

CENTRAL SILK BOARD
BENGALURU - 560 068

Minutes of the 141st Board Meeting of the Central Silk Board held at Ranchi (Jharkhand) on 24.11.2023

The 141st Meeting of the Central Silk Board was held in the conference hall of Hotel Radisson Blu at Ranchi under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Prajakta L. Verma, IAS, Joint Secretary (Silk), & Vice-Chairperson, CSB, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, on 24.11.2023.

At the outset, Shri P. Sivakumar, Member Secretary and Member Convener, welcomed the Chairperson, Smt. Prajakta L. Verma, Members of Parliament, Members of the Board from different States, Invitees, and Officers from the Central Silk Board who were present either physically or virtually, to the meeting. He was delighted to announce to the meeting that the Central Silk Board has successfully completed its 75 years of glorious existence, and the discussion on celebrating this grand occasion would be a part of the agenda. He requested the Honourable members to share their views and valuable suggestions to make the celebration eventful so that the elegance and beauty of silk and its role in uplifting the lives of the rural poor can reach every household in the country. The list of participants in the Board Meeting is appended.

The meeting started with the National Anthem and thereafter, the Member Secretary, presented the agenda items for discussion.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of 140th Meeting of Central Silk Board held at New Delhi on 11.02.2023

The minutes of the 140th Board Meeting held in New Delhi on 11.02.2023 were circulated among the members. As no comments have been received, the Board confirmed the minutes of the meeting.

Item No. 2: Follow up action on the Minutes of 140th Meeting of Central Silk Board held at New Delhi on 11.02.2023

Point 2.2 under Item No. 2 of MoM of 140th BM - Central Silk Board land at Basavanagudi, Bengaluru on lease to M/s. BPCL :

As suggested by the Ministry of Textiles, the internal committee constituted for the purpose, sorted out the issues with M/s. BPCL. The company vide its letter dated 17.11.2023 agreed for a rent of Rs. 3,46,090.00/- per month, with an annual increase of 5% and extension of lease period for another 20 years, w.e.f. 2019. The Board approved the same.



Point no 2.3 under Item No.2 of MoM of 140th BM - On the issue of seed area, Member Secretary, CSB sought possibilities of de-notifying of Nagenahalli unit of CSB from seed area

CSB had requested Karnataka State for de-notifying Nagenahalli unit of CSB from seed area and the DoS, Govt. Karnataka did not consider the request to de-notify the Pure Mysore Seed Area since the proposed area covering 103 villages with 327 seed cocoon rearers will largely impact production of disease free Pure Mysore seed cocoons. DoS, Karnataka and the Director (Tech), CSB clarified that the said area is notified as Mysore seed area. Denotification can destroy the sanctity of seed area principle, encourage rearing of hybrid and cross breed silkworms leading to contamination of the seed zone, thereby impacting the quality of Pure Mysore seed cocoons. The Board accepted the action taken by CSB.

Item No.13 of MoM of 139thBM :Implementation of e-office in Central Silk Board:

The Member Secretary informed the Board that the issue related to the URL has been resolved by NIC and MoT, and the process for CSB e-Office Admin to assign roles and establish a hierarchy for employees at the CSB head office is currently in progress. It is expected to take another 15 days to fully implement the e-office system at CSB headquarters. The Board accepted this explanation.

Point No. 2.13 under Item No.2 of MoM of 140th BM:

During the previous Board Meeting, Dr.Arabinda Kumar Padhee, IAS, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Odisha, suggested that CSB should collaborate with high-end research institutes on a pan-India level instead of with individual states.

The Member Secretary informed the Board that CSB's R&D institutes are already in collaboration with nationally important institutes (ICAR/CSIR), state universities (both in agriculture and conventional fields), and various international research institutes such as Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (Japan), Yamaguchi University (Japan), Uzbek Research Institute (Uzbekistan), Swedish Research Council (Sweden), and Deakin University (Australia) for R&D programs. The Board acknowledged and took note of the collaborative processes followed by CSB.

In response to Shri Rajender Kumar Kataria, IAS, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka's request for financial assistance to states for R&D projects, it was clarified that CSB has already initiated collaborative research projects with State Research Institutes, namely KSSRDI-Bangalore (KA) and APSSRDI-Hindupur (AP). CSB is prepared to support any R&D collaborative projects proposed by State R&D institutions, following the prevailing procedures and guidelines. The Board accepted this stance.

Regarding increasing number of Indigenous ARMs in the country, it was explained that under Silk Samagra-I three IARM manufacturers were



empanelled and under Silk Samagra-II, tender process has been completed and the empanelment will be done by second week of December, 2023. With this, the number of IARM manufacturers will increase to **8**. The Board gave its assent to the steps taken by CSB.

