

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka) : What about Special Mentions?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Special Mentions will be taken up after the legislative business. Now, Shri Acharya.

THE CENTRAL SILK BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005 - Contd.

श्री सूर्यकान्तभाई आचार्य (गुजरात) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, सिल्क इण्डस्ट्रीज के बारे में अपनी सरकार ने 1948 में ही सेंट्रल सिल्क बोर्ड का कानून बनाया था। उनका मतलब यह नहीं कि हमारा देश सिल्क के बारे में पहली बार 1948 में जागृत हुआ। सिल्क की हिस्ट्री अपने देश में गौरवशाली है। सिल्क का उपयोग, जब अंग्रेज इस देश में आए, इससे पहले से चलता था। इतना ही नहीं ढाका की मलमल दुनिया भर में मशहूर थी। अंग्रेजों ने यहां आकर अपनी इस इंडस्ट्री को तोड़ने के लिए जो कार्यवाही की, वह अति निंदनीय है। उन्होंने सिल्क के जो कारीगर थे, उनके हाथ तोड़ दिए और सारा सिल्क उद्योग बिल्कुल नष्ट-भ्रष्ट हो गया। आजादी आई और फिर उसी समय से, फिर से हमने सिल्क के बारे में सिल्क इंडस्ट्रीज के बारे में सोचना शुरू किया। यह बहुत अच्छी बात थी। सिल्क इंडस्ट्री में चाइना, जापान हमारे कम्पिटटर हैं और थे। यह एक ऐसी इंडस्ट्री है जिसमें हजारों लोगों को काम मिलने की जबरदस्त क्षमता है। सिल्क इंडस्ट्री के बारे में, मैं कुछ बताना चाहूंगा कि इसकी शुरूआत कल्टिवेशन से होती है। कल्टिवेशन यानी कई पेड़ ऐसे हैं, जिनको हमें बोना पड़ेगा, प्लांटेशन करना पड़ेगा और उन प्लांटेशन से ही आगे सिल्क इंडस्ट्री बन सकेगी। सिल्क में तीन-चार-पांच प्रकार के पेड़ बोये जाते हैं - एक मलबरी है, एक टसर है। प्लांटेशन के लिए जमीन चाहिए, जमीन अनुकूल चाहिए, उनमें प्लांटेशन करना चाहिए और प्लांटेशन करने के बाद, उनके जो पत्ते हैं, वे सिल्क वर्म को खाने के लिए दिए जाते हैं। उन पत्तों को खाने से सिल्क वर्म बड़ा होता है। उसके बाद जो सिल्क वर्म है, जिसको हम लार कहते हैं, उसको निकालकर के अपने आजू-बाजू में रिले देते हैं। थोड़े दिन के बाद सिल्क वर्म के ऊपर का जो धागा बना है, उसको निकाल कर के उसका रिलिंग किया जाता है और उसके बाद जो सिल्क वर्म है, वह उसमें से बाहर निकल जाता है। थोड़े ही समय में, जो सिल्क वर्म है, उसका फीमेल सिल्क वर्म के साथ समागम होता है, समागम होने के बाद जो फीमेल सिल्क वर्म है, वह गर्भवती है और सिल्क वर्म जो मेल है, वह उसी वक्त मर जाता है। उसके बाद जब फीमेल जिंदा रहती है, वह अंडा देती है और उसी वक्त वह फीमेल भी मर जाती है। यह नई टेक्नीक है। पहले ऐसे सिल्क वर्म को गर्म जल में, पानी में डुबा देते थे, सिल्क वर्म मर जाता था और फिर यह जो रहता था, उसमें से रेशम का धागा बनता था। हमारे देश में आज भी अहिंसा के प्रति लोगों के मन में मान है, सम्मान है। इसीलिए कई लोग सिल्क इंडस्ट्री में इसलिए नहीं जाते थे क्योंकि पहले वॉर्म को गर्म पानी में डाल करके मार डालना पड़ता था। किन्तु अब ऐसी तकनीक आ गयी है जिसमें सिल्क वॉर्म जिंदा रहता है, उसको मारने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती। इसलिए कई नए लोग भी इस इंडस्ट्री में आ रहे हैं, आने वाले हैं। पहले फीमेल वॉर्म भी अंडा देने के बाद मर जाती थी। अंडे में से निकलने के बाद वॉर्म बहुत छोटी अवस्था में होता है। उन वॉर्म को, जो तीन चार तरह की प्लांटेशंस है, जिसमें mulberry है, tusser है, eri है, उनके पान खिला दिए जाते हैं। वह पान

