

the domestic requirement and thereby reducing the country's dependence on imported silk.

- (ii) Under North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), 38 Sericulture projects are being implemented in North Eastern States to increase silk production in these States.
- (iii) Besides, Central Silk Board and State Governments mobilize additional funds for sericulture development through convergence by availing the schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- (iv) With the above interventions, the raw silk production of India has reached to 35,470 MT and is expected to reach 38500 MT by 2019-20.

Skill Development:

- (i) Central Silk Board under Capacity Building and Training activities of Central Sector Scheme "Silk Samagra", organizes various training programmes for the stakeholders across the country. These programmes focus on skill seeding and skill upgradation in silk sector so as to create employment opportunities and increase income level of the existing entrepreneurs by adapting improved package.
- (ii) Under North Eastern Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), farmers have been imparted training under orientation programme.

Evaluation of foreign trade opportunities in the textile sector

2853. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has carefully evaluated the various trade agreement opportunities that some neighbouring countries have in the world markets;
- (b) whether Government is taking steps to forge policies and programmes to gain better access to the big apparel markets, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether in the light of such advantages, Government is considering the need to re-look at fibre neutrality and evaluate various trade opportunities, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) India has entered into free trade agreements (FTAs) and preferential trade agreements (PTAs) with its neighbouring countries. These agreements provide opportunities for exports in a number of sectors including apparel.

(c) Government is supportive of fibre neutrality as this is expected to make production of MMF based textiles and apparel competitive in India. Improvement in manufacturing competitiveness may also boost India's export of MMF textiles and apparel and enable the sector to gain a larger share in the global MMF apparel market.

Rise in percentage of low earning weavers

2854. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the percentage of low earning (below ₹5,000/- per month) weavers has increased according to the 4th Round Handloom Census 2019-20;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government to improve monthly earnings from below ₹5,000/- to ₹ 15,000/-; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) As per the 4th Handloom Census (2019-20), the percentage of low earning (below ₹5,000/- per month) weavers has not increased.

(b) and (c) Further, to promote earning of handloom weavers, the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, is implementing the following schemes across the country:-

- (1) National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)
- (2) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)
- (3) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS)
- (4) Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS)