

(b) One tropical tasar cluster Center is being implemented in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa, covering two blocks at Saraskana and Kuliana. During the year 2009-10, it is proposed to implement 19 more cluster projects in different States including the State of Jharkhand.

(e) Under the Cluster Promotion Programme, the latest technological innovations could be disseminated in a systematic way to improve production, productivity and quality. The cluster development creates interest among other farmers to take-up sericulture mainly due to the fact that the farmers shall get constant support/guidance from the implementing agency from the stage of the commencement of host plant development till post-cocoon activities. The Cluster Programme brings in awareness among the sericulturists about the latest technologies developed and the kind of technical and financial assistance available to improve sericulture.

Reintroduction of export market assistance

1003. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will propose for reintroduction of the export market assistance to boost the export of jute goods which was stopped by Government since April, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAR):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) External Market Assistance (EMA) scheme is not being reintroduced as there is no fund availability for grant of Subsidy for such export assistance. Also, such export subsidy is likely to be WTO non-compatible.

Stock of cotton in the country

1004. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the size of current stock of cotton available in the country in relation to the corresponding stock last year;

(b) the current size of requirements;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India is hoarding the stock of cotton;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;