खाने से जो अंडे में से कीड़ी जैसा छोटा सिल्क वॉर्म निकलता है, वह बिल्कुल बड़ा हो जाता है। उस पान को खाकर जब वह उसकी लार बनाता है, उससे रेशम बनता है। इस प्रकार यह इंडस्ट्री है। इसी तरह से उनकी जो प्रथम स्टेज है, वह कल्टीवेशन है। इसी स्टेज में हजारों लोगों को रोजी मिलाने की संभावना है क्योंकि इसके लिए पत्ते निकालने पड़ते हैं, झाड़ के पत्ते इकट्ठे करने पड़ते हैं। सारा दिन ये पत्ते लेकर लोग वॉर्म्स को खिलाते हैं। महोदय, सिल्क वॉर्म दो तरह के होते हैं। एक ऐसे होते हैं जिन्हें एक रूम में रखा जाता है और दूसरे वे होते हैं जो झाड़ पर ही रहते हैं। इस प्रकार इन वॉर्म्स को पत्ते खिलाने पड़ते हैं। इसमें कोई ऐसी तकनीक नहीं है कि मशीन से काम हो। मशीन के उपयोग के बिना कल्टीवेशन का काम चलता रहता है, जिससे इसमें काम करने वाले हजारों लोगों को रोजी मिलती है। दूसरी स्टेज में जो घागा निकलता है, उसकी रीलिंग होती है। रीलिंग होने के बाद अगली स्टेज आती है। उस स्टेज में उनकी वीरिंग होती है। उनका उपबोग कई जगहों पर होता है। उससे कारपेट्स भी बनते हैं और कपड़े भी बनते हैं। उनकी बड़ी डिमांड पहले थी। अच्छे-अच्छे लोग, राजा-महाराजाओं के लिए रेशम के परिधान का, रेशम के कपड़े का बहुत अधिक मात्रा में इंतजाम करना पड़ता था। ऐसी एक इंडस्ट्री हिन्दुस्तान में अच्छी तरह से पनपे, यह हमारे देश की अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए बहुत जरूरी है। इसलिए जो रेशम बोर्ड है, इसे बनाना बिल्कुल जरूरी था। सवाल यह है कि बोर्ड बनाने के इतने सालों के बाद, लगभग पचास-पचपन वर्ष के बाद, हमको जरूरत लगी कि उनके जो अंडे हैं, वे अच्छे हों, सिल्क ऊंची क्वालिटी का हो और इसका प्रावधान करने के लिए हमें ऐक्ट में यह सुधार लेकर आना पड़ा, वैसे तो इसको पहले ही ऐक्ट में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए था। इसका मतलब यह है कि हमने जिस समय पर जो काम करना चाहिए था, वह किया नहीं है। अभी कर रहे हैं, वह भी अच्छा है, कम से कम कर तो रहे हैं। दुनिया के बाजार में हम सिल्क इंडस्ट्री में वर्ल्ड में फर्स्ट थे, ब्रिटिश राज से पहले, मगर अब चीन फर्स्ट है। हमारे देश की जो क्षमता है, उसमें हम फिर से दुनिया के बाजार में, रेशम के बाजार में, वर्ल्ड में पहला नंबर ले सकते हैं और लेंगे। चीन के साथ अपनी हरिफाई आई, हम चीन से अच्छा सिल्क बना सकते हैं, चीन से ज्यादा सिल्क बना सकते हैं, ऐसी हमारी आबो-हवा है, ऐसे हमारे पास जो पेड़ हैं, वे हैं, तो भी आज हमारा पहला नंबर क्यों नहीं आया है, इसके बारे में सरकार, बोर्ड और डिपार्टमेंट को सोचना चाहिए। मेरे पास जो जानकारी है, उसके मुताबिक चीन के लोग, वहां की जो consulate है, वह consulate, जो बोर्ड के ऑफिसर्स हैं, उन ऑफिसर्स को सभझा-बुझाकर, हो सके तो उनको करप्शन देकर जो चीज करनी चाहिए, किसी भी योजना में, उसमें रुकावट कर रहे हैं। मेरी विनती है कि concerned मिनिस्ट्री पर सिल्क उद्योग के बड़े-बड़े लोग यह ऐलिंगेशन लगाते हैं, तो इस ऐलिंगेशन के बारे में सरकार जरूर शोध करे। चीन ने जापान को, रेशम की हरिफाई में पीछे कर दिया। इतना ही नहीं, जापान आज तीसरे नंबर पर आ गया है, हम दूसरे नंबर पर हैं, इसलिए वर्ल्ड के रेशम उद्योग में पहला नंबर हिन्दुस्तान का ही, इसके लिए जापान हमारी मदद करने के लिए तैयार है। "जापान इंडिया कारपोरेशन" के नाम से जापान अपने देश में एक संस्था चला रहा है और वह हमारी पूरी-पूरी मदद करने के लिए तैयार है, इसलिए हमें उसका पूरा-पूरा लाभ उठाना चाहिए। मगर हम पूरा लाभ नहीं उठा सकते हैं। महोदय, मेरी आप से यह विनती है कि बोर्ड तो बना ही इसीलिए है कि सरकार के नियंत्रण में यह सारा प्रोसेस आ जाए। हिन्दुस्तान में कोई चीज सरकार के नियंत्रण में आने के बाद अच्छी नहीं रहती है। मुझे एक छोटी सी कहानी याद आती है कि एक आदमी के हाथ पर गह्रा हो गया तो वह एक मिनिस्टर के पास गया। उसने इसके बारे में