On the matter of erratic emergence of tasar silk moth faced in the state, the Director, CTRTI, Ranchi clarified that the green shade net technique developed to overcome the problem was working well and this year no incidence occurred. The Chairperson emphasised the need for this technique to be transferred to the States. Director, CTRTI, Ranchi replied that the transfer of shade net technique is ensured through demonstration programmes. In continuation, it was also informed that the centre at Madhupur has been strengthened, as suggested.

The details of the reservation policy followed by CSB in the recruitment of 142 posts and the of number of cases pending before various courts were furnished to Hon'ble Member Shri Narayana Koragappa, M.P, as sought. It was clarified that reservation policy with roster will be followed during the recruitment of administration and technical posts proposed to be undertaken shortly. After elaborate discussion, the Board agreed upon the action taken by the CSB.

Item No. 5 of MoMof 140th BM : Consideration of Certified Annual Accounts and Audit Reports of Central Silk Board for the year 2021-22

Certified Annual Accounts along with Audit Report for 2021-22 was forwarded to the Ministry vide letter No.CSB-3/1/ 2021 -22 / Accounts dated 22.04.2023. The Chairperson urged for timely laying of the Certified Annual Accounts along with Audit Report for 2022-23 on the Table of House of the Parliament.

ItemNo.9 of MoM of 140thBM : Handing over of infrastructure at Silkworm Seed Production Centre, Tirupattur to DoS, Tamil Nadu on long term lease basis

CSB executed lease agreement on 27.10.2023 and handed over the infrastructure of Silkworm Seed Production Centre, Tirupattur "as is where is condition" to Department of Sericulture Tamil Nadu for a period of 10 years. The Board approved the action taken by CSB.

Item No.10 of MoM of 140thBM : Proposal of Government of Karnataka on construction of ReshmeBhavana at Okalipuram, Bangalore.

CSB nominated one officer to be co-opted as member of the concerned committee/working group for finalizing the modalities of construction of ReshmeBhavana.

Item No.11 of MoM of 140thBM : Proposal for celebrating 20th September as National Silk Day

A proposal was submitted to the Ministry for declaring 20th September as National Silk Day and to take up the matter with the MoHA. Keeping the celebration of platinum jubilee of CSB in view, the Member Secretary



requested the Chairperson to do the needful at the earliest, so that National Silk day can be celebrated across the country on 20th September, 2024. The Chairperson informed that there are specific procedural formalities/protocol to be followed to take up the issue with the MoHA and suggested CSB to send one reminder to Ministry, for taking necessary action.

In response to the suggestion of Shri Narayana Koragappa, M.P. to organise different events at Sericulture Universities / Colleges and other places, it was apprised that CSB institutes and Seed Organizations conduct 8-10 workshop and 25-30 KrishiMelas every year across India for technology dissemination and for creating awareness about the sericulture activities involving various stakeholders including students. In addition, two days Seri-business awareness programmes are also conducted at educational institutes.

The Member Secretary highlighted the existence of different software for various programs and schemes. CSB aims to implement an integrated digital library to consolidate all beneficiary data onto a single platform. Currently, data on sericulture beneficiaries and employment is derived from raw silk production. To obtain accurate data on sericulture stakeholders, there's a need for an integrated platform or software. The Chairperson expressed that, at present, the 'PRAYAS portal' of the Government of India is the sole source for unified data on the silk industry and sericulture stakeholders. All stakeholders must register online, and data, proposals, and approvals will be captured on the portal using specific templates, allowing automatic generation of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the silk sector.

Item No.12 of MoM of 140thBM :New Pension Scheme Rules, 2021 and Central Services (Pension) Rules, 2021:

CSB has adopted New Pension Scheme Rules 2021 against NPS Rules, 2003 and CCS Pension Rules, 2021 against Pension Rules 1972 in CSB, as suggested. The Board accepted the action taken by CSB.

Item No.13 of MoM of 140th BM: Adoption of National Silk Policy 2020:

The National Silk Policy 2020 has been circulated among the sericulture states for their comments. Based on the inputs and comments received from the states, a Vision Document-2047 will be prepared. The Chairperson suggested that the Vision Document-2047 should be forward-looking and future-ready, encompassing prospective ideas capable of navigating through challenges and leading to life-changing reforms. She urged the states to actively collaborate with CSB in preparing the document, becoming equal partners in shaping the future of Indian Sericulture.



