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Title: Need to protect the interest of silk growers in West Bengal and other parts of the country – Laid.

SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN (JANGIPUR): Silk production in West Bengal especially in Malda and Murshidabad districts is facing acute difficulties. The livelihood of a vast population of this area depends on the cultivation of mulberry and growing of silk worm. The climate of this area specially in Malda is traditionally favourable for the cultivation of Nestari variety of silk. This yellowish coloured silk is unique variety in the world. There should be an intensive Research and Development work in Nestari variety of silk. Mulberry leaves which is the main food for the silk worm produced in plenty in the blocks of Sujapur, Kaliachak and Manikchak is now facing a tremendous problem of which fly which damage the leaves of Mulberry plants and causes disease to silk worm. This causes heavy financial loss to the mulberry growers and silk worm producers. Preventive and curative measures should be taken up on urgent basis to save this traditional and valuable silk industry.

I urge upon the concerned Ministry to direct Indian Silk Board and its R&D Wings to take immediate steps to arrange relief measures for the poor silk worm growers. The government should take necessary steps to safeguard Indian Silk Industry and Silk growers as a whole by curbing illegal import of silk yarn from neighbouring countries and increase the import duty so that thousand of people engaged in this industry may be saved from getting ruined.