मिनिस्टर को बताया और कहा कि आप अपना हाथ इस गट्ठे पर रखो, जो कि मेरे हाथ पर बना हुआ है। मिनिस्टर ने कहा कि मैं अपना हाथ क्यों रखूँ, मैं कोई डॉक्टर नहीं हूँ। फिर उस आदमी ने कहा कि आप तो सरकार हैं और सरकार जिस चीज पर भी हाथ लगाती है, वह गायब हो जाती है। इसलिए मेरे हाथ का यह गट्ठा ठीक हो जाएगा। This is the impression that common man has about any Government मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि ...**(समय की घंटी)**... हम जिस उद्योग में फर्स्ट आ सकते हैं, उसी उद्योग के बारे में सरकार का नियंत्रण कम हो। यह बात एक्ट में भी कही गई है कि यह तो एक पैनल्टी है। हम जो एक्ट बना रहे हैं, उसमें अभी से पैनल्टी की बात करके, हमें लोगों को भड़काना नहीं चाहिए। मैं दूसरी बात यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि उसकी टैस्टिंग करने के लिए लेबोरेटरीज बनने वाली हैं। उन लेबोरेटरीज में उसकी टैस्टिंग होगी कि यह कैसा है और कैसा नहीं है। मैं ऐसे समय में आपके सामने एक सुझाव रखना चाहूँगा कि Prevention of Food Adulteration Act में प्रावधान है कि जहाँ से भी सैम्पल लिए जाते हैं, उनको तीन बोटलों में डालते हैं और एक को उसके मालिक को दे देते हैं। उस मालिक से कहा जाता है कि आप इसको किसी भी लेबोरेटरी में ले जाकर उसका टेस्ट करवा सकते हैं। अगर सरकार की लेबोरेटरी में उसका टेस्ट होगा तो उसको लगेगा कि मेरे प्रोटेक्शन के बारे में कुछ हुआ है। सरकार की लेबोरेटरी में सब अच्छे लोग हैं, ऐसा नहीं है। हो सकता है कि किसी को बदनाम करने के लिए कहा जाए कि यह तो भ्रष्टाचारी है और यह गोलमाल करने वाला है। इसलिए वहाँ से गलत रिपोर्ट आने की संभावना भी रहती है। यदि कोई प्रमाणिक आदमी है तो वह बच जाए, उसके लिए भी इसमें कोई प्रावधान होना चाहिए। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... हमारे देश में यह एक अच्छी शुरुआत हो रही है। हमारे देश में चाइना या जापान से भी काफी अच्छे पेड़ हैं। हमें उनका पूरा लाभ उठाना चाहिए। It will be one such industry, इसका मास प्रोडक्शन होगा। हिन्दुस्तान की आबादी को देखते हुए यह प्रिंसिपल अपनाने जैसा है, यह ज्यादा से ज्यादा बढ़े, यही हमारी शुभकामना है।

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on this Bill. Sir, I rise to support this Bill moved by the hon. Minister. This is so far as the attempts to address these issues affecting the very survival of this sericulture industry in the wake of WTO engineered globalization of trade and commerce. Sir, once a flourishing sericulture industry, it is almost on the verge of collapse due to the various reasons known to everybody and it is causing lot of untold misery, especially to the farmers. Sir, this Indian sericulture industry is an agro-based, labour-oriented, export-oriented and cottage-based industry, which provides wide employment for the rural mass. This labour intensive sericulture industry not only provides employment for the rural mass, but for the completion of its fabric, it also provides opportunities to the poor class, especially the weavers in the cities and towns of this country.