Item No. 3: Status of Sericulture and Central Sector Scheme - Silk Samagra-2

- a. The Member Secretary informed the Board that the overall raw silk production target for the year 2022-23 could not be achieved due to a decline in tasar silk production. The Director of CTRTI explained that the cumulative effects of COVID and, to some extent, climate change had hindered the production of tasar silk. The Chairperson expressed the need to scientifically document the influence of climate change and its quantifiable impact on tasar silk production.
- b. Referring to the global silk production scenario, the Member Secretary drew the Board's attention to the potential for increasing silk production in India, particularly in the tasar sector. The Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 in tasar-producing states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, etc., can support the increase in tasar silk production, benefiting both the green cover and livelihood opportunities. He urged the concerned states to carefully examine the declining tasar silk production since 2020-21 and emphasized the need to identify specific reasons for the shortfall whether due to COVID, climate change, or marketing issues so that appropriate strategies can be devised to boost production.
- c. Though muga silk showed an increasing trend in production, the Member Secretary, requested the DoS, Assam to increase the target to 300 MT.
- d. The Chairperson took note of the increase in import of silk. The Chairman, ISEPC, explained that the import actually went down during COVID and then reached to the previous level in terms of quantity but in terms of Rupees it has gone up due to price escalation.
- e. The Member Secretary expressed concern that good quality silk is being exported under the label of silk waste and later imported after value addition. The Chairman of ISEPC clarified that the percentage of silk waste export is negligible. The Chairperson shared her concern and questioned why silk waste cannot be processed within the country for value addition, naturally curbing the export of silk waste. She suggested conducting a study in this regard. The Chairman of ISEPC assured that necessary suggestions would be provided to minimize the export of silk waste.
- f. Shri N. Koragappa, Hon'ble M.P. expressed concern over poor quality of raw silk produced in the country due to which silk import is increasing. He urged CSB to take all necessary steps to improve the quality of silk, through its R & D efforts under PM's 'Make in India' initiative. The Director (Tech.), CSB informed that presently 109 ARMs are functioning in the country from which 30-35% of graded silk yarn is produced. He further added that under Silk Samagra-2, 205 more IARMs will be established to reach 80-90% of 4A grade silk yarn and



opined that installation of more IARMs will not only improve the quality of silk, but will also help India to become Atmanirbhar in gradable silk production. The Principal Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka suggested to ensure end to end quality. Endorsing this, the Director (Tech), CSB stated that, in China, 90% good quality cocoons are used for reeling whereas in India, sorting of cocoons at ARMs is the major issue which is not done properly due to absence of manpower. He informed the Board that CSB has taken up R & D projects on mechanizations /automation for sorting of cocoons, which would hopefully address this issue.

- g. Shri Ajay Nishad, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), conveyed his gratitude and extended appreciation to the Central Silk Board (CSB) for its commendable and dedicated service spanning over 75 years in the Silk Industry.
- h. Sri N.Koragappa, M.P. (Rajyasabha) inquired about the R & D outcome under Silk Samgra-2. Responding to this the Director (Tech), explained that region-wise silkworm hybrids have been developed by CSB R &D Institutes to improve the quality and productivity.
- i. To evaluate the levels of technology adoption in the field, the Chairperson emphasized the importance of capturing the knowledge transfer component in the Management Information System (MIS) with appropriate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). She suggested implementing a technology evaluation and feedback mechanism, mapping and adopting it, maintaining a comprehensive database, and utilizing the information for refining technologies. In cases where technology adoption levels are low, she recommended sensitizing those states. The Chairperson urged CSB to present the progress of concluded research projects and their impact in the field during the next board meeting.
- j. The Chairperson observed that in Maharashtra Handloom Products, QR code is given to know the details of the weaver/origin/ type of silk used etc. She suggested that similar method could be explored in the case of Silk Mark also.
- k. It was brought to the notice of the Board that many of the States are facing difficulties in implementation of PFMS at state level for release of central share of funds to beneficiaries as they don't have separate head of accounts for Central Sector scheme Silk Samagra-2 and Central sector schemes are implemented with 100% of grants-in-aid without involving States. The Chairperson raised concerns over non-utilization of central funds by State Governments that are released under Silk Samagra-1 & 2 schemes and suggested CSB to issue an appropriate letter to States requesting to submit the pending UCs by December,2023 with the condition that no fresh funds shall be released to states if they have unspent funds with them. She also expressed serious concern over PFMS issue as most of the States are yet to implement PFMS for transfer of central share of funds to beneficiaries and advised States/CSB to resolve the issue and ensure implementation of PFMS in one or two months.



