CHAPTER VII

THE SERICULTURE & SILK TEXTILES INDUSTRY
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Sericulture is an important labour-intensive and agro-based cottage industry, providing gainful occupation to around six million persons in rural and semi-urban areas in India. Of these, a sizeable number of workers belongs to the economically weaker sections of society, including women.

India continues to be the Second largest producer of silk in the World and has the distinction of producing all the four varieties of silk viz. Mulberry, Eri, Tasar, and Muga. In 2006-07, Mulberry accounts for 89.4%, Eri 8.0%, Tasar 1.9%, and Muga 0.7%, of the total raw silk production of 18475 MTs in the country.

Physical Progress
The physical progress achieved by this sector is at table 7.1.

Budget
For 2007-08, a provision of Rs 110.00 crores under Plan and Rs 108.00 crores under Non-plan has been made for Central Silk Board (CSB).

SILK EXPORTS
The earnings from Silk Exports during the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 (up to Sept., 2007) are at table 7.2.
Table 7.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>2006-07 Achievement</th>
<th>2007-08 Anticipated Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Standing Area under Mulberry (Lk Ha)</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Production of Rawsilk (Tons)</td>
<td>18475</td>
<td>20000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Employment (Lakh Persons)</td>
<td>60.03</td>
<td>64.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7.2

Silk Exports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Items of Export</th>
<th>Achievement at the end of IX Plan</th>
<th>Achievement at the end of X Plan</th>
<th>Achievement during 2007-08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>Apr-Sep. (P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Natural Silk Yarn Fabrics Madeups</td>
<td>1562.63</td>
<td>2365.34</td>
<td>770.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Readymade Garments</td>
<td>588.08</td>
<td>817.87</td>
<td>573.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Silk Carpets</td>
<td>172.27</td>
<td>132.36</td>
<td>26.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Silkwaste</td>
<td>36.58</td>
<td>22.78</td>
<td>6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>2359.56</td>
<td>3338.35</td>
<td>1376.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P: Provisional; (*) : Estimated based on Apr-Sep data of 2007-08
Source: DGCIS, Kolkata

CENTRAL SILK BOARD (CSB)

The Central Silk Board was set up in 1949 for the development of the silk industry with the enactment of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948. CSB Headquartered at Bangalore is headed by Chairman and has 38 Members. The Board’s activities include Research & Technology Development, Seed Maintenance, and Development of Sericulture & Silk Industry, to support, supplement & facilitate the efforts of State Governments. It also extends support to States in the form of joint projects and development assistance under the plan schemes. The Board also undertakes voluntary quality inspection of exportable silk goods.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1. The main Research & Training institutes of CSB provide R&D and Training support for the development of Sericulture. The Institutes at Mysore (Karnataka), Berhampore (West Bengal) and Pampore (J&K) deal with mulberry Sericulture. One at Ranchi (Jharkhand) deals with Tasar
culture. The institute established at Ladoigarh, Jorhat (Assam) deals with Muga and Ericulture. Regional Sericultural Research Station (RSRS / RTRS) for mulberry and non-mulberry are functioning to disseminate research findings, and to tackle the regional field issues of the industry. Besides, a network of Research Extension Centres (REC) & its sub-units for mulberry and non-mulberry are also functioning to provide extension support to sericulturists. In order to provide R&D support in post-cocoon sector, the Board has established a Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI) at Bangalore. In addition, the CSB has also set-up a Silkworm Seed Technology Laboratory (SSTL) in Bangalore (Karnataka), a Central Sericultural Germplasm Resources Centre (CSGRC) at Hosur (Tamil Nadu), and a Seri-Biotech Research Laboratory (SBRL) at Bangalore.

2. Research work on the ‘on-farm’ sector is directed mainly to evolve stress tolerant mulberry varieties, which give high leaf yield, breeding superior silkworm hybrids besides evolving improved techniques of silkworm rearing and integrated control of pests and disease for both mulberry and silkworms. During the period under report, 277 research projects are targeted for implementation and out of these 211 are in various stages of progress - 152 in Mulberry, 48 in Non-Mulberry and 11 in Post Cocoon technology. Eight (8) mulberry varieties evolved by CSB & State Research Institutes are under authorization trial at 18 test Centres covering all the zones. Also, eight (8) Bv x Bv, seven (7) Mv x Bv and three (3) Mv x Mv hybrids evolved by CSB and State Research Institutes are under authorization trial at 26 test centres spread throughout the country in different seri-zones.

