

“WOOL AND WOOLLEN TEXTILES SECTOR”

1. INTRODUCTION -

In India Woollen textiles and clothing industry is relatively small compared to the cotton and man made fibre based textiles and clothing industry. However, the woollen sector plays an important role in linking the rural economy with the manufacturing industry, represented by small, medium and large scale units. The product portfolio is equally divergent from textile intermediaries to finished textiles, garments, knitwears, blankets, carpets and an incipient presence in technical textiles. Wool industry is a rural based export oriented industry and caters to civil and defence requirements for warmer clothing.

India has the 3rd largest sheep population country in the world having 65.06 million sheep producing 48 million kg of raw wool in 2014-15. Out of this about 85% is carpet grade wool, 5% apparel grade and remaining 10% coarser grade wool for making rough Kambals etc. Average annual yield per sheep in India is 0.9 Kg. against the world average of 2.4 Kg. A small quantity of specialty fibre is obtained from Pashmina goats and Angora rabbits. The domestic produce of wool is not adequate, therefore, the industry is dependent on imported raw material and wool is the only natural fibre in which the country is deficient.

The woollen industry in the country is of the size of Rs. 10,000 Crore and broadly divided & scattered between the organized and decentralized sectors. The organized sector consists of: Composite mills, Combing units, Worsted and Non Worsted spinning units, Kintwears and Woven Garments units and Machine Made Carpets manufacturing units. The Decentralize Sector includes Hosiery and knitting, Power-looms, Hand knotted carpets, Druggets, Namadahs and Independent dyeing, Process houses and Woollen Handloom Sector.

There are around 958 woollen units in the country, majority of which are in the small scale sector. The industry has the potential to generate employment in far-flung and diverse regions and at present provides employment in the organised wool sector to about 12 lakh persons, with an additional 12 lakh

persons associated in the sheep rearing and farming sector. Further, there are 3.2 lakh weavers in the carpet sector.

Installed Capacity and Employment:

i)	(a) Wool Combing (b) Synthetic fibre combing	30 Million Kg 3.57 Million Kg
ii)	Worsted spindles	6.04 Lakh
iii)	Non Worsted spindles	4.37 Lakh
iv)	Power looms	7228
v)	(a) Machine made carpets (b) Hand-made carpets	0.50 Mn Sq.Meter 9 Mn. Sq. Meter
vi)	Total number of units, including decentralized hosiery and shawl sector.	958
vii)	Total no. of persons employed, including persons associated in sheep rearing and farming sector and weavers in carpet sector.	27.2 lakh
viii)	Total Imports (2014-15)	Rs. 2,125.71 Crore*
ix)	Total Exports (2014-15)	Rs. 11437.90 Crore**

* Woollen yarn, raw wool and woollen/synthetic rags.

** Woollen yarn fabric, made ups, ready made garments, carpet handmade

1.1 WOOL & WOOLLEN INDUSTRY COMPRISES ORGANIZED AND DECENTRALIZED SECTORS:

(i) ORGANIZED SECTOR

- a) Composite Mills
- b) Combing Units
- c) Worsted and Non-Worsted Spinning Units
- d) Knitwear and Woven Garments Units
- e) Machine-made Carpet Manufacturing Units.

(ii) DECENTRALIZED SECTOR

- a) Hosiery and Knitting Units
- b) Powerloom Units
- c) Hand-made Carpet, Druggets and Namadahs units
- d) Independent Dyeing and Process Houses.

1.2 WOOL PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION

The total wool production in India is not enough to meet the total requirement of raw wool for woollen industry. The bulk of Indian wool is of coarse quality and is used mostly in the hand-made carpet industry. Since indigenous production of fine quality wool required by the organized mills and decentralized hosiery sector is very limited, India depends almost exclusively on import.

Production of indigenous wool:

Year	Production Quantity (in million kg.)
2008-09	42.80 Mn Kg.
2009-10	43.10 Mn Kg.
2010-11	44.00 Mn. Kg.
2011-12	44.40 Mn. Kg.
2012-13	46.05 Mn. Kg.
2013-14	48.77 Mn. Kg.
2014-15	48.14 Mn. Kg. (Anticipated)

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Deptt. of Animal Husbandry)

Top 6 wool producing States :-

SN	States	Wool Production 2014-15 Qty. ('000 kg.)
1	Rajasthan	15026.83
2	Jammu & Kashmir	8709.70
3	Karnataka	7754.53
4	Andhra Pradesh	5036.83
5	Gujarat	2578.06
6	Rajasthan	15026.83

Source : Animal Husbandry Deptt., Ministry of Agri.