Sir, the handloom sericulture industry almost employs about 9 million people making it the largest employment-oriented industry in the

country. Even in terms of capital also, this industry does not require a huge capital thus making it an ideal enterprise for the labour, middle class. Sir, it being a labour oriented industry requiring vast tracks of land for the growth of mulberry, Japan, which was the largest producer of silk, I think, is now withdrawing itself from the industry. It is because of the lack of availability of labour and land, especially for growing mulberry in those places. Now, it is the right opportunity for our country to exploit this situation and expand the production of silk in this country. Sir, the production in Japan was almost 70 per cent of the world production. Since it is a labour intensive industry, and, lot of land is required for growing mulberry, they have withdrawn from the sericulture industry. I think, to take advantage of this situation, now the Government should give more incentives to the farmers, especially where the silk industry already exists. Sir, India is the only country where all the four types of silk are grown, *i.e.*, Mulberry, Tusser, Eri and Muga. Sir, the mulberry silk yarn forms almost 90 per cent of silk produced in the country. The Tusser variety is almost 8 to 10 per cent of the silk production, and the balance two per cent is contributed by Eri and Muga silks. The Mulberry silk yarn is produced in Karnataka -- a place from where you and I come - especially the part of old Mysore and even in Andhra Pradesh also - I am coming to Andhra Pradesh also. Sir, seventy per cent of the mulberry production of the country is from Karnataka. Apart from Karnataka, it is also produced in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Uttar Pradesh. They are all the large producers of silk yarn. Sir, Tusser silk is produced in Madhya Pradesh and in a small quantity, this Eri silk is also produced in Assam. Sir, in Karnataka alone, there is the prime cultivating area for mulberry and rearing the silkworms, sustaining the gainful employment of more than 50 lakh persons in about thirteen thousand villages in southern part of Karnataka. Sir, more than 87 thousand hectares of land is under mulberry cultivation in the State.

Sir, prior to 1980, our silk industry had a booming business, especially in domestic and international market. The real crisis in the sericulture industry started during 1977-78 when we signed the bilateral trade agreement with China. The then Commerce and External Affairs Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayeeji signed this agreement with China where they started exporting the silk yarn to this country, and, clandestinely also, China yarn was smuggled into this country and it caused a great loss to the silk industry, especially in parts of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and even in Tamil Nadu. Sir, that was the story of 70s and 80s. Later, after the

Liberalisation policy of 1991, China took fullest advantage of dumping all its silk yarn and the fabrics into this country causing more hardships for the farmers of this country. China being the largest producer of silk and silk fabrics, our silk industry could not compete with them. The Indian silk industry literally collapsed because of not being able to stand in competition with China. I am happy that after 55 years, the Ministry is bringing an amendment to the Central Silk Board Act. Though it is late, I don't think it is too late to improve the sericulture industry, as has been rightly pointed out by the hon. Member who was trying to quote about the four stages of manufacturing the silk fabrics. One is cultivation of mulberry. Then, rearing of the silk worms. Then, boiling of the silk worms and taking out the yarn, and reeling of the yarn and giving it to the loom, whether it is power loom or the hand loom to produce the fabrics. A comprehensive plan has also been submitted to the Textile Ministry in the month of March, especially, from the State of Karnataka because the headquarters of the Central Silk Board are in Karnataka. A project called the Boom Project has been proposed which cost around Rs. 50 crores. I hope the Ministry would take a little more interest in sanctioning this project so that the farmers could engage themselves in producing more silk.

Sir, in Karnataka alone, out of 28 districts, 7 districts are intensively involved in cultivation of the mulberry and the rearing of the silk. Looms are also there in villages and towns, especially in the Bangalore city, which produces about 40 per cent of the silk produced in Karnataka, which needs some help from the Central Government.

Sir, I would like to suggest some points where apart from this Bill, the Government can consider about formulating the policy for the development of silk. First and the foremost thing is to increase the amount of subsidy from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 which is being given to rearing houses to increase subsidies; from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 to the small farmers. At present the above subsidy is being shared by the Central Government and the State Government equally.

Then, Sir, my other suggestion is to improve the silk yarn processing infrastructure by upgrading and popularising sophisticated multi reeling system as is being practised in China and also improve the cottage-based industries.

Then, I would like to suggest to provide farmers with better and superior quality of seeds at subsidized rates, which they are not able to get

from the Government warehouses and the private entrepreneurs are exploiting the situation by charging extraordinary rates. Also, the quality of the seeds supplied is sub-standard.

