

Demand to stop dumping of silk by China in the country

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA (Karnataka): Sir, the silk industry of our country, particularly its silk fabrics, and more so, silk sarees is very famous world over. The silk sarees of Banaras, Mysore and other parts of my home State Karnataka, Kanchipuram and other parts of Tamil Nadu, are, of course, very famous in every household of the country, and I will not be wrong if I say that every Indian woman in the globe is very fond of silk sarees. So far the silk industry in our country was doing a roaring business but, unfortunately, this industry is on the verge of collapse in the country, because our friendly neighbour, China has overtaken this industry because it is dumping large quantities of silk and silk fabrics in the country.

There has been a tremendous increase in import and dumping of Chinese silk and silk fabrics after the removal of Quantitative Restrictions from 1st of April, 2001. China is dumping cheap quality silk at throw away prices whereas the production cost of our silk industry is very high due to various factors. Understandably, the Government has imposed some antidumping duties on the Chinese silk but that is not enough to save our silk industry from collapse. Though, under the WTO Agreement, import of silk from China can't be totally banned, but dumping can certainly be stopped not only by imposing maximum anti-dumping duties, but also by ensuring that excess quantities of silk don't enter the country, by becoming more vigilant on the borders and air and sea ports and smuggling routes.

At the same time, the Central Silk Board and the Central and State Governments have to increase the silk production to the maximum, through various incentives and protections, subsidies, etc., by maintaining international standards, so as to enhance the availability of superior quality silk in our country.

I, therefore, earnestly appeal to the Central Government to save the silk industry of Karnataka and the rest of the country and the weavers of beautiful silk sarees who are on the verge of starvation due to the onslaught of Chinese silk. Thank you.

SHRIV. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, I too associate myself with the hon. Member.

1.00 P.M.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I too associate myself with the hon. Member.

SHRI G.K. VASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the hon. Member.

Need to regulate the maximum retail price to safeguard the interest of consumers

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I bring to the attention of the Government the need to regulate the maximum retail price printed on the packed consumer goods and consumer durables. The MRP printed on the packages is generally very high and the retailers dupe the unsuspecting consumers. For example, on a suitcase, the MRP is printed as Rs. 1,500/- and is sold for rates varying from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs. 1,500/- The actual rate of sale depends on the greed of the retailer and the susceptibility of the consumer. The retailer who sells it for Rs. 1,000/- as well as the one who sells it for Rs. 1,500/- makes profits. That means, the actual cost of the product is much lower than Rs. 1,000/-. This is also true of packed food items such as salt, cereals and pulses bought by people belonging to the lower strata of the society.

Their hard-earned money is pocketed this way due to the absence of statutory control on MRP. The Bureau of Indian Standards operates a product certification scheme, and has so far granted more than 30,000 licences to manufacturers of every industrial discipline, from agriculture to textiles to electronics. The certification allows the licencees to use the popular ISI Mark. When consumers see this ISI Mark, they are falsely led to believe that even the MRP printed on the package is genuine. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to make it mandatory to get the MRP approved by a suitable agency and safeguard the interest of consumers.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri S. Rama Muni Reddy Sirigireddy. He is not there. Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz.

Need for an early passage of the Lok Pal Bill

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN- SOZ (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, there is an urgent need to pass the Lok Pal Bill and respond to the expectations of the people that our Government would take effective measures to eradicate corruption from society. It was heartening that Government of India made