

Ban on online trading of cotton

1169. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any representation to put ban on online trading of cotton so as to bring down the yarn prices in the domestic market;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to ban online trading of cotton;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Sir, Neither the Ministry of Textiles nor the Forward Market Commission under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution have received any such representation.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Decline in production of silk yarn

†1170. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether production of silk yarn has declined during the years 2007 to 2010;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether efforts are being made to increase the production of silk yarn by Central Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. The year-wise silk production in India during the last four years (2006-07 to 2009-10) is as follows:

Year	Production of Silk in MTs		
	Mulberry	Vanya	Total
2006-07	16,525	1,950	18,475
2007-08	16,245	2,075	18,320
2008-09	15,610	2,760	18,370
2009-10	16,322	3,368	19,690

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Production of silk is presently showing an increasing trend since the last three years. However, the silk production during the year 2007-08 has marginally decreased by 0.8% when compared with the production of 18,475 MTs during the year 2006-07, due to the reasons - Urbanisation in traditional silk producing States, fluctuations in market prices of Mulberry Commercial cocoons, dumping of Chinese silk into Indian markets through various ways, scarcity of agricultural labour due to migration from rural areas to urban areas for higher labour wages and erratic rain-fall in sericulture areas. In spite of the above constraints, silk production has shown a steady growth from 2008-09 onwards due to the initiatives taken by Government of India through Central Silk Board (CSB) and reached at the level of 19,690 MTs in 2009-10.

(c) and (d) The following efforts have been/are being made by the Government of India through CSB to increase production of silk and the quality of silk yarn:-

1. Strengthening the R&D systems to improve the levels of cocoon production and productivity.
2. Evolved new Bivoltine Breeds by the R&D Institutes of CSB with assistance from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA).
3. Tropicalising the BV Silkworm and Development of new varieties of mulberry (*viz.* VI, S36, AR11, AR12, S13 and S34) by the R&D Institutes of CSB with higher yields resulting in significant improvement in silk productivity.
4. The Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) is being implemented by the Central Silk Board in collaboration with the State Governments to popularize the improved technologies evolved by the Research Institutes to improve the production, productivity and quality.
5. CSB is making necessary efforts to import and popularize the Automatic Silk Reeling Machines and Multi-end Reeling Machines in selected clusters to meet the demand of domestic power-looms and to raise the quality of yarn at International level.
6. Government of India has encouraged production of value added mulberry and Vanya Silk products with internationally acceptable design input with the help of well known designers.
7. Eri Spun silk Mills have been established in Assam and Andhra Pradesh to provide forward linkages to the eri cocoons produced by the farmers.