Sir, the Central Silk Board, for the past 50 years, is full of bureaucrats as its members. The mulberry cultivating farmers, silk rearing farmers or the handloom people who loom these sarees have hardly got any place in the Central Silk Board. They should be given a place so that their grievances could be heard in the meetings and some reforms could take place. This is my first suggestion. Secondly, Sir, there is also a need for establishment of a design centre by the Central Silk Board to create their new and innovative designs which are in line with fashion trends in the international markets. Access to these designs could be given to the weavers who would benefit by producing such designs for the purpose of exports as well as for the local market. Indian silks do not have a brand image in the international market. It is a matter of wonder for international consumer that the Thai silk is produced in India and not in Thailand as is widely believed. It is, therefore, necessary that priority should be given to publicize and improve the brand image of Indian silk. Sir, Bangalore district is the main centre for the production of silk fabrics on power looms on a large scale, standing apart from handlooms. Prior to the city of science or city of Silicon Valley, it was the Bangalore silk which was very popular. The power looms that are in use are outmoded and are virtual junk. It is impossible to produce good quality silk fabric for both the domestic and international markets with these outdated machines. A lot of power looms have therefore been sold away and further number remains idle on account of the lack of capital to upgrade these looms. This has caused serious problems of unemployment in the silk weaving industry, and the weavers are in serious difficulties. A number of suicide deaths, on account of these difficulties, have taken place. It is important for the Government to take notice of the situation and to think of remedial measures immediately.

The Central Silk Board ought to come to the rescue of these weavers by installation of semi-automatic looms. These semi-automatic looms cost over Rs. two lakh. Weavers are in an extremely poor and pathetic condition and, therefore, not able to invest such huge sums. The Central Silk Board should forthwith come forward to offer a subsidy of, at least, 40 per cent to buy these looms at the cost of Rs. two lakh.

Sir, while concluding, I would like to make three points. Our total requirement of silk yarn is about 25,000 metric tonnes, whereas we are

producing only 1500 metric tonnes. About 10,000 metric tonnes is being imported which is being used for warp in producing silk fabric mixing with domestic weft yarn.

While import of silk yarn is essential, import of silk fabric from China should be immediately banned, which is not in the interest of the farmers of this country.

Mulberry silk cultivation should be included as a Poverty Alleviation Programme, since just half an acre of land can sustain a family of five members for the entire year. If the Government provides and encourages infrastructure facilities and import policy corrections are implemented strictly, I don't think there is any dearth of talent in this country for producing the finest silk of the world. Since Japan is withdrawing from Sericulture industry, the toughest competition we are facing from is China. I think the hon. Minister, with his dynamic approach, would definitely take up this issue to expand our silk industry beyond the southern part of Karnataka. I appeal to him to develop more silk industries in Jammu and Kashmir, where Mulberry is also grown in small areas, so that we can involve the people in the cultivation of mulberry. Muga silk is grown in Assam and nearby areas. They are also withdrawing from cultivating this. I request that more encouragement should be given to the North-Eastern States, so that we can involve those people in this industry. I hope, with these suggestions, the hon. Minister, while formulating the policy for the development of silk industry, would take note of all these things. Thank you very much, Sir.

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand) : Sir, I just want to make an intervention. I congratulate the hon. Member on speaking well. But he has also alleged that the lady Member does not wear silk sarees. I would request the hon. Member to present a few silk sarees to me.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: I have no problem in presenting silk sarees to her. Since she is my sister, I will present her.

SHRI C. PERUMAL (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise to speak on the Bill. Silk industry is an important industry. Silk industry is in existence in a few countries only. But the industry is facing a lot of problems. Of the estimated 70,000 power loom units operating in the country, about 35,000 units have been closed because of the large-scale dumping of Chinese silk fabric. Due to dumping of silk fabric from China, the domestic industry has been affected. The Central Government has imposed provisional anti-dumping duties pending final order on all imports of silk fabrics from China

to protect the domestic silk power loom industry. It is understood that the final order will be passed soon. It should be passed in favour of Indian industry. I demand that the Government should help in reopening of the units very soon with liberal assistance so that Indian silk industry can come in to the fore again. Chinese silk fabric exports to India grew up by 65.60 per cent in the last five years.

Udumalpet in Tamil Nadu with its good climate and fair amount of rainfall has provided the right agro-climatic platform for the sericulture to pick-up in the area. I demand that a sericulture farmer's school should be set up at Udumalpet. Adequate marketing facilities should be created. Moreover, establishing silk reeling units locally would provide a ready market for the farmers.

