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Title: Issue regarding problems faced by sericulture farmers in the country.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): Thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue regarding sericulture farmers in India, who are facing critical problems.

In the field of sericulture, India stands second in the world, in terms of area and production. Karnataka stands first in India in terms of area and production. At present, the farmers are getting very low price for silk cocoons. Till fifteen days back, the farmers were getting Rs. 300 per kg. of silk cocoon. But at present, they are getting just Rs. 100 per kg of silk cocoon. So, in Karnataka, in many places the farmers are agitating. It is due to the reduction in the import duty on the Chinese silk. Import duty has been reduced from thirty per cent to just five per cent. So, this is the main cause for the farmers getting low price. That is why, in Karnataka the farmers are agitating against this.

I would request the Union Government to impose thirty per cent import duty on the Chinese silk to save our farmers. It is because six to seven million Indian sericulture farmers are suffering because of dumping of the Chinese silk. I would request the Union Government to impose thirty per cent import duty on the Chinese silk to save our Indian sericulture farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shivkumar Udasi and Shri Shivarama Gouda are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri R. Dhruvanarayana.