

MUGA SILK

528. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has noted the decline of Assam's Muga silk sector due to climate variability, unseasonal rainfall, humidity shifts, and pesticide contamination from nearby tea gardens and farms;
- (b) the decline in muga silk production, the number of active rearers and weavers and domestic and export figures during the last five years;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to address climate and pesticide related threats to Muga silkworm survival and the regenerative capacity of host plants; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen market access, ensure livelihood support for sericulture farmers and weavers, and promote Muga silk as a GI-tagged product?

उत्तर

ANSWER

वस्त्र राज्य मंत्री (श्री पबित्र मार्घेरिता)

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) to (c): Due to climate variability and other environmental reasons, a marginal decline in Muga silk production in Assam has been recorded during the last two years as compared to the preceding years. The details of Muga silk production and number of active rearers during the last five years are as under:

Year	Muga silk production (MT)		Number of Mugarearers (farmers) in Assam
	Country	Assam	
2020-21	239	198	29,231
2021-22	255	211	31,653
2022-23	261	211	32,353
2023-24	252	203	32,353
2024-25	232	181	32,353

Source: Assam State Sericulture Department

As per the All India Handloom Census 2019–20, there are 1,10,951 silk weaving households in Assam, out of which 5,401 households are engaged in Muga silk weaving. The export data on silk products for the last five years is as below:

EXPORT FIGURES (SILK AND SILK GOODS)						(Rs. In Crore)
Items	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (Apr-Sep) (Provisional)
Cocoons	0.01	6.94	-	-	-	-
Raw Silk	1.43	11.27	1.79	15.45	25.42	1.52

Silk Yarn	27.93	34.41	36.95	34.69	42.17	22.26
Fabrics & Made-ups	729.50	837.41	973.49	1,119.13	1,443.98	956.09
Readymade Garments	449.56	671.13	489.61	443.79	486.31	340.27
Silk Carpet	107.56	79.12	92.34	96.84	99.21	216.08
Silk waste	150.61	208.67	179.19	317.66	264.66	172.03
TOTAL	1,466.60	1,848.96	1,773.38	2,027.56	2,361.75	1,708.25

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

Export of Silk and Silk based products has increased by 61% between 2020-21 and 2024-25.

To mitigate the adverse impacts of climate variability and other environmental factors on Muga silkworm survival and the regenerative capacity of host plants, the following measures have been undertaken:

- i. Research has been conducted on the physiological implications of climate change on the Muga silkworm and its primary host plant, and adaptive practices have been recommended.
- ii. Muga-producing States and farmers have been advised to reschedule seed crops based on meteorological forecasts to reduce climate-related risks.
- iii. Awareness programmes are conducted in coordination with the Assam State Sericulture Department to promote eco-friendly practices.

(d): To strengthen market access, ensure livelihood support for sericulture farmers and weavers, and promote Muga silk as a GI-tagged product, the following measures have been taken up across the country, including Assam:

- i. The National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) and Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS) are implemented, providing support for raw materials, upgraded looms and accessories, solar lighting units, worksheds, product diversification, design innovation, technical and common infrastructure, branding through India Handloom Brand (IHB), Handloom Mark (HLM) and GI, e-commerce, domestic and export marketing, concessional loans under the Weavers' MUDRA Scheme, and social security measures.
- ii. Under NHDP, support is provided for GI registration and protection of handloom products, including Muga silk, covering expenses related to registration, training and enforcement.
- iii. Under the Silk Samagra-2 scheme, Central assistance of ₹89.34 crore has been provided to Assam since 2021–22, benefiting 4,862 beneficiaries.
- iv. Under NERTPS, 11 sericulture projects have been completed in Assam with Government of India assistance of ₹255.80 crore, covering interventions in silkworm rearing, seed production, reeling, weaving and allied activities.
- v. The Government of Assam has established five ReshamHaats at Loharghat, Titabar, Dhakuakhana, Demow and Balichang under the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project supported by the World Bank.
- vi. Indian silks, including Assam Muga silk, are promoted globally through Silk Mark, Silk Expos and awareness campaigns are conducted nationwide to enhance market access and highlight the heritage and authenticity of Muga silk.
