bhandara is presently functioning in Maharashtra, which is organizing systematic tasar seed production and supply of basic tasar seeds to the State Government PPCs, for further multiplication and supply of required commercial seeds to the tasar growers/farmers of Maharashtra. BTSSO (Basic Tasar Silkworm Seed Organisation) of the Central Silk Board located at Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh State takes responsibility of organizing seed production and supply of tropical tasar seeds to all the tasar growing States including Maharashtra. This unit has produced and supplied 91,223 basic DFLs during the year 2013-14 to the Department of Sericulture, Maharashtra for arranging supply of commercial seeds to the farmers, including the farmers of Chandrapur area.

Apart from the above, in order to promote sericulture industry in the country, Govt. of India through Central Silk Board implements a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) during the XII Plan period, in collaboration with all the State Sericulture Departments, including Maharashtra.

Central share of funds released by CSB to Maharashtra during the last three years (2011-12 to 2013-14) and the CFY (2014-15) is given below:-

(Rs.in Cr.)

Years TOTAL Financial
Assistance
provided to
Maharashtra
under CDP
2011-12 6.46

2012-13 6.36

2013-14 12.98

2014-15 4.98 ##

Released till June-2014.

Under the said CDP programme assistance is given for the following Vanya Seed sector schemes for Tasar Seed production during the XII Plan period, including Maharashtra State:-

Assistance to private tasar grainers

Assistance to existing tasar grainers for upgradation of seed production capacity

Assistance for strengthening of tasar seed multiplication infrastructure

Establishment of basic seed production units by SHGs/NGOs/Co-Ops.

Assistance to tropical tasar rearers

Assistance to oak tasar rearers

Assistance for mobile testing facilities for disease monitoring and seed cocoon testing.