3. Besides traditional States, the Institute Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) is being implemented in several non-traditional States like Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, and Maharashtra.

4. During 2007-08, several technology trials are being taken up at the Regional Research Stations, which include – testing of new productive Bivoltine Hybrids, new bed disinfectant formulations, plant product formulation, improved tillage method, new mountages, chawki rearing practices, temperature tolerant bivoltine hybrids, mulberry package for seed cocoon crop, testing of complete package of practices of mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing at farmers’ level under irrigated and non irrigated conditions. Demonstration of technologies at farms and farmers’ field were taken up by the Research Institutes (11 technologies by Mysore, 4 by Berhampore and 12 by Pampore and 25 by SSTL, Bangalore).

5. On the post-cocoon sector, proven technologies viz. CSTRI Denier control mechanism for multi-end reeling machine, multi-end reeling technology package for reeling multivoltine cocoons, bivoltine reeling technology package and CSTRI handloom package are being popularised Developed Denier indicator, mechanical indicating mechanism and simultaneous denier adjusting apparatus, introduced on 10 ends multi-end reeling machine.

6. A network of Demonstration-cum-Technical Service Centres (DCTSCs) imparts training in silk reeling and spinning. Technical services in processing and finishing are also provided in some of the
Weaving Clusters. Besides this, Silk Conditioning & Testing Houses (SCTHs) are functioning for testing of raw silk. Textile Testing Laboratories (TTLs) at Bangalore, Jammu, Varanasi and Bhagalpur have undertaken testing of physical, chemical and eco-parameters of textiles products.

CSB, on the tasar side, has established 21 Basic Seed Multiplication & Training Centres (BSM&TC) and one Central Tasar Silkworm Seed Station (CTSSS) for supply of tropical tasar basic seed & 1 oak tasar grainage and 3 REC-cum-BSM&TCs for supply of oak tasar basic seed. Under muga sector, 8 Basic Seed Farms and 1 Silkworm Seed Production Centre are functioning. For production and supply of eri seed, CSB has established 5 Silkworm Seed Production Centres.

The details of progress achieved by the units during 2006-07 and target & achievement during 2007-08 is given at table 7.3

TRAINING

CSB organizes a number of training programmes at its Research and Training Institutes. The total number of persons trained during 2006-07 and 2007-08 (up to Sept. 07) is at table 7.4

A. EXTERNAL AIDED PROJECTS

1. PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING EXTENSION SYSTEM FOR BIVOLTINE SERICULTURE (PEBS) (2002-07) PHASE III OF JICA PROJECT

The expansion, promotion and sustainability of bivoltine sericulture demands proper planning, systematic approach on training and organized system of extension, therefore, the Government of India, in coordination with JICA and Department of Sericulture (DOS) of Karnataka, Andhra
Table 7.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Achievement during 2006-07</th>
<th>Achievement during 2007-08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mulberry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Basic seed</td>
<td>11.90</td>
<td>9.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Commercial seed</td>
<td>299.87</td>
<td>269.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vanva</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Basic seed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i. Tasar</td>
<td>23.07</td>
<td>25.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ii. Oak Tasar</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>iii. Muga</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>iv. Eri</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>b. Commercial seed</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i. Muga</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ii. Eri</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7.4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Training courses</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>2007-08 [up to December,’07]</th>
<th>No. of persons anticipated to train in last quarter of 07-08 (Jan.-Mar)</th>
<th>No. of persons anticipated to train upto the end of 2007-08</th>
<th>Category of Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of courses /batch</td>
<td>No. of persons trained</td>
<td>No. of courses /batch</td>
<td>No. of persons trained</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Structured Courses</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Capsule Courses</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Adhoc Courses</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>2,061</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>1507</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 2383 1865 235 2100
Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu has implemented the “Project for Strengthening Extension System for Bivoltine Sericulture” with effect from August 11, 2002 for a period of five years.

The objectives of the project were to:

1. Strengthen Training System for staff of DOS & farmers
2. Establish a System of Mass Production of quality bivoltine silkworm seed.
3. Establish an Extension Model which is replicable for spread of bi-voltine sericulture in identified States.
4. Establish coordination/collaboration mechanism among CSB and DOS for extension of bivoltine sericulture.