Top carpet grade wool producing states

State	Wool ('000 kg)
Rajasthan	15026.83
Gujarat	2578.06
Himachal Pradesh	1654.99
Maharashtra	1538.62

Production of Indian Woollen Items:-

Production of 4woollen items	HS Code	Unit	2010- 11	2011- 12	1-1-2013 to 11-04-2014	
Worsted yarn	5107	Mil. Kgs	62.00	63.00	76.00	
Woollen yarn	5107	Mil. Kgs	30.50	31.00	38.00	
Wool tops	5105	Mil. Kgs	38.50	39.00	46.00	
Fabrics (Woollen/worsted)	5112	Mil. Mtrs	88.00	89.00	106.00	
Shoddy yarn	5106	Mil. Kgs	43.00	44.00	53.00	
Blankets(Shoddy/ Woollen)	6301	Mil. Pcs	22.00	25.00	30.00	

Shoddy fabrics	5103	Mil. Mtrs	32.00	34.00	<i>40.00</i>	
Knitwear/Woven/ wear goods	6001	Mil. Kgs	21.00	22.00	<i>28.00</i>	
Handmade carpets	5701	Mil.Sq. Mtr	10.00	10.00	<i>11.00</i>	
Machine made carpets	5702	Mil.Sq. Mtr	0.45	0.46	<i>0.50</i>	

(Source : Indian Woollen Mills Federation, Mumbai. (IWMF))

As per report of ‘National Fibre Policy’ (MOT), in the next one decade, consumption (production + imports) of raw wool is estimated to double from 114.2 million Kg in 2008-09 to 260.8 million Kg by 2019-20. During the period between 2009-10 and 2016-17 raw wool consumption is to be grow at a CAGR of 7.8% and will be approximately 208 Million Kg by end of 12th Plan i.e. year 2016-17. As per past trends Wool production in the country is to be remain constant at approx. 44 Million Kg and thus India will Import nearly 164 million Kg wool at the end of 12th Plan.

1.3 PROCESSING

The Woollen industry suffers from inadequate and outdated processing facilities. The pre-loom and post-loom facilities are required to be modernized for ensuring quality finished products. Quality finishing of the woollen products will not only increase use of indigenous wool but will also make the product more competitive in the international market. It will also assist in procuring better price for wool growers and will make quality raw material available to the Khadi and Handloom sector.

Owing to overall size of the woollen industry and specialized nature of equipments required for processing, the industry has been dependent on imported plant and machinery except for few complimentary equipments from local sources. Machinery required for processing from raw wool fibre to fabrics followed by knitting and garmenting, is mostly imported from European countries, USA and Japan.

1.4 IMPORT

The production of wool in the country is not sufficient to meet the demand of the wool industry particularly of apparel sector and most of it is being imported from Australia, New Zealand and many other countries. The present requirement of different segments of Indian woollen industry is likely to grow further because of higher domestic as well as export need of woollen items.

There has been a shift from imports of fine quality wool to low quality wool in recent years. This is on account of consumer preference for hand tufted carpets in the US and other western markets. Cheap wool import from the Middle East is also constantly growing and is mixed with indigenous wool to make hand tufted carpets.

Import of raw wool from Australia, New Zealand and many other countries are as under:

Year	Qty. (in million kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crore)
2008-09	65.73	1031.86
2009-10	68.26	1000.77
2010-11	94.77	1434.65
2011-12	76.29	1876.87
2012-13	77.16	1801.90
2013-14	89.60	1967.72
2014-15	96.53	2125.74

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

India is, also importing Woolen and cotton rags etc. for the shoddy sector. The import figures of last years are as under:

Years	Qty. (in million kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crore)
2006-07	110.12	153.41
2007-08	91.81	96.03
2008-09	85.30	90.61
2009-10	82.65	89.67
2010-11	95.54	117.01
2011-12	140.51	235.30
2012-13	186.36	341.24
2013-14	187	373

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

RAW WOOL IMPORTS FROM MAJOR COUNTRIES

SN	Country	Qty. in tones (2014-15)
1	Australia	17084.000
2	Pakistan	8089.376
3	New Zealand	7422.075

4	Syria	11225.623
5	Italy	3432.869
6	Turkey	1424.345

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

The import of raw material required by the Woollen industry i.e. raw wool and woollen/synthetic rags is under Open General License (OGL).

