

**Inadequate supply of high-grade  
Silk Yarn**

520. SHRI MD. SALIM Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 60 per cent of silk yarn is imported;

(b) whether Government are also aware that over the last few years inadequate supply of high-grade yarn has added to the woes of the Banarasi silk industry, threatening the livelihood of over five lakh people engaged in this country; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The estimated consumption of imported yarn in silk production in the country is around 23%.

(b) Under the current Export Import Policy, imports of raw silk are allowed under the Advance Licensing Scheme. The weaving units have been using both the imported raw silk as well as produced indigenously. The quantity of raw silk produced indigenously as well imported during 1993-94 to 1995-96 and the percentage of imported yarn to total silk available to the weaving units is given as under:—

(in Tonnes)

	93-94	94-95	95-96
Indigenous production of raw silk	13691	14579	13909
Qty. of raw silk imported	4892	5403	4195
Total silk utilised	18583	19982	18104
% of imported silk to total utilised	26	27	23

From the above table no scarcity of high grade yarn is evident and rather there has been a marginal decline in percentage of imported silk to total silk utilised.

(c) Does not arise.

**Kashmir issue at the U.N.**

521. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAM-  
BHAJIRAO SHINDE:  
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:  
SHRI RAJUBHAI A.  
PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kashmir issue had been included in the recent UN Security Council Agenda;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to have it deleted from the Agenda and the result thereof; and

(c) whether the UN-Secretary General had lately offered to mediate between

India and Pakistan to resolve the issue; if so, the response of India and Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The Kashmir issue has been on the agenda of the Security Council for several years. No new or additional agenda item on the subject has been inscribed recently. Earlier this year there was a move to delete from the UN Security Council agenda items that had not been active for 5 years. However, a notification by the Secretary General to the General Assembly in October this year, states that no item would be deleted from the list of matters of which the Council is seized without the prior consent of the Member States concerned. Retention of the item would need to be confirmed annually according to a prescribed procedure by a Member State of the United Nations. According to this, deletion of the Kashmir issue would require the con-