Item No. 4: Consideration of Certified Annual Accounts and Audit Reports of Central Silk Board for the year 2022-23

As per Section 12 (4) of the CSB Act, 1948, the Accounts of CSB as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India or any person appointed by him in this behalf together with the Audit Report thereon shall be forwarded to the Central Government and that Government shall cause copies of the same to be laid before each House of Parliament. It was further informed that the Audit on the Accounts of CSB for 2022-23 was taken up during August & October 2023 and on receipt of the Certified Annual Accounts along with the Audit Report for 2022-23 from the DGCA, MAB, Hyderabad, the same would be forwarded to the Ministry for placing before both the houses of Parliament for consideration.

Item No. 5: Consideration of Revised Estimate 2023-24 and Budget Estimate 2024-25

The Ministry had sanctioned BE of Rs.917.77 crores for 2023-24 against which Rs. 919.66 crores is proposed as Revised Estimates for 2023-24 and for the year 2024-25, the Budget Estimate of Rs. 945.56 crore has been proposed, as per financial outlay under Silk Samagra-2 scheme.

Item No. 6: Revised delegation of financial powers with regard to outsourcing services in CSB on contractual terms

The Member Secretary, CSB informed that to support the sanction of expenditure proposals and avoid the delay for engaging MTS/security services, House Keeping, Maintenance and Drivers on outsourcing basis for the Standing Committee for ratification, as per the provision contained under Rule 22(1) & (3) of the CSB Rules, 1955, It is proposed for enhancement of delegation of financial powers of the Member Secretary CSB from the current financial powers of Rs.20.00 lakhs per annum per case to Rs.30.00 lakhs and Rs.50.00 lakhs per annum / per case with the approval of the Vice Chairman/ Standing Committee, for outsourcing of Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS), House Keeping, Maintenance , Drivers , Security etc..

For outsourcing the above written services in CSB on contractual terms, the Board approved enhancement of delegation of financial powers of the Member Secretary, CSB from Rs.20.00 lakhs per annum per case to Rs.30.00 lakhs and that of Chairperson/ Vice Chairperson (in the absence of Chairperson) from Rs.30.00 lakhs per annum per case to Rs.40.00 lakhs per annum per case. The proposals for above Rs. 40.00 lakhs are required to be placed before Standing Committee of CSB for approval.

Item No. 7: Handing over of Infrastructure of closed units

- a. Out of 129 CSB units closed in the recent past as per CCEA direction, 22 units with land and building unutilized. It was proposed to

handover these unutilized buildings & available land to the concerned State Department of Sericulture, Line Departments, Universities, Co-operative Societies, NGOs/FPOs etc., to safeguard the properties and for their effective utilization.

- b. In this context, the Chairperson expressed the opinion that, while it is suitable to transfer the assets of closed units to state governments, line departments, universities, etc., following procedural formalities, it is not advisable to hand over the land/assets to NGOs/FPOs. If Cooperative Societies are under consideration, the Chairperson suggested that it may be done with the recommendations of the apex body, the 'National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- c. Regarding handing over of assets of SSPC Koraput to Central University, Koraput, the Chairperson suggested that instead of handing over the unit permanently, the unit may be given on long term lease (99 years) with the condition that the unit is utilised for the development of Sericulture.
- d. Shri N. Koragappa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, expressed concerns regarding the closure of CSB units during the celebration of the 75th anniversary of CSB. He posed the following questions: (i) Have these closed units served the purpose for which they were originally established? (ii) By the time CSB celebrates its 100th anniversary, how many more units are anticipated to be closed? (iii) What will be the impact on the silk industry as a result of the closure of these CSB units? These inquiries highlight the need for an assessment of the effectiveness and impact of closed units, as well as considerations for the future trajectory of CSB and its influence on the silk industry.
- e. In response to this, the Director (Tech) informed that out of 129 units closed, 80% of the units were functioning in rented buildings. 22 units (out of 129 closed units) having unutilised land and infrastructure are proposed to be handed over to the line departments/states. He further clarified that out of the total 288 units, 129 units were closed based on the approval of Union Cabinet and there is no proposal to close CSB units further.

Item No.8: Outsourcing of officials for Inspection under Central Seed Act, 2009

Under Central Seed Act (2006), periodical inspections of Registered Seed Producers and Registered ChawkiRearers, are done by CSB/State officials to ensure quality standards. Due to decline in the staff strength in DoSs, for effective implementation of Seed Act, outsourcing of inspection officials, viz., Seed Officers (SOs) is proposed, who will be the authorized personnel for inspection of silkworm seed production and chawki rearing centres activities for both Mulberry and Vanya Sectors.

