

infrastructure and creation of better marketing facilities to ensure remunerative price to primary producers etc.

Consequent upon closure of CDP with effect from 2015-16, Government through Central Silk Board has been implementing a restructured Central Sector Scheme viz 'Integrated Scheme for the Development of Silk Industry' for development of Sericulture industry in various States including Tamil Nadu, focusing on intervention in critical areas such as Feed, Seed, Breed, Post Cocoon Technology and Capacity Building. The Scheme has the following components:-

- (i) Research and Development, Training, Transfer of Technology and IT Initiatives
- (ii) Seed Organization
- (iii) Coordination and Market Development
- (iv) Quality Certification Systems and Brand Promotion and Technology up-gradation

(b) The details of funds allocated/released and utilized for development of sericulture activities in Tamil Nadu during the last two years (2014-15 and 2015-16) and in the current year (2016-17) are as follows:-

*Funds released by government and utilized by Tamil Nadu during the last two years and current year*

(₹ in lakhs)

2014-15		2015-16		2016-17
Funds Released	Utilized	Funds Released	Utilized	Funds Released
1408.51	1408.51	490.84	203.07	576.98

#### **Welfare schemes for weavers of Varanasi**

315. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes announced for the benefit of weavers of Varanasi since 2014;

(b) whether demonetisation has affected the weavers of Varanasi, the details of any estimation of the loss to this industry post 8 November, 2016, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has come out with any scheme to help these weavers, if so, the details of beneficiaries of the schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons for this attitude of Government towards these dying industries?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a), (c) and (d) In the Budget 2014-15, the Government announced setting up of Trade Facilitation Centre and Crafts Museum (TFC&CM) at Varanasi to develop and promote handloom products and carry forward the rich tradition of handlooms of Varanasi. The estimated cost of project is ₹ 300 crore. The first phase of the Project consisting of Crafts Museum, Entrance Plaza and Shopping arcade has been inaugurated on 22nd December, 2016.

Ten block level clusters have been sanctioned in different blocks/urban areas of Varanasi at a total project cost of ₹ 7.89 crore with Central Share of ₹ 7.70 crore and first installment of ₹ 5.12 crore released, covering 4129 weavers.

Nine Common Facility Centres (CFCs) alongwith Common Service Centres (CSCs) have been set up in different blocks/urban areas to provide facilities like training, yarn, dyeing, warping, IT enabled services etc. CSC provides services like banking, Aadhar Card, e-commerce, e-ticketing, Mobile charging etc. So far, more than 21000 persons have benefitted.

(b) The Government has taken several steps to help weavers in opening bank accounts and taking benefits of digital payment modes. The Common Facility Centres have taken banking services to the door step of handloom weavers. Several camps have been held in Varanasi to train the handloom weavers in accessing digital payment modes. 307 such camps were organised in Varanasi in which 12502 persons participated. Micro ATM/Banking Correspondent(BC) facility was extended in association with various Banks for easy withdrawal of money. National Handloom Development Corporation has also implemented e-Dhaga Mobile App which has facility of making online payment for purchase of yarn. E-commerce players have been facilitated to work with handloom weavers of Varanasi with the arrangements that the sale proceeds are transferred into their bank accounts.

#### **Welfare of jute workers**

316. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the miserable condition of producers, labourers and artisans engaged in the Jute industry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of schemes/programmes drawn for the development of Jute industry, including welfare of jute workers;