

of Government which specifies the relief to be given to the workers in the event of the closure of a mill. What, should be the relief, the extent thereof and in what way, it should be given to the affected workers, every thing is to be decided according to the policy of Government. They should be paid their legal dues. Besides this, there is another scheme and when the State Government will takes up the matter with the Central Government then we may give them assistance under that scheme also.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA : It is a very strange thing that the Government wants to help the farmers and to develop their own co-operative societies which means to prevent them from being exploited by these mill owners. When they give licence also, they raise money with the help of the local Government and at the same time, Government makes them helpless and hopeless because of their unsuitable export policy. Is it not the duty of the Government to take a comprehensive view of the matter and deal with the local Governments as well as the financial institutions and help these cooperative spinning mills started by the farmers themselves as per the general policy of the Government itself and help them at every possible moment? What is happening is you allow all these people in the market.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : All possible help is given to the cooperative sector and right from the point of inception, financial assistance is liberal, share capital money is given and National Development Council helps them to a considerable extent. But again it depends on the members of the cooperative sector to run efficiently. If they can't run efficiently, there is not much for the Government to do.

World Bank Assistance for Production
of Raw Silk

*152. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-
SHEKHARA MURTHY† :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the Central Silk Board has undertaken a programme to step up production of mulberry raw silk with the World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the names of States where Central Silk Board will initially start boosting production of raw silk;

(c) whether the farmers engaged in silk production will get reasonable price; and

(d) the extent to which the production of silk will be boosted ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). In collaboration with State Governments, the Central Silk Board has formulated a national Sericulture Project for increasing production of mulberry raw silk in the country. The project has been posed for World Bank Assistance and a Mission from the Bank is expected to visit India in September/October, 1988 to discuss details of the Project, including the States to be covered in the Project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Project envisages an additional Production of 6765 tonnes by the end of the project period.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY : Today, agriculture has become unremunerative, especially for the small and marginal farmers. Agriculture and sericulture are the main sources of income for such people. In Japan, silk production is done on co-operative basis involving small farmers and the marginal farmers. I would like to know whether the Government have any proposal to have the silk production in India oncooperative basis.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The Government is very keen that agriculture in our country should develop. It provides employment to a very large number of people and most of the people are from backward areas, tribals, or people belong to

the poor sections of the society. Therefore, we have a number of schemes by which agriculture can be developed. As I said, earlier, in Karnataka Government has given a lot of assistance in this respect.

As regards forming cooperative societies, they are welcome to form such cooperative societies in the various areas and if the State Governments take up initiative in this respect, we would be glad to help them in every possible way.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY : The silk industry has several phases, namely mulberry rearing by rearers, reeler twisters and weavers. All the classes, except farmers, that is rearers are getting financial assistance from the nationalised banks and other financial institutions. In view of this, I would like to know whether the Government proposes to open a silk bank to cater to the needs of these classes, that is rearers to weavers.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : There is no proposal to have a silk bank as such, but the financial institutions and banks, as it is, are providing a lot of assistance and there is no reason, why along with agriculture, cocoon rearers are not being given assistance.

Please consult the Finance Ministry and the Banking Department; they will definitely sort it out.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : The Central Silk Board has undertaken a massive Rs. 600 crore programme to step up production of mulberry raw silk from the existing 8000 tonnes to 15000 tonnes in the course of five years with World Bank assistance. India is the second largest silk producing country in the world. Next to China. This provides employment in the rural areas to 5.5 million people in the country. Karnataka is the pioneer State which produces about 75 per cent of the mulberry raw silk; next is Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu 20 per cent and the rest is in West Bengal. I am representing the mulberry raw silk area. As the Minister had stated, we are earning foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 255 crores out of export of silk.

To step up the production of mulberry raw silk, the farmers require good and

qualitative layers. I request that the Central Sericulture Research Wing should be made more effective and invent a new race of layer so as to enable the farmers to provide more raw silk at reasonable prices. The Board has set up a silk exchange in Karnataka. Similar exchanges should also be set up in States like Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Marketing of silk as also of agricultural commodities is the responsibility of the State Government. There are States which have very well organised remunerative markets where the cocoon weavers are getting good advantage and we are persuading the State Government to improve the local marketing structure so that the benefit could result to the growers.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, we see a ray of hope that this Minister will revive our Sericulture industry in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. At one point of time Kashmir Silk was very famous but now it is nowhere as compared to Karnataka. Will you modernise our silk industry? It requires your attention. I would like this industry to be modernised. Will you take some step to revive our Silk industry in Jammu and Kashmir?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, we are taking lot more steps; we are in touch with the State Governments, with the Chief Minister personally and we are having some schemes which will give boost to silk production in Kashmir.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Cost Escalation in Raw Material for Handlooms

*141. **SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTY :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Yarn Mills are not producing enough yarn for the handlooms and whatever is produced is used by powerlooms, resulting in loss to handloom workers;