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Title: Urged upon the Minister of Textiles to protect the farmers engaged in sericulture and indigenous silk industry by increasing import duty on raw silk.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): The sericulture industry has traditionally been the mainstay of a large number of farmers in this country. Karnataka leads the other States in the country, like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri KH. Muniyappa.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Please continue, Shri K.H. Muniyappa.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Apart from this, many weaving communities engaged

*Not Recorded.

in the handloom production of silk sarees, shawls and carpets are dependent upon the sericulture industry. Karnataka accounts for 60 per cent of the country's total silk production with more than 20 lakh persons engaged in sericulture.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : The total number of persons engaged in sericulture, directly or indirectly in the country is around one crore of which Karnataka accounts for 20 per cent.

The country's total consumption of raw silk is around 25,000 metric tonnes and the production is at 15,000 metric tonnes. To fill the gap between the demand and the supply, the Government is importing nearly 20,000 metric tonnes of raw silk under OGL on which presently an import duty of 35 per cent plus 10 per cent surcharge is levied. In the wake of liberalisation rampant imports of raw silk are flooding the country's markets, a major share of which comes through Nepal. China is also dumping around 20,000 metric tonnes. ...*(Interruptions)*

A part of these imports are channelled through contraband routes or through heavily under-invoiced imports. Imported silk is sold at Rs.15,000 per kg and the contraband one at a little lesser rate of Rs.12,000 per kg. The heavy inflow of commercial cocoons causes price fluctuations in the local market. Due to rampant import of silk, the demand for the local production has remained static with unsold stocks, causing worry to the local farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. You are reading in the 'Zero Hour' also. What is this?

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : The high volume of imports has made the silk market in the country volatile affecting the very livelihood of the farmers engaged in sericulture. In order to protect the indigenous silk industry, I call upon the Government and the Minister of Textiles, to curtail immediately the imports of textiles and silk/commercial cocoons by enforcing a ceiling on the quantum of imports and also by clamping a countervailing duty of 50 per cent (apart from 10 per cent surcharge) on silk imports to ensure a level playing field for the indigenous silk products to protect the farmers.

Shri R.L. Jalappa is also supporting my argument.

श्री राजेश रंजन उर्फ पप्पू यादव : महोदय, रघुवंश जी ने जिन बातों के बारे में कहा है

â€¦(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप पहले बैठिए ।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: It will not go on record .

*(Interruptions)**