After deliberations, the Board approved the proposal for outsourcing seed officers with the condition that priority should be given to sericulture

students. In this connection, Shri N.Koragappa, M.P., suggested that there must be some specific guidelines /terms of reference for outsourcing the services.

Item No. 9: Conducting Skill test for the post of Stenographer / Upper Division Clerk through TCS iON and Proposal /Justification for Additional recruitment to be undertaken with IBPS:

As per GFR, Rule 194 (Selection through direct negotiations) CSB has identified /selected TCS iON of Tata consultancy services by Single Source Selection (SSS) /Nomination basis to conduct skill/typing test for the UDC and Stenographer posts. The Board approved the proposal subject to fulfillment of the 3 conditions stipulated in GFR for Single Source Selection (SSS) /Nomination basis and concurrence of CSB Finance Division.

Further, the Member Secretary, CSB sought approval of the Board to conduct CBT for vacant posts through IBPS, Mumbai with whom CSB already have MoU which is valid for 2 (two) years. The Principal Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka remarked that with the MoU alone, IBPS cannot be engaged /continued to conduct CBT for vacant posts. It was clarified that the Board in its 139th Meeting considered the proposal of CSB for Recruitment of 139 Administrative Staff in Central Silk Board by IBPS through single source selection. After long deliberations, the Board suggested CSB to initiate action as per GFR with concurrence of CSB Finance Division.

Item No. 10: Revision of Basic Wage Scales for Skilled Farm Workers [SFW] & Time Scale Farm Worker [TSFW] working in CSB

The last wage revision for the workers in CSB was done in the year 2014 and as per the decision of the 139th Board Meeting held at Bengaluru on 24.03.2022, wage revision benefits was proposed to be extended to 213 farm workers [210 Skilled Farm Worker (SFW) and 03 Time Scale Farm Worker (TSFW)]. Proposal in this regard is under correspondence with MoT since 24.08.2022. It was clarified that the prospective hike in wages is necessary due to rise in Consumer Price Index (CPI) covering the minimum wages and as recommended by Ministry (IFW), the proposal is placed before Board for approval. The present proposal has financial implication of Rs. 70 lakhs per annum (approx), which is as per the following proposed wages.

Category	Existing wages per month (Rs.)	Proposed Wages per month (Rs.)	Hike in wages per month (Rs.)
SFW	18,494.00	20,794.00	2,300.00
TSFW	13,340.00	16,608.00	3,268.00

After careful deliberation, the Board approved the proposal and recommended submitting it to the Ministry of Textiles for consideration. The Chairperson further suggested framing a policy aligned with minimum wages to prevent potential grievances on the issue in the future.

Item No.11 : Consideration of Incubation facility to the start-ups / entrepreneurs

It was apprised to the Board that providing support for the establishment of incubation centres for start-ups is covered under Silk Samagra -2 EFC document. This component is implemented with an objective to nurture innovative start-ups in their pursuit to become scalable and sustainable business enterprises in sericulture sector through establishment of incubation centres with sophisticated facilities in pre & post-cocoon sectors both in terms of capital expenditure and operating facilities coupled with the availability of sectoral experts for mentoring/guidance. Further, if the CSB institute does not have building infrastructure for Incubation Centre, the same shall be supported with a minimum grant of Rs. 1.00 crore (Rupees one crore only) for construction of buildings/ civil works/ renovation.

The Board approved the implementation of the component for establishment of incubation centres to start-ups under Silk Samagra-2 scheme and suggested to submit the progress report to Ministry on the same, periodically.

Item No.12 : Crop insurance support to sericulture farmers

At present, there is no crop security scheme available under Silk Samagra-2 to compensate farmers for the losses incurred in silkworm crops due to climatic vagaries such as floods, drought hailstorms etc., and disease outbreak. The Crop Insurance Scheme of GoI implemented by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) 'Pradhan MantriFasalBimaYojana (PMFBY)' also does not cover Sericulture crop for insurance support. However, a few states such as Assam, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand are already availing of the support from private insurance companies for sericulture crop insurance. The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC), a leading implementing agency of Govt.'s Flagship Crop Insurance Scheme – PMFBY has recently launched insurance products for agriculture and allied domains including Sericulture through SaralKrishiBima since the year 2022-23. DOS, Govt of Uttarakhand is availing of SaralKrishiBima and implemented in Uttarakhand for sericulture farmers on pilot basis. The benefits under SaralKrishiBima can also be availed of, by farmers/states across the country and CSB will provide technical support to State DoSs for availing of the scheme and formulating the modalities.

The Board agreed to the above proposal.

Item No.13: Celebration of Platinum Jubilee (75) of Central Silk Board

The Central Silk Board, serving as the nodal agency for the promotion of Sericulture and the Silk Industry in the country, has achieved a significant milestone by completing 75 years of dedicated service to the sericulture industry. In commemoration of its Platinum Jubilee year, the Central Silk Board has outlined plans to conduct 75 major events. These events include an International Conference in the silkworm seed sector, Seri stakeholders meet, National Workshops/Seminars, a plantation drive involving the planting of 75 mulberry saplings at CSB units on World Environment Day, various awareness and training programs for students and stakeholders, broadcasts on Aakashvani, radio, TV, and phone-in programs for stakeholders, and the presentation of awards to the best achievers in various segments of the silk value chain. This ambitious plan reflects the commitment of the Central Silk Board to celebrating its legacy and fostering further advancements in the sericulture and silk industry.

The Chairperson suggested that unveiling of literature, documentary on CSB achievements may also be included besides seeking suggestions from States.

Item No. 14: Any Other Subject with the permission of the Chair

A. Empanelment of Government Organizations other than CPWD & State PWD for "Construction & Infrastructure / Repairs works"

Civil works (repairs & maintenance) pertaining to Buildings of Central Silk Board units are done through CPWD / State PWD as per GFR 133 (1)/(2) and it is observed that all the repair works are delayed at certain stage and are still pending. Therefore, in view of the delay in completion of the works by CPWD/PWD, as we are depending on only one agency, Board's approval was sought for empanelment of other Government organizations who are involved in construction & infrastructure / repair of buildings, etc for up-gradation of Buildings of CSB at faster pace through Single Source Selection (as per GFR Rule 194) by direct negotiation/nomination basis on the lines of single tender mode after evaluation of organization's performance/experience and after scrutiny of rates quoted etc along with mandatory terms and conditions. This is to ascertain to be cost effective, benchmark standards, and quantum of work.

After deliberations, the Board approved the above proposal.



B. Proposal for additional fund requirement beyond Silk Samagra-2 Budget

- a. As requested by various States, the Member Secretary, CSB apprised the Board about the additional fund requirement of Rs.1008.63 crore, beyond Silk Samagra -2 approved budget towards implementation of various Sericulture projects submitted by the states of Assam, BTC, Manipur, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- b. After discussion, the Chairperson suggested CSB (i) to first arrive at the total quantum of funds unutilized at State level and explore the possibility of adjusting the same against the additional fund requirement (ii) to provide /assess the fund status of CSB under Silk Samagra-2 and submit the actual fund requirement for NE States from DoNER so as to take up the same with DoNER by MoT, (iii) to meet the additional fund requirement of other states like Odisha, may submit the proposal to the Ministry for revision of Silk Samagra - 2 guidelines based on the request by States. She added that wherever scheme components are to be revised along-with guidelines, the same has to be essentially approved by the Union Cabinet, based on the mid-term evaluation.
- c. The Member Secretary, urged DoS, Odisha to utilize the funds released earlier for construction of rearing houses for 250 Eri farmers and furnish UC for considering release of funds to cover 500 more Eri farmers during 2023-24.
- d. The DoS, Odisha informed that during the previous year due to cyclone, 6000 farmers lost their crops. He added that in Odisha state, silkworm seed is supplied through primary co-operative societies and requested for compensation under NDRF on the basis of seed supplied, comprising of cost of DFLs, cost of disinfectant & input cost and wages for the number of days of rearing done etc.
- e. The Chairperson asked DoS, Odisha to send a suitable proposal in this regard supported by relevant documents duly certified /recommended by the concerned officer. The same will be submitted to MoHA for consideration. The Member Secretary, suggested that a committee that includes CSB Scientists may be constituted by the State to prepare the proposal.

C. Restructuring of Field Level Staff Category

It was apprised to the Board that the promotional avenues available for Field Staff of CSB are not adequate due to cadre imbalance and more than 200 vacancies in the cadre of Senior Technical Assistant (STA) are not filled due to non-availability of eligible officials in the feeder cadre. It was informed that as per the existing Recruitment Rules, the vacancies of STA are filled fully by departmental promotion and in the absence of proper promotional structure due to meager number of posts (21) at Sr. FA level, Field Assistants (FA) are stagnated due to insufficient number of posts in the promotional post of SFA. Therefore, it was proposed to increase 110



posts of Senior Field Assistant by providing matching savings by way of abolition of 80 posts of Senior Technical Assistant without any financial burden. This will be done by filling 131 vacancies of STA (25%) by promotion from Sr. FA, 50% of vacancies of STA by direct recruitment, and 25% of vacancies of STA by promotion through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination from Sr. FA with 5 years' service and FA with 10 years of service.

