

under TUFS for the Twelfth Five Year Plan is sufficient to meet the committed liabilities as well as to attract new investments under the Scheme.

(b) Since its inception, the Scheme has leveraged investments of more than ₹ 2,50,000 crore with subsidy outgo of ₹ 19,000 crore approx.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Safeguarding interests of Muga Silk farmers of Assam

1984. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the world famous and indigenous Golden Muga Silk production of Assam is on the verge of extinction and the fate of the Muga grower is at risk; and

(b) if so, the steps of Government of Assam and Central Government have taken to safeguard the livelihood of Muga silk farmers, promote and motivate the farmers and escalate both silk and the Muga silk production in Assam to develop national and international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Production of Muga Silk in Assam as well as in country during the last five years period is given below, which indicates Muga Silk production, has shown an increasing trend and therefore, it is not on the verge of extinction.

| Year | Muga Silk production in India (MTs) | Muga Silk production in Assam (MTs) |
|---------|--|--|
| 2009-10 | 105 | 93 |
| 2010-11 | 124 | 117 |
| 2011-12 | 126 | 119 |
| 2012-13 | 119 | 109 |
| 2013-14 | 148 | 126 |

The following Statement indicates State-wise Muga Silk production in the country during the last five years (2009-10 to 2013-14). It could be seen from the Statement that the Assam produces substantial quantity of Muga Silk, when compared to other Muga Silk producing States.

| Sl. No. | States | State-wise Muga Silk production during last 5 years | | | | |
|---------|-------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.50 | 1.20 | 1.60 | 2.00 | 1.00 |
| 2. | Assam | 93.00 | 117.00 | 118.76 | 108.52 | 126.00 |
| 3. | Manipur | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.64 | 0.80 |
| 4. | Meghalaya | 10.00 | 3.25 | 3.31 | 6.04 | 16.00 |
| 5. | Mizoram | 0.30 | 0.40 | 1.17 | 0.32 | 1.00 |
| 6. | Nagaland | 0.50 | 1.40 | 0.66 | 1.39 | 1.90 |
| 7. | West Bengal | 0.20 | 0.25 | 0.23 | 0.26 | 0.18 |
| | TOTAL | 105 | 124 | 126 | 119 | 147 |

(b) Steps taken by the Government to safeguard the livelihood of Muga Silk farmers and escalate silk and silk production in Assam:

In order to encourage sericulture industry and to boost the production targets, certain action plan have been prepared during the Twelfth Plan period *viz.* Paradigm shift in production strategies for transforming the Indian silk industry from the subsistence level of production to a vibrant competitive commercial production base chain, extending support to reelers for increasing the storage capacity by providing Revolving Capital Fund, and Interest subsidy, producing import substitute bivoltine silk of 3A Grade through exclusive bivoltine clusters and Seri-Business Enterprises in thrust areas of potential States strengthening R&D interventions to improve productivity and quality thereby contributes to vertical expansion, developing high yielding Cross Breed line of L14×CSR2 in Sub-tropical areas to increase the silk production developing Rain-fed mulberry areas as a special programme through moisture management, rain water harvesting, Welfare measures to primary stakeholders like- health insurance coverage and technologies to reduce drudgery, etc.

For the development of silk industry in Assam, the Government through Central Silk Board has established the following CSB Units in Assam, mainly for the development of Muga and Eri silk industry in the State. These units also extend support to the Stakeholders of silk industry in Assam and neighbouring areas:

- (1) Regional Office at Guwahati to coordinate sericulture development activities with State and other agencies in Assam and NE Region.
- (2) Regional Muga Research Station at Boko to provide R&D and extension support for Muga sericulture.
- (3) Muga Silkworm Seed Organization in Guwahati with a network of one Muga SSPC at Kaliabari and one P3 Unit at Hahim (both in Kamrup Districts) for production and supply of muga basic seed for further multiplication by Government of Assam and private graineurs to produce quality silkworm seed.
- (4) One Eri Silkworm Seed Production Center is also functioning at Azara in Kamrup Distt. to produce quality Eri silkworm seed.
- (5) Regional Silk Technological Research Station, Khanapara, Guwahati to provide required R&D support in post cocoon activities.
- (6) A Muga Raw Material Bank (MRMB) is functioning at Sibsagar in Assam with 3 Sub-Depots, at Dhakukhana, Sualkuchi (Assam) and Coochbehar (W.B) with the objective of ensuring economic and fair price to the actual muga cocoon producers.

In order to promote sericulture activities in Assam, the Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme *viz* “Catalytic Development Programme” (CDP) during the Twelfth Plan period, in collaboration with the State Sericulture Department. Under this scheme, financial assistance is given to the Government of Assam to assist stakeholders including muga silk farmers through the respective Department of Sericulture. As per the requirement of Assam State for sericulture activities and based on the proposals received by CSB, the Financial assistance under CDP is provided by CSB. During the last three years period (2011-12 to 2013-14), total funds released under CDP by the Government through Central Silk Board to Assam is given below:

(₹ in Lakhs)

| Years | Total Financial Assistance provided to Assam (including BTC) under CDP |
|---------|--|
| 2011-12 | 3,168.00 |
| 2012-13 | 2,761.60 |
| 2013-14 | 4,484.07 |

The following components under CDP are also implemented exclusively to support muga silk farmers:

- Support for raising kisan nurseries
- Muga food plant development
- Strengthening of muga seed multiplication infrastructure
- Assistance to muga adopted seed rearers including construction of mounting hall
- Assistance for muga private grainuers

Rejuvenation of silk industry of Bhagalpur

†1985. SHRI MATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bhagalpur of Bihar is world famous for its excellence in traditional silk industry;
- (b) whether silk industry of Bhagalpur has turned into a worn-out situation and a number of silk artisans are migrating to other cities in search of employment;
- (c) if so, whether Government is considering to rejuvenate the silk industry of Bhagalpur under any of its plans or new policy;
- (d) whether Government is determined to check the exodus of silk artisans of Bhagalpur so that this traditional pride of Bhagalpur could be regained; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bhagalpur of Bihar is famous worldwide for its distinctive type of tasar silk and coarse varieties of silk fabrics.

(b) The silk handloom weavers of Bhagalpur are facing stiff competition from power loom and mill sector due to high input cost, low productivity and availability of cheaper imported silk fabric etc. sluggish export market and capturing of export market by other major silk producing countries like China in the recent past has also affected Bhagalpur silk industry.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.