Farmers rearing silk and sericulture have met with losses in the recent years. While farmers producing other crops are given all assistance, farmers producing silk are not getting any facility. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to chalk out a scheme for providing relief to these farmers. Their loans should also be waived as has been done in the case of other farmers.

I wish to speak on the hallmarking also. General public is cheated by wholesalers and retailers regarding quality of silk sarees sold in shops. There is no proper method to ascertain the quality of silk sarees. Public has to pay more for poor quality sarees. I demand that the Government should introduce some quality control to ensure that only quality sarees are sold in the shops and each shop should have some sort of mechanism so that the public gets quality sarees. The Government should introduce some sort of grading like other commodities.

Another important aspect is that of nomination to the Central Silk Board. Only members having some knowledge and experience should be nominated irrespective of party affiliation so that their knowledge and experience can be put to good use for the industry. With these words, I thank you very much for having given me an opportunity to speak on the Bill. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Sir. I rise to support the Bill. Sir, I concur with the views expressed by my very good friend, Shri Hariprasad. Sir, in my State, people from Anantapur and Chittoor districts, apart from my own district, raise lot of mulberry plantation. They face lot of problems. At the farmers' stage, it is the cocoons. From cocoons up to the making of cloth, there are problems,

2.00 P.M.

mostly with the auctioning place. Auctioning takes place in the odd hours and I request the Government to see that it should be more transparent. As far as the aims and objects of the Bill are concerned, the main intention of the Government is to ensure the quality standard for production of silk-worm seed, restrict production of seeds of only authorised races and control on unauthorised production and trade. Sir, this is where the real problem lies. Sir, the problem is with regard to quality as well as quantity. When we are facing stiff challenge from the neighbouring country like China, we have to strengthen our farmers and we have to improve their skills. The Government should concentrate both on the quality as well as on the quantity and, ultimately, the affordability. There should be demand. Not only supply, but there should be demand, a demand to the level of production. Sir, I request the Government to go in depth as far as the problems of the farmers are concerned. As rightly stated by my good friend, there are no farmers at the helm of affairs, right at the Silk Board. We need to have a farmer at the highest decision-making body so that we can understand the problems of the farmers and the weavers. Weavers are mostly depending on the yarn which is brought from other countries.

It is of inferior quality. But still, they are bound to go with it. I request the Government to involve farmers and weavers in these Committees so that they can effectively bring their problems to the notice of the concerned people. The other point is regarding the issue of restrictive production of seeds to authorised races. This is where discretion lies, and there is bound to be some discrimination. I request the hon. Minister that while replying to the debate, he should inform us how they are going to ensure the transparency, both, in the sense of discretion as well as containing the discrimination. We need some enlightenment on this. As far as farmers are concerned, they are not getting the remunerative price. The whole process needs a lot of patience and skill, and it is a very sensitive process in preparing the mulberries up to the stage of cocoons, it is a very, very sensitive activity. They need a lot of patience, and they have to spend a lot of time over the process. Hence, they need not only minimum support, but also need remunerative price for their work in the process. I want to know from the Government how they are going to protect our farmers and weavers when compared with the China market and Japan, though slowly, Japan is withdrawing from the field, but we have a stiff competition with China. They are dumping it into our market, and people are tempted to buy

them since they are more attractive, more designs are there, though they are of inferior quality. But, in certain cases, they are given at a throwaway price. So, people are tempted to buy them. So, the Government should ensure or the concerned Board should ensure the quality and quantity and remunerative price to the people who are involved in the whole process. With these suggestions, I support the Bill.

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I rise to speak about the pathetic condition in which the sericulturists in Andhra Pradesh, particularly Chittoor and Anantapur districts are surviving, particularly after the Multi Fibre Agreement came into force. The first point I wish to make is that silk development is in the Concurrent List. Under this, it is the duty of the Government of India to assist the State Governments in sericulture by extending research and development, seed, technological support and financial assistance to farmers and reelers.

The other point I wish to make is that instead of helping the farmers by imposing anti-dumping duty on China, since we get majority of silk and silk-worm seeds from China, under the WTO and MFA, the Government is reducing the customs duty on silk. I request the hon. Minister to increase the duty to 60 per cent or 70 per cent on imported silk to save the farmers of our country. Sir, it is not only from China, but silk yarn and raw silk is also coming into the country from Nepal and Bangladesh, though in small quantity. This is affecting the silk producers and reelers and twistors in West Bengal. Hence, I request that the Government should take up a special drive for preventing smuggling of silk yarn.