After deliberations, the Chairperson agreed for restructuring of CSB field staff category and suggested CSB to send a proposal to the Ministry in this regard, and ensure continuous follow-up, as the proposal is required to be approved by DoPT.

D. Discussion on other issues:

- a. The Additional Director, Odisha informed that though the ICAR has included sericulture for fellowship programme, there is no structured training courses for sericulture and recently Odisha Govt. has started Sericulture Research & Training Institute to provide short and long term training to sericulture farmers and extension workers. He requested CSB to provide visiting faculties whenever training programmes are conducted and the Member Secretary, agreed for the same. The Chairperson added that to enhance the visibility of the sericulture courses such as PGDS being offered by CSB R&D Institutes, Secretary (Textiles), MoT may be invited for the graduation ceremony/ convocation programme to be conducted for all the batches.
- b. Member Secretary, CSB informed that the Silk Mark scheme is implemented to ensure purity of silk. Mysore silk being one of reputed brands in the country, Member Secretary requested Karnataka State to use Silk Mark label for Mysore silks along-with the GI tag. This would enable the entire silk industry to be brought under one umbrella and garner more international reach. The Principal Secretary, Karnataka agreed that the issue would be taken up with the concerned department (KSIC) and asked CSB to send a formal letter in this regard.
- c. Regarding recruitment of scientific /technical personnel in CSB, the Chairperson was of the view that priority should be given to Sericulture students/ candidates rather than non-sericulture candidates and accordingly necessary action may be taken to amend the Recruitment Rules. She continued to state that CSB is encouraging Start-ups by providing incubation centres which will enable creation of self employment. The Member Secretary clarified that, in the case of engagement of JRF/SRF, priority is given for Sericulture students only. In areas where sericulture students are not available, non-sericulture students are engaged. He further clarified that while appointing scientists, candidates are selected based on the specialization required by different CSB Institutes. For units dealing with farming activities & seed sector also, priority is given to sericulture students.

- d. Referring to CSB's annual budget, Sri N.Koragappa, M.P. expressed his concern on less funds earmarked for development of sericulture as maximum funds in the Budget are going for salary, wages , pension, court fees etc., and which will further increase in the coming years as the retirements also increase, thereby hampering the developmental activities. Hence he desired to know what steps would be taken to earmark more funds for development of sericulture in the country. Board agreed to appraise the matter in mid-term evaluation of Silk Samagra-2 scheme.
- e. DoS, UP submitted that there is an urgent need for establishing Regional Sericulture Research Station to address the R & D issues of the State, since RSRSs functioning earlier in the State have been closed. Secondly, he raised the point that the Varanasi weaving cluster requires 3000 MT of silk annually but their production is only 350 MT. Around 1800 MT raw silk is brought from other States and a huge demand-supply gap exists. In order to meet the demand of Varanasi weavers, an MoU was made with KSMB, Bangalore during the previous year, for supply of required quantity of raw silk from Karnataka, which is yet to materialize. Thirdly, he requested for deputation of CSB technical personnel for their training Institute at Mirzapur. Lastly, he suggested that there must be one exclusive dashboard for monitoring Silk samagra-2 scheme in the line of ReshamMitra portal in Uttar Pradesh through which stakeholders /farmers register & photos of geo-tagged assets at beneficiary level are uploaded.
- f. Responding the above, the Director (Tech), clarified that as per CCEA direction, there is no provision for CSB to open any new unit. However, the requirement can be met through shifting of existing units. Endorsing this the Chairperson suggested that shifting of CSB units shall be undertaken with the approval of Ministry. For deputation of CSB technical personnel for State training Institute at Mirzapur, it was suggested that the DoS, Uttar Pradesh may send a formal proposal to CSB.
- g. Regarding monitoring of beneficiary components under Silk Samagra-2 scheme, the Chairperson reiterated that the PRAYAS is the only portal where decisions/ recommendations /approvals of different committees can be captured through specific templates, like finalization / recommendation of proposals by field level technical committee, approval and recommendation of State PMC, CSB's In House Appraisal Committee (IAC) and approval /sanction of CSB's AAMC etc. and uploaded in the Portal. The MIS generated can be viewed by PM Office, HMoT, Ministry, State Level etc. It was suggested that CSB may expedite PRAYAS portal updation.
- h. The Special Chief Secretary to the Government, Agriculture & Cooperation (H&S) Deptt. Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, requested for re-opening of CSB unit in Chebrolu (Kakinada district) to provide technical support for the expansion of sericulture, He also requested for financial support for construction of cocoon market in Hindupur.



