

DECLINE IN SILK PRODUCTION

3783. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री
be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that Kakaya, Assam's second-largest silk-producing village, is facing a severe decline in silk production post-COVID and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any support has been extended by the Government to affected silk farmers in terms of financial assistance, raw material procurement, or market linkages;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of post-pandemic impact on sericulture livelihoods in Assam; and
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal plans to revive traditional silk clusters through focused schemes or collaborations with the State Government and if so, the details thereof?

उत्तर
ANSWER
वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (श्री पबित्र मार्घेरिता)
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a): As per the Directorate of Sericulture, Government of Assam, Kakaya is a major silk weaving village engaged primarily in silk and cotton weaving. No specific post-COVID decline has been reported in the village.

(b): The Government under Silk Samagra-2 scheme extends support for the development of the sericulture industry in the country, including Assam. Based on the proposals received from State Government of Assam (including Bodoland Territorial Council and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council), an assistance of ₹78.14 crore has been provided which benefitted around 4,000 person including silk farmers.

In addition, the Government under National Handloom Development Programme and Raw Material Supply Scheme provides financial assistance to eligible handloom agencies/workers for raw materials, upgradation of looms and accessories, solar lighting, work-sheds construction, product diversification and design innovation, technical and common infrastructure, domestic/overseas marketing, MUDRA loans, and social security for the overall development of the handloom sector and welfare of handloom workers across the country, including Assam. Also, the Government of Assam, through its Muga Mission, supports 8,268 Muga silk farmers.

(c): The Government, through Central Silk Board has conducted a nationwide (including Assam) online study during April–May 2020 to assess COVID-19 impact across the silk value chain.

(d): Under the Cluster Development Programme, ₹102.33 crore has been released for 88 small and 2 mega handloom clusters in Assam, covering around 71,784 handloom weavers. Furthermore, the Silk Samagra-2 scheme has been implemented in collaboration with State Governments, including Assam, for the overall development of the Silk sector, which also encompasses traditional silk clusters.