2. THE JAPAN BANK OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION (JBIC)

(a) MANIPUR SERICULTURE PROJECT

The Govt. of Manipur is implementing the project with financial assistance from JBIC, Japan over a period of 10 years at a cost of Rs.490.59 crores. The approved cost of the first phase of the project is Rs.134.52 crores (4587 Million Yen). The revised Definite Overall Development and Implementation Plan of the project was approved at a cost of Rs.93.28 crores excluding the staff component of Rs.20.44 crores. The implementation of first phase of the Project started in 2003-04.

(b) CHHATTISGARH SERICULTURE PROJECT

The Directorate of Sericulture, Govt. of Chhattisgarh is implementing ‘Chhattisgarh Sericulture Project’ with financial assistance from Japanese Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC), Japan in seven districts of Bilaspur Division of Chhattisgarh, viz. Bilaspur, Korba, Janjgir, Raigarh, Jashpur, Surguja and Korea for 7 years w.e.f. 1998 to 2005 and extended to February, 2007. The base cost of the Project (Rs.117.16 crores) (3993.11 Million Yen) include a loan portion of Rs 64.87 crores from JBIC and State share of Rs 52.29 crores. The loan agreement for funding the first phase of the project was signed between OECF/ JBIC Japan and Government of India on December 12, 1997, which is effective from February 5, 1998.

B. INTERNAL AIDED PROJECTS

1(a). IMPLEMENTATION OF CATALYTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CDP) AND OTHER PROGRAMMES DURING X PLAN (2002-07)

The focus of Xth Five Year Plan was to create greater opportunities for gainful employment in rural areas through the spread of scientific sericultural practices and by promoting modernization and quality up-gradation of the industry. Special attention was given to improve the productivity in all stages of silk production to ensure higher income to the stake holders, especially the vulnerable section of the society.

To achieve above objectives and targeted production of 26450 M.T of both mulberry and non-mulberry silks and generate a cumulative employment of 60.03 lakh persons, CSB continued implementation of CDP in a modified version by giving greater thrust to bivoltine sericulture and market orientation to non-mulberry sector during the X Plan (2002-07). Special status was given to the States of North-Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand,
Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh for development of sericulture and silk industry.

During the Xth Five Year Plan, of Rs. 526.99 crores (including the EFC approved provision of Rs. 76.99 crores) approved by the Government of India for implementation of central sector programmes, an outlay of Rs. 244.47 crores was earmarked for implementation of Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) Components.

The total provision includes CSB’s initiative in implementation of two more projects viz., “IT initiatives” and “Quality Certification Systems for Silk” during the Xth Five Year Plan. While the Project “IT initiatives” aims at dissemination and transfer of technical information to rearers, reelers and others involved in the silk trade through Data Base Development, installation of information Kiosk at nodal points, and creation of Portals. The objective of the project viz., “Quality Certification Systems of Silk” was to ensure quality maintenance at different levels of production process, through quality assessment and quality certification.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF CATALYTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CDP) DURING THE XI FIVE YEAR PLAN (2007-12)

The Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) is proposed to be implemented during the Xth Five Year Plan as centrally sponsored scheme, which has been accepted by the Government of India. With certain modifications, most of the components implemented during the Xth Five Year Plan are proposed to be continued during the XIth Five Year Plan also. During the XIth Five Year Plan, the CDP is proposed to be implemented through Project mode approach in the form of packages mainly under 3 sectors viz.
Seed, Cocoon and post-cocoon sectors supported by the service sector to achieve the targets and objectives of the XIth Five Year Plan. It is also proposed to give higher Central subsidy to Special Status States during the XIth Five Year Plan. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has approved the CDP with certain modification on the proposal submitted by Central Silk Board. The approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has been obtained for implementation of the modified CDP during the XIth Five Year Plan.

2. PRIME MINISTER’S SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR JAMMU & KASHMIR

The then Prime Minister of India announced a package for the State of Jammu & Kashmir during his visit to the State on May 21-23, 2002. The package also includes special assistance for development of Sericulture and Silk Industry in J&K during the Xth Five Year Plan (2002-07).

The total cost of the above package during the Xth Five Year Plan worked out to Rs.16.35 crores. Since J&K State has been considered as a special status State, it is entitled for 90% central assistance under schemes of Central Silk Board. Accordingly, the CSB proposed to provide assistance to the extent of Rs.14.71 crores as Central Assistance and the balance amount of Rs.1.64 crores was to be provided by the State Government. Under the package a sum of Rs.226.25 lakhs, Rs.178.49 lakhs, Rs.169.20 lakhs, Rs.424.83 lakhs and Rs.31.34 lakhs were released by CSB during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. The expenditure under the J&K Special Package is booked under Catalytic Development Programme.

CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

CSB has been assisting various States in formulation and implementation of Cluster Development Projects in selected pockets by dovetailing Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) of CSB. 16 Cluster Development Projects, 3 in Kerala (Mulberry), 3 in Bihar (2 Mulberry and 1 Eri), 2 in Assam (1 Eri and 1 Muga), 2 in West Bengal (1 Eri and 1 Muga), 2 in Mizoram (Mulberry), 1 in Himachal Pradesh (Mulberry) and 3 in Sikkim (1 Mulberry, 1 Eri and 1 Muga) are under implementation. All these projects have been drawn at a total outlay of Rs.19.73 crores, which involves CSB share of Rs.8.90 crores (under CDP). These Cluster Development Projects envisage covering around 2820 beneficiaries in selected clusters covering 1,125 acres under mulberry and 1020 acres under Vanya silk host plantation.

ENTERPRISE PROMOTION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

The various training programmes conducted under the “Enterprise Promotion and Training Programme” during the year 2007-08 are as follows:

1. Entrepreneurship Development Programmes in Silk Reeling, Twisting, Weaving, Dyeing and Printing for the prospective entrepreneurs. One programme is proposed in Sualkuchi (Assam)
2. Resource Development Programme to develop a core team of resource persons who can train the second line of officials and the beneficiaries. During this year, one programme has been organised at Bhimtal (Uttarakhand) and six more programme have been scheduled at Bilaspur (Chhattishgarh), Kanpur (UP), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Ranchi and Deogharh (Jharkhand).

3. Technology Up-gradation Programmes for existing entrepreneurs for upgrading technology and management, modernization, consolidation and diversification. Two programme each in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

4. Management Development Programme to create awareness and develop Inter-personal relationships, team building, managing conflicts, developing vision, goals, objectives etc. Six programmes are envisaged during the year.

5. Competence Enhancement Training Programme to develop the desired skills in the participants to make them more confident and well equipped for carrying out their duties smoothly. Ten programmes are planned during the year out of which two have been organised at Bangalore and one at Jammu.

6. Exposure visit to well-known sericulture clusters/establishments/ research institutes in India. Twenty persons are likely to be covered during the year.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. **Eri Culture in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Kerala States in India: A Study on Feasibility, Technology Development, Refinement and Transfer**

To introduce sustainable Ericulture in the southern States, CSB sanctioned an R&D project, **Eri Culture in Tamil Nadu,** Puducherry, and Kerala States in India to study the feasibility, technology development, refinement and transfer for development of Ericulture. The project is awarded to **S. Jayaraj Research Foundation, Chennai** for a period of 4 years (2003-07) at a total cost of **Rs.15.66 Lakhs.** Central Silk Board has released Rs.12.682 lakhs up-to June, 2007.

2. **Evaluation of the Nutritional Potential of Eri Silkworm Pupae**

The project titled **’Evaluation of the Nutritional Potential of Eri Silkworm Pupae’** is under implementation by the **National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad** for a period of one year (2005-06) funded fully by Central Silk Board at the total cost of Rs.5.75 lakhs.

The objective of the project is to undertake studies on nutritional potentials of Eri silkworm pupae by determining the...
chemical composition of Eri silkworm pupae/pre-pupae, nutritional and short-term toxicological evaluation and development of recipe using Eri pupae and pre-pupae. The project is continuing. CSB has released Rs.2.75 lakh for different activities. The project is continuing to complete the milestones.

3. Increasing the cocoon productivity in western zone of Tamil Nadu

The project titled, ‘Increasing the cocoon productivity in western zone of Tamil Nadu’ is under implementation by the Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Department of Sericulture, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu for a period of three years from 2005-06 to 2007-08 at a total cost of Rs.10.85 lakhs being funded together by Central Silk Board and NABARD. The Central Silk Board has released 4.2375 lakh (upto Dec.07) for different activities under the project.


