

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2283

To be answered on
Thursday, March 20, 2025/ 29 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

QUESTION

Certification for eri silk

2283. Shri Pramod Tiwari:

Will the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region be pleased to state:

- (a) whether eri silk has obtained Oeko-Tex certification;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including its significance;
- (c) whether certification marks a significant step in bringing eri silk closer to penetrating the global export market;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether eri silk industry is unorganized and lacks modern techniques; and
- (f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to modernize this industry?

ANSWER

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
(Dr. Sukanta Majumdar)

(a) and (b) The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, has obtained Oeko-Tex certification for eri silk from Germany. Oeko-Tex is a worldwide certification for textiles such as yarns, fabrics, buttons, linens, terry cloth, thread, and other accessory materials that tests for harmful substances in raw, semi-finished and finished textile materials and products. The Oeko-Tex certification ensures that the final product is safe for human use.

(c) and (d) Obtaining the Oeko-Tex certification is a crucial milestone in enhancing the marketability of eri silk in the global textile industry. The certification ensures international buyers that eri silk meets international safety and quality standards, boosting consumer

confidence and facilitating its acceptance in high-end markets. It also ensures that eri silk meets international compliance requirements for textile safety. This allows Indian exporters to compete in high-end markets that prioritize eco-friendly and chemical-free products. Additionally, Oeko-Tex certification aligns with global sustainability trends, making eri silk more attractive to brands and consumers seeking ethical and environmentally responsible textile choices.

(e) and (f) The eri silk industry remains largely unorganized with traditional methods still being predominant. Government of India through Central Silk Board has taken the following steps to develop & modernize the eri silk industry:

- i. Established Central Muga & Eri Research Institute at Lahdoigarh with its nested units, Assam to cater the needs of R&D, Training & extension support required to the eri silk sector.
- ii. Efforts are in place through R&D Institute of Central Silk Board to modernize & upgrade the eri silk sector, through carryout innovative research required for the field and development & demonstration of improved package of practices & technologies among stakeholders to increase the production & productivity.
- iii. Established Muga Eri Silkworm Seed Organization with its nested units for maintenance, production and supply of quality eri silkworm seed.
- iv. Implementing Silk Samagra-2 scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26 for the overall development of sericulture industry in the country including eri silk sector.