The next point I wish to make is that the subsidies and financial support to farmers and reelers have been increased in the Tenth Plan for sericulture sector by 30 per cent over the Ninth Plan to Rs. 450 crore. And, the Ministry has kept Rs. 186 crore or 41 per cent of this amount aside for the Centrally-sponsored Plan schemes. I wish to know the schemes that have been undertaken in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the achievement of the schemes so far, because I am personally aware that the schemes are not reaching our farmers in Chittoor which area I represent, and Anantapur, which is my neighbouring district.

Sir, I understand that the Government is also giving duty free licence for import of raw silk/silk yarn. I don't understand the rationale behind this. I may be corrected if I am wrong. If the Government is issuing

any such licences, I request the hon. Minister to immediately suspend them with immediate effect. The next point is that the Central Government and the Central Silk Board should assist the State Governments with a revolving fund to make purchases of cocoons and silk yarn at remunerative prices to farmers and reelers. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ms. Mabel Rebello, do you want seek clarification or what?

MS. MABEL REBELLO : I want to make one point. Nobody has spoken on Kosa silk. I want to speak on raw silk. I want just two minutes. Mulberry silk is quite different from raw silk. Sir, I will take just two minutes.

Sir, Mulberry silk is grown by the farmers. This Kosa cocoon, which I am talking about, is obtained from the *jungle*. Kosa is a *jungali* cocoon, and the villagers, particularly in Chhattisgarh, and, I think, even in Jharkhand, procure it from the forests, particularly in Bastar, Bilaspur, Raigarh and Sarguja. When they procure it, the traders buy it. You see, the villagers procure it; the traders buy it, and they make money! Then, what happens is this. Sir, I have seen myself that in Bastar, these cocoons are boiled; women have to squat on the floor and have to roll them on their thighs. This leads to Eczema and a lot of other problems, Sir. What do these women get? They hardly get Rs.50/- because the cocoons do not belong to them. They belong to traders. These women just work, as you know, as wage-earners. Similarly, in respect of yarn, Sir, when weaving is done, of raw silk, which is known as Kosa, again, what is happening is, the people do not own looms. Looms are owned by the traders, the big businessmen. Women and others weave them. What do they get? They hardly get Rs.50/- a day. It is a special art. Intricate designs they weave, but they do not get remunerative prices. That is why, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards this. While paying attention to Mulberry silk,--I know there are a plenty of problems concerning Mulberry silk; I do understand that--I would request the hon. Minister not to forget this Kosa silk trade which is dwindling day by day.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAN): Sir, the sericulture provides a livelihood to an estimated 25 lakh small and marginal farmers in the country and occupies about 2.5 lakh hectares of irrigated and rain-fed land. Altogether, the silk industry generates employment for 58 lakh persons and an output of about 17,305 metric tonnes of raw silk. It contributes an estimated amount of

Rs.6,000 crores to the GDP. The Government is well aware of this particular sector's importance; we are taking all the measures to encourage this particular sector.

Sir, the hon. Members have raised a few questions and have also given certain suggestions. I would like to say that most of them, especially Shri Hariprasad, have mentioned that there should be more members and that there should be a representation of sericulture farmers also. I am very happy to tell Shri Hariprasad that we are increasing the number of members from ten to fifteen; we are making a Committee consisting of 15 members as proposed in the amendment. I am telling this for his information.

Most of the Members, including Shri Perumal and Shri Acharya, have also mentioned about the Chinese silk coming into our own market; due to that, our silk-producing farmers, our sericulture farmers are incurring heavy losses. Sir, I would like to say that the Government has taken anti-dumping measures to stop dumping from China an anti-dumping duty is being imposed on raw silk from 2003 to 2008 and now, the interim order on imposing anti-dumping duty on Chinese silk fabric from May, 2006 has also been passed in our favour. For weaker sections, the amount of subsidy should be enhanced; that was the request of the hon. Members. I would like to state that the Government has many schemes under which a subsidy is given to the weaker sections of the society. As a matter of fact, most of the schemes are for small and marginal farmers. Hon. Member Shri Moinul Hassan from West Bengal said that seeds should be supplied to West Bengal. Sir, I assure you that the Government will ensure adequate supplies of high-yielding seeds, as desired by the hon. Member. The hon. Member has also suggested for setting up a silk park at Murshidabad in West Bengal. I would like to state that setting up of a silk park in Murshidabad is a good idea. We will consider how it can be done by mutual efforts of both the Central and State Governments.