1.5 EXPORT

India exports various woollen products like tops, yarn, fabrics, Ready Made Garments and Carpets. Carpet enjoys maximum share of total export. The aggregate export of woollen items from wool tops to finished products like textiles, clothing, blankets and carpets is currently estimated around Rs. 7000 Crs.

During the 11th Plan period, the growth was hindered owing to variety of factors. However there are good opportunities for export growth. Primary sectors which can look forward for export growth are textiles, woven clothings, knitwears and carpets. In order to build growth tempo, the action for reform should be expedited which may also attract FDI to reinforce export outlook through joint ventures for better access to major markets.

Item Wise Statement of Exports are as under:

Year	Value (Rs.Crores)			
	Woollen Yarn, fabrics, Made ups	Ready Made Garments	Carpet (Excluding silk) Handmade	Total
2006-07	379.28	1636.54	3891.47	5907.30
2007-08	373.57	1409.54	3725.79	5508.90
2008-09	456.51	1742.97	3505.37	5704.85
2009-10	424.63	1838.09	3442.93	5705.65
2010-11	501.20	1510.92	4706.68	6718.77
2011-12	725.20	1654.69	4051.21	6431.09
2012-13	659.03	1617.43	5340.77	7617.23
2013-14	684.70	1888.60	6255.83	8829.21
2014-15	1234.61	1901.76	8301.56	11437.90

(Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata)

Export to major countries : Woollen Yarn, Fabrics, Made Ups

SN	Country	Value in Lakhs
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		(2014-15)
1	Italy	25900.75
2	USA	9952.07
3	United Kingdom	15362.74
4	China PRP	3113.63
5	Dominic Rep	-

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

Export : Carpet-Excluding Silk

SN	Country	Value in Lakhs (2014-15)
1	USA	360593.95
2	Germany	67423.01
3	United Kingdom	42924.87
4	United Arab Emirates	130887.11
5	Belgium	9426.47

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Export : Readymade Garments Wool

SN	Country	Value in Lakhs (2014-15)
1	USA	48938.37
2	United Kingdom	15780.33
3	France	11624.22
4	Germany	13109.52
5	United Arab Emirates	20281.20

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

1.6 RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Research & Development activities should be promoted in the country to help the wool industry to adopt regular system of quality control and maintain the quality of products, to render technical and trouble shooting services with reference to selection of raw material, controlling various adjusting equipments and reducing the cost of production and improving the quality of product.

Investment in R&D activities would help in following way

- Development of new products based on latest techniques in mechanical and chemical processing of wool and transfer the knowhow to the industry.

- Study and provide Research & Development facilities for testing of properties of various products like fiber, yarn and fabric stages including intermediate stages.
- The provision of services in quality assurance and testing to the organized sector.
- The provision of services to the decentralized industry, which uses significant Australian wool in small enterprises where the sophistication of equipment and machinery is much lower than that of the “organised” sector.
- Offer technical training and suitable courses to support industry’s need of technological/supervisory training for constant upgradation of technical knowhow.
- Organizing regularly, workshops and seminars with the participation of industry experts from India as well as overseas in the field of wool technology for the dissemination of the latest development.

1.7 HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

It has been felt that human resources development aspects have been neglected in the wool sector. Since the Government has recognized the wool industry as thrust area, it is necessary to make all out efforts for development of human resource to meet the requirements of wool industry.

The woollen industry employs a workforce of 1.7 million and 30,000 technical supervisory level personnel. With the spurt of the textile activity and the projected target growth, while 5 million direct jobs are likely to be created in the textile industry with another 7 million jobs in allied sectors, it is safe to estimate the requirement of about 2 lakh new jobs in the woollen sector consisting of skilled and semi-skilled workforce; in addition to trained /qualified supervisory personnel & managers.

1.8 CONSTRAINTS FACED BY WOOL SECTOR :-

(i) Raw Wool Production

- Low priority of State Governments in development of wool sector.
- Lack of awareness, traditional management practices, and lack of education and poor economic conditions of woolgrowers.
- Shortage of pasture land which force breeders to migrate their flock from one area to another throughout the year.
- Uneconomical return of the produces to sheep breeders i.e. sale of raw wool, live sheep, manure, milk, mutton, skin etc.

- Lack of motivation for adopting modern methods of sheep management, machine shearing of sheep, washing & grading of raw wool etc.
- Inadequate production and processing facilities of specialty fibres i.e. Pashmina goat wool and Angora rabbit wool.