E. Unveiling of Logo of 75 years of Central Silk Board:

During the Occasion, the Joint Secretary (Silk), MoT& Vice Chairperson, CSB and Chairperson of the meeting unveiled the Logo to commemorate the 75 years of glorious existence of Central Silk Board. She also released the 58th edition of Resham Vani, the home magazine of CTRTI, Ranchi.

The Chairperson in her concluding remarks, extended a warm welcome to the new Member Secretary of CSB and expressed hope for strong coordination with Department of Sericultures (DoSs). She encouraged DoSs to leverage his presence and field knowledge. Emphasizing that CSB is a Research and Development organization poised for advancement, she highlighted the importance of preserving its rich legacy in the years to come. She underscored the collaborative effort needed between CSB and DoSs to enhance the well-being of sericulture farmers and those dependent on the Silk Industry, aiming for positive life-changing outcomes. She commended the meaningful and interactive discussions during the meeting, extending gratitude to all members for their active participation and valuable suggestions. The emphasis was on the collective commitment to advancing the sericulture sector for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.



[P. Sivakumar, IFS]
Member Secretary
Central Silk Board

**Board Members who attended the 141st Board Meeting held at Ranchi
on 24.11.2023**

#	Name & designation of the Member
	UNDER SECTION 4(3)(b)
1	Smt.Prajakta L.Verma, IAS, Joint Secretary (Silk), & Vice-Chairperson, CSB, MoT, New Delhi
2	Shri P.Sivakumar, IFS, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, Bangalore
	UNDER SECTION 4(3)(C)
3	Shri Ajay Nishad, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, New Delhi
4	Shri Narayana Koragappa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, New Delhi
	UNDER SECTION 4(3)(d)
5	Dr Shamla Iqbal, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. Horticulture and Sericulture Deptt. Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore
6	Representative of Commissioner for Sericulture Development and Director of Sericulture, Govt.of Karnataka, Bangalore
	UNDER SECTION 4(3)(f)
7	The Commissioner of Textiles and Sericulture, West Bengal -(VC Mode)
	UNDER SECTION 4(3)(g)
8	Shri Gopala Krishna Dwivedi, IAS, Special Chief secretary to the Government, Agriculture & Cooperation (H&S) Deptt. Govt. of Andhra Pradesh,
9	Smt.Kajori Rajkhowa, Director of Sericulture, Govt. of Assam.
10	The Secretary & Commissioner, Cottage & Rural Industries, Govt. of Gujarat – (VC Mode)
11	The Director, Handloom & Sericulture Dept, Government of Bihar-(VC Mode)
12	Representative of Director, Directorate of Handloom, Sericulture and Handicrafts, Govt. of Jharkhand.
13	The Director (Sericulture), Directorate of Sericulture, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
14	Representative, Director (Sericulture), Directorate of Sericulture, Govt. of Uttarakhand
	UNDER SECTION 4(3)(h)
15	Representative of Principal Secretary, Animal & Sheep Husbandry Dept (Addl. Charge of Administrative Secretary, Agriculture /Horticulture & Cooperative Dept.) Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir, JAMMU.
	UNDER SECTION 4(3)(i)
16	Representative of Commissioner-cum- Secretary, Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

17	Shri M.Raghunandan Rao, IAS, APC & Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Co-operation Department, Govt. of Telangana,
18	Shri Mhathung Kikan, Director of Sericulture, Govt. of Nagaland
	Permanent Invitees
	Chairman, ISEPC, Gurgaon
	Board Secretariat
1	Dr.C.Meenakshi, IFS, Director (Finance),CSB, Bangalore
2	Dr. S. Manthira Moorthy, Director (Tech), CSB, Bangalore
3	Dr. P. Kumaresan, Scientist-D(S.M), CSB, Bangalore
4	Shri Mahadeva M, Dy. Director (Admin. & Accts.), CSB, Bangalore
5	Smt.N.Bharathi K, Deputy Secretary (Tech), CSB, Bangalore
6	Shri Mukesh Kumar,Dy. Director (Admin. & Accts.), CSB, Bangalore
7	Shri Kamal Kumar Gupta, Dy. Director (Admin. & Accts.), CSB, Bangalore
8	Shri Sachin Vyankatrao Somwanshi,Dy. Director (Admin. & Accts.), CSB, Bangalore
9	CA Sravani Siddula, Asst. Director (Admin. & Accts.), CSB, Bangalore
10	Shri Hafeez Ahmed, Asst. Director (Admin. & Accts.), CSB, Bangalore
11	Shri M. Paramesha, Assistant Secretary (Tech), CSB, Bangalore