The Central Silk Board has set up a ‘Product Design, Development and Diversification and Market Support Cell’ to undertake R&D activity aimed at revival of traditional products, development and diversification of products, market information and support to entrepreneur and exporters, particularly, in the area of non-mulberry (Tasar, Eri and Muga) or Vanya silks with the coordination and involvement of the Government agencies, such as AIFD, NIFT, WSC, ISEPC, NID, NGOs, representatives of different stakeholders of the sericulture industry and designers for development of new and diversified silk products. As envisaged by the Core Group of Product Development and Diversification Cell, a display centre “P3D – The Cocoon” has been inaugurated by Hon’ble Union Minister of State (Textiles) on January 11, 2007, to promote R&D activity in Product Development and Diversification activity. The display centre is equipped with plotter, computer, design software, printers, resource centre etc. to facilitate the activity. 250-300 Nos. of silk samples/swatches and also in book holders were made for display in the Centre.

5. ‘Vanya’ Production cum Training Centres

The Central Silk Board has established Vanya Silks Production-cum-Training Centres (VPCTCs) in the States of Jharkhand, Assam & Uttaranchal to consolidate the initial success achieved in product development, diversification and marketing of Vanya silks, VPCTCs would function as Field Level Partners of the Product Development Cell of the Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI), Central Silk Board, Bangalore in introducing new designs, products and technologies in post-cocoon sector in a cost effective manner.

OTHERS

1. Information Technology Initiatives

i) Database Development

Sericulture Information Kiosks have been installed at 28 locations spread across the States of Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir, which provide information on Sericulture Technology and services for the benefit of the sericulturists, especially farmers and reelers. These Kiosks work on
**Touch Screen** technology, a user-friendly interface which allows the users to directly interact with the content displayed, which is available in English and the local languages viz. Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kashmiri. The version in Marathi and Bengali are under preparation. Based on the feedbacks received from the users, the contents of the kiosks are improved.

**ii) Sericulture Management Information/System (SMIS)**

Sericulture Management Information/System (SMIS) is a web-based application through which the CSB users and State level users of Sericulture Departments submit their respective Quarterly and Annual production returns online. It helps Policy and Decision makers associated with Silk Industry to draw significant strides in the development of Sericulture.

2. **QUALITY CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

This scheme inter-alia envisages assistance for setting up of Cocoon Testing and Grading Centres to ensure quality standards that will ultimately result in the production of silk yarn and fabrics of international standard, which can compete in the global markets. Three units will come up during 2007-08.

3. **SILK MARK ORGANIZATION OF INDIA (SMOI)**

The Ministry of Textiles came up with an initiative for the protection of the interests of the consumers and other stakeholders of the silk value-chain by bringing out “Silk Mark” Scheme in June 2004. Silk Mark, the Quality Assurance label signifying that a product to which it is affixed is made of pure silk was launched by the Silk Mark Organization of India (SMOI), a registered Society under the Karnataka Society Registration Act, sponsored by the Central Silk Board. The Silk mark Scheme is aimed at protecting the interests of the users and connoisseur of silk and for the generic promotion of silk and also for building brand-equity of Indian Silk internationally.

Since the launch of Silk Mark in June 2004, over 700 members have joined the Organisation, of these, more than 600 have become Authorized Users. Nearly 36 lakhs Silk Mark labelled products have reached the market.

During the period January – March, 2008, about 200 Members, 168 Authorised Users have been anticipated to enroll and 1.40 lakh Silk Mark Labels are expected to be sold and 107 programmes / events are proposed to be organised.

SMOI had participated in various exhibitions and conducted awareness programmes for consumers and trade across the country to promote the Silk Mark Scheme. During the year 2006-07, SMOI had participated in as many as 157 exhibitions/ Workshops/ Road show etc. During 2007-08 (upto Dec.07) SMOI participated in as many as 123 exhibitions/ Workshops/ Road shows etc.

**INDIAN SILK EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL**

The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISPEC), Mumbai continues to undertake activities relating to promotion of exports of natural silk goods from India and to act as the registering authority for silk exporters. The Council produces and
disseminates information to its members about market developments in the world, changes in the trade policies etc. through its monthly magazines known as the “Silk Net”. The silk sample catalogues, containing sample swatches of the full range of silks available in India, brought out by the Council are available to potential buyer, importing textile agents and Indian Mission abroad.

**TRIBAL SUB-PLAN**

Sericulture, being an agro-based cottage industry plays an important role in the rural economy of the country. The major programmes being implemented by CSB are towards Research and Development and basic seed supply. Programme for specific target groups are implemented by the States.