

Silk Board urges Centre to look into duty on twisted yarn imports

Our Bureau

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The Central Silk Board has urged the Union Government to look into the duty structure on twisted yarn imports as the world's largest manufacturer China has been exporting to India at cheaper rates.

Raw silk, after being reeled from the cocoons, is twisted to convert into yarn to make it fit for weaving.

"We have brought it to the notice of the Government and

urged it to look into the duty structure of twisted yarn," said Ms M. Sathiyavathy, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, on Monday.

The twisted yarn, which costs Rs 1,700 a kg in the domestic market, is being exported by China to India at Rs 1,300-1,400 a kg.

This cheaper import is hurting the interest of local twist-ers.

However, the situation where China took advantage of free trade has now im-

proved with anti-dumping duties being imposed on import of raw silk and also import of silk fabrics from China which are in force till January 2014 and April 2011 respectively, she said.

Mr H. Hanumanthappa, Chairman, CSB, said the export of twisted yarn at lower rates has hurt the twisting units in the country. The cheap availability of twisted yarn has led to the closure of twisting units on a large scale, he said.

Mr Hanumanthappa said the silk output in the country has been maintained at 18,370 tonnes despite the discontinuation of mulberry cultivation in some 20,000 hectares mainly around Bangalore due to the rapid urbanisation.

MULBERRY CULTIVATION

New areas in States such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are being brought under mulberry, he said.

Area under mulberry stood at 1.79 lakh hectares in 2008-

09 as against 1.91 lakh hectares in 2006-07. The domestic silk consumption stands at 27,000 tonnes and the shortfall is mainly met through imports.

In a bid to give thrust to the reeling sector, the board proposes to import six large automatic multi-end reeling units in the Eleventh Plan period, of which three would be set up in Karnataka, Mr Hanumanthappa said. The global economic recession has not had any major impact on the country's silk exports, Mr Hanumanthappa said.