SHRI C. PERUMAL: I have mentioned about Udumalaipet.

SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN: I am coming to that. Hon. Member, Shri Perumal, suggested that Udumalaipet near Coimbatore is a suitable place for sericulture. I totally agree with him. In the near future, we will consider to organising a meeting of officials of the Central Silk Board and the local farmers at Udumalaipet. A proposal on technology mission for silk is under the consideration of the Central Silk Board for supporting the farmers of sericulture. Almost all the Members insisted that quality silk

should be supplied and the people, who are consumers, should be assured of good quality silk. I am happy to tell them that the Central Silk Board has recently launched the Silk mark Scheme through which the consumers will be assured of pure silk.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: What about subsidy?

SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAAN: As for subsidy, as far as automatic silk yarn reeling is concerned, we are giving a subsidy of Rs.50 lakhs per unit. I think two units have already been sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Shri Acharya mentioned about Japanese cooperation. I would like to say that the Japanese International Cooperation Agency is funding various sericulture projects in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. I assure the House that our Ministry alongwith the Central Silk Board is taking all necessary steps to encourage sericulture and the silk industry in the country. I would like to inform the House that after the quota system is over, we have to face stiff competition from countries like China. So, to improve this particular sector and make it more profit-oriented, I would request the House that the Bill be taken into consideration.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, I have referred to raw silk. But the Minister has not replied to that. Raw silk is a big trade industry. Lakhs of women are working in this sector in central India and tribal regions. So, raw silk, Kosa silk, should not be left out. The Minister should incorporate that in this Bill.

Secondly, since the Minister is going to increase the number of Directors on the Central Silk Board from 10 to 15, I would request the Minister to have, at least, 30 per cent women on the Board. This is a women-intensive industry.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Women are the users.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Women are working in the silk industry. They have the experience. So, they should be given an opportunity to share their experience. I think the Minister will be take cognisance of this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That the Bill further to amend the Central Silk Board Act, 1948 be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

Clause - 2 -- Amendment of section 3.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. In clause-2 there is one amendment (No.3) by the Minister.

SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, I beg to move:

That at page 2, for line 30, the following be *substituted*, namely:-

'(ef)"Silk-worm Seed Officer" means Seed Officer appointed or;'

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause - 4 - Amendment of section 4.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is one amendment (No.4) by the Minister.

SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, I beg to move:

That at page 2, after line 42, the following be *inserted*, namely,-

'(iii) for clause (g), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(g) one person to be nominated by each of the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal;";'

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 8 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause 9 of the Bill. There are six amendments (Nos. 5 to 10) by the Minister.

Clause 9 - (Insertion of new sections 8A to 8J - Constitution of Central Silk-worm Seed Committee)

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, I move:-

That at page 3, for lines 28-35, the following be *substituted*, namely:-

(b) (i) seven officials not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to the Government of India dealing with sericulture from the States-members;

(ii) two experts from the field of silk-worm seed development - members;

(iii) five persons to represent the sericulture sector of whom three shall be the farmers and two the reelers - members;

That at age 3, line 36, for the bracket and letter "(c)", the bracket and letter "(d)", be *substituted*.

That at page 6, line 12, for the word "Inspectors" the word "Officers" be *substituted*.

That at page 6, line 13, for the word "Inspector" the word "Officer" be *substituted*.

That at page 6, line 17, for the word "Inspector" the word "Officer" be *substituted*.

That at page 6, line 32, for the word "Inspectors" the word "Officers" be *substituted*.

The questions were put and the motions were adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause 11. There is one amendment (No. 11) by the Minister.

Clause - 11 (Insertion of new sections 13 A and 13 B - Power to make regulations)

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA: Sir, I move:-

That at page 7, line 30, for the word "Inspectors" the word "Officers" be *substituted*.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 to 15 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause 1. There is one amendment (No. 2) by the Minister.

Clause - 1 (Short title and commencement)

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, I move:-

That at page 1, line 2, for the figure "2005" the figure "2006" be substituted.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the Enacting Formula. There is one amendment (No. 1) by the Minister.

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, I move:-

That at Page 1, line 1, for the word "fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be substituted.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, I move:-

That the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE PRODUCE CESS LAWS (ABOLITION) BILL, 2006

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move:-

"That the Bill to repeal the Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940 and the Produce Cess Act, 1966, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA) in the Chair]

Sir, this is a very small repeal Bill. There are certain items which are produced in this country and there was a provision for taxing. The