(ii) Marketing of Raw Wool

- Inadequate marketing facilities and infrastructure.
- Ineffective role of state wool marketing organizations in wool producing States.
- Absence of organized marketing and minimum support price system for ensuring remunerative return.
- Minimum return earned from sale of wool by wool growers.

(iii) Processing of Wool

- Inadequate quantity of quality raw wool.
- Out dated and inadequate pre-loom & post-loom processing facilities.
- Inadequate dyeing facilities in wool potential areas.
- Need of designing & diversification of woollen handloom products.
- Dearth of technicians & trained manpower.
- Inadequate testing facilities and quality control measures.
- Transfer of technology is inadequate.
- Lack of operational and technical bench marks.

(iv) Education, Research & Development, Human Resource Development

- No educational institute for wool technology resulting lack of expertise in wool sector.
- Inadequate database.
- Need of R&D work on blending of raw wool with other fibres & diversification of woollen products.
- Lack of R&D work for value addition to Deccani wool produced in Southern region.

2. CENTRAL WOOL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (CWDB), JODHPUR

The Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur was constituted by the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles in 1987 with the primary objective of development of wool and woollen textiles in the country by undertaking programmes to support various wool development activities. The Board has undertaken various projects mainly in the wool growing States.

The Standing Finance Committee (SFC) meeting to finalize Wool Sector has approved 12th Plan schemes with total financial outlay of Rs. 96 Crore by modifying the existing 11th Plan schemes. The Board is implementing following schemes for development of Wool Sector during the 12th Five Year Plan :

- I. Integrated Wool Improvement and Development Programme (IWIDP) :
 - A. Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme (SWIS)
 - B. Pashmina Wool Development Scheme (PWDS)
 - C. Angora Wool Development Scheme (AWDS)
 - D. Human Resource Development & Promotional activities
- II. Quality Processing of Wool and Woollen Products :
 - Setting up of Common Facility Centre for wool processing activities.
- III. Social Security Scheme for Sheep Breeders :
 - A. Sheep Breeders Insurance Scheme
 - B. Sheep Insurance Scheme

Brief of schemes of Wool Sector : Central Wool Development Board

I. Integrated Wool Improvement and Development Programme (IWIDP)

Under IWIDP, the Board is implementing different schemes for improving quantity and quality of indigenous wool produced from Sheep, Angora Rabbit, Pashmina Goat along with training in all areas and associated promotional and marketing activities with following schemes:

(A) Sheep & Wool Improvement Scheme: (SWIS)

The Board is implementing this scheme to improve the quality and quantity of sheep wool in all major wool producing States and providing financial assistance for 'Health Care' to animals, 'Breed Improvement' of sheep, 'Feed Supplement' to eligible sheep and 'Creation of Revolving Fund' for marketing of raw wool.

(B) Pashmina Development Scheme:

Ladakh region produces the finest Pashmina wool (specialty fiber) in the world which has high demand globally. Central Wool Development Board (CWDB) is implementing this scheme in Ladakh region to increase production of pashmina wool alongwith good return from sale of this wool to the Pashmina

wool growers with various components like : Buck Exchange Programme & Distribution of high quality Pashmina bucks for breed improvement, Assistance for providing foundation stock in non-traditional areas, Training programmes, Establishment of Pasture Farms on migratory routes, Feed supplement to eligible pashmina goats, Pashmina goat pens, providing portable tents, gumboots, to nomads, Health Coverage, Strengthening of existing Pashmina Fodder Banks & Breeding Farms, distribution of improved Pashmina Combs, Up-gradation of existing Pashmina Dehairing Plant at Leh.

(C) Angora Wool Development Scheme

The CWDB is implementing this scheme in hilly areas of country to support Angora rearing activity by distribution of Angora rabbit among rearers along with necessary training, feed, medicines, cages and shed construction etc. A new component (Integrated Angora Germplasm-cum-Processing and Training Center) have been included in this 12th Plan modified scheme for improving angora wool production and processing activities to encourage the farmers to produce angora products for better returns. The scheme has components like : (i) Establishment of Mini Angora rabbit Farm (ii) Angora Rabbit Germplasm-cum-Processing and Training Center.

(D). Human Resource Development & Promotional activities:

The Board has identified some areas for undertaking various training programmes in collaboration with various reputed organizations/ institutions/ Departments on: Farm management for sheep; Angora & Pashmina rearing, sheep shearing by machines, wool grading & marketing, processing of wool and woollens products, latