

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

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*Friday, August 19, 1988/Sravana  
28, 1910 (Saka)*

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : It is my sad duty to inform the House of the demise of Shri Rananjaya Singh who was a member of the Central Legislative Assembly representing the then Faizabad Division of the erstwhile United Provinces during December 1926—May 1930. Later, he served as a member of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of Uttar Pradesh during 1952-57 and 1958-62 respectively. He was elected to the Third Lok Sabha (1962-67) from Musafirkhana constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

An agriculturist by profession, he took keen interest in the spread of education and social reforms and was associated with a large number of social and educational institutions including the Banaras and Lucknow Universities, the Kashi Vidyapeeth and the the All India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan in various capacities.

A social worker, he worked untiringly for prohibition, prevention of child marriage and social uplift.

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An able parliamentarian, he had been member of the then Empire Parliamentary Association during 1927-47. As member of Lok Sabha, he made valuable contribution to the proceedings of the House.

Shri Rananjaya Singh passed away at Amethi on 4 August, 1988, at the age of 87 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend. I hope the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while in memory of the deceased.

*The Members then stood in silence  
for a short while*

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### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

#### Tasar production in Orissa

\*325. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tasar production has been declining in Orissa in the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the year since when the production has been showing declining trend;

(d) the steps taken by Union Government to increase tasar production in Orissa ?

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

## Statement

(a) to (c). Tasar production in Orissa has been showing a declining trend since 1985-86. This trend is attributed to depletion of nature grown tasar food plants near tribal dwellings.

(d) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government; the Central Silk Board has set up the following units for development of tasar industry in the State :

- (i) 5 Basic Seed Multiplication and Training Centres one each at Sundergarh, Newrangpur, Pallahara, Baripada and Lahunipara.
- (ii) 1 Regional Tasar Research Station at Baripada.
- (iii) 1 Research Extension Centre at Bangriposi.
- (iv) 1 Reeling/Spinning Demonstration-Cum-Training Centre at Fakirpur.
- (v) A Raw Material Bank (Sub-Depot) at Rourkela.

Besides under the Indo-Swiss Technical Co-operation Programme, an Inter-State Tasar Project is being implemented in Orissa to increase the area under Tasar Food Plants and to provide supportive infrastructure.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I have asked a very colourful question.

MR SPEAKER : You are a very colourful person. It automatically proves.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : This question pertains to the production of tasar. As you know very well, in India ladies and gents wear tasar and silk on all auspicious occasions. Unfortunately, the answer is very dry and without any information.

MR. SPEAKER : I hear that Rajasthani people are colourful. How can he be colourless ?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, being an Indian, I am also a Rajasthani. Sir, the development of sericulture is a very-very important thing for our country because by promoting its export, we can earn a lot of foreign exchange. But unfortunately, the Government which should take cognisance of the sericulture industry or sericulture in our country, is depending only on the World Bank, IRDP and others. The State exchequer is not spending for the tribal people who grow many varieties of this plant. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what is the present position. He is telling that in 1985 and 1986 its production has declined, but as far as my information goes, in 1985-86, more than 46,000 tonnes of this silk was collected and marketed in Orissa. But at present it is only 12,000 tonnes. What is the reason behind this? The reason attributed in his answer is not satisfactory. The reasons attributed throughout the whole country are the same. The flora and fauna and the geological formation are the same as in the North-Eastern States and other States.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, Orissa is one of the important tasar silk producing States in the country. After Bihar, it comes second and it gives employment to about 50,000 tribals. Tasar is produced from a variety of tree called *Arjuna* which grows in the forest. There are number of schemes of the State Government, of the Planning Commission as also of the Central Silk Board to promote production of tasar in Orissa and all other States. It is not true that we are depending wholly on the World Bank for our projects, the State Government itself is also spending. Just to give one example, the Planning Commission allocated Rs. 76 lacs in 1987-88, against which the State Government booked expenditure of Rs 83 lakhs. There is a project called Inter-State Tasar Development Project, of which Orissa also is a part, and lot of progress has been made under that project. When I said that the tasar production is falling, it fell in the year 1985-86 and 1986-87. Because of the drought condition, the trees could not be sustained and, therefore, the production fell. But in 1987-88, it has again started picking up and the various schemes that I have mentioned in my answer, would, I

hope, further increase the production of tasar in Orissa.

**DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Sir, I would like to mention that his Ministry has given much more importance to the North-Eastern region and they are going to spend Rs. 600 crores in a phased manner. Like that, they are getting World Bank assistance for seven States. Though West Bengal and Orissa and North Eastern States are planting these trees, why is his Ministry adopting stepmotherly attitude towards Orissa where the geological formation for plantation of all the four varieties of silk tasar has been neglected, and why under the various schemes that he has mentioned, a very meagre amount is going to be spent? Orissa is very famous for tasar. Mr. Kritartha Acharya got Padma Bhushan from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for this. The cloth is very costly and hand-woven. So, why not give more importance to it and include it under the World Bank assistance scheme? The Government of India can also allocate separate funds for this.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Sir, we have allocated funds, the State Government has allocated funds and the Central Silk Board has also allocated funds. We have established a number of institutions, but mere injection of money would not help the matters. It takes a long time for the afforestation of these trees. First the nurseries have to be raised then they have to be sown in blocks. So, whatever the State Government is prepared to absorb, so far as production of tasar is concerned, I think we would be able to help them in this respect. The figure of Rs. 600 crores which the Hon. Member mentioned, is not for North-East or for any particular States; it is for a number of States for which the project has been drawn.

The World Bank is in consultation with us. No final decision has yet been taken. But one general observation I can certainly make that in Orissa as far as Tasar development is concerned, we will be able to help as much as the State Government and the local infrastructure can absorb.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI MADAN PANDEY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, many times this issue has

been raised in the House that the Central Silk Board is doing injustice to North India. It has only one office and that is in Bangalore. The high officials are guilty because the areas like north-east Orissa and Dehradun in Uttar Pradesh are at a wide distance and the Central Silk Board Office in Bangalore cannot do justice to them. Keeping this fact in view, will the Hon. Minister make arrangements to open an office of the same level as in Bangalore at such a place in north India or form an organisation to have proper monitoring at places in north-east Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. I regret to say that the funds granted by the World Bank are invested in Bangalore where the State Government itself has been keen in its further development. It hardly matters if the Central Government makes any or less development there. Keeping this fact in view, will the Hon. Minister give an assurance to the effect that an office of the Central Silk Board will also be opened in north India?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Sir, the headquarter of the Central Silk Board is located in Bangalore because most of the mulberry silk is produced in the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and other southern states.

**SHRI MADAN PANDEY :** I am not asking for its closure.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** It is for this reason that the headquarter of the Central Silk Board is situated there. But that does not mean that other States are being neglected. Wherever the headquarter may be, its offices and research institutes have been opened in every state and all the schemes are formulated by themselves. For instance, Uttar Pradesh is a large State but it produces just 22-25 tonnes of mulberry silk. The Central Government have been urging the State Government to pay attention to this matter. The total consumption in Varanasi per year is 2000 tonnes. So Uttar Pradesh and other states have to make a major contribution in this regard and in regard to the state of Orissa, the Central Government is ready to assist the State Governments which attempt to formulate schemes for its further development.

**SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN :** I am to state that it is a fact that a lot of potential is available in Jammu and Kashmir for the development of silk and tasar. I would like to know what measures have exclusively been taken by the Central Government and the Silk Board for development of silk industry there ?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Sir, the production of silk in the State of Jammu and Kashmir has declined to a great extent, for which there are many reasons which I do not want to discuss in detail at present. Firstly, the State Government has developed a monopoly in this regard and thus the growers are not given any incentives. The State Government used to pay just Rs. 25 per kg. which was increased to Rs. 50 per kg. in response to our request. Now they have made some changes in the policy. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has been included in the list of the states for which world Bank's assistance has been sought and the Central Government wants that the production there should rather further increase. I hope that the State Governments are fully cooperating in the implementation of the schemes so far formulated and as a result thereof we will achieve considerable success in this field.

**Increase in Prices of raw material used in textile mills**

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\*327. **SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :**

**SHRI RAM DHAN :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of the raw material used in textile mills have increased during the last six months ;

(b) if so, the names of the raw material, prices of which have increased and the extent of increase in the prices thereof ;

(c) the measures taken by Government so far to check increase in the prices ; and

(d) the details of the results achieved ?

[English]

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

**Statement**

*Comparison of prices of different raw materials for the textile industry in February, 1988 and July 1988.*

Items	Wt. average prices (Rs. per kg)		
	February, 88 (6-2-88)	July, 88 (23-7-88)	% variation July, 88 over February, 88
1	2	3	4
Raw cotton	23.90	22.20	(—) 7.11
Cotton yarn	50.59	46.21	(—) 8.65
Poly/Viscose Blended yarn	88.54	79.08	(—) 10.68
Poly/Cotton Blended yarn	80.83	85.00	(+) 5.15
Viscose Staple Fibre (Pure Staple)	27.17	30.15	(+) 10.96
Polyester Staple Fibre	70.92	66.29	(—) 6.52
Acrylic Staple Fibre	67.75	68.00	(+) 0.36
Viscose Filament Yarn	82.72	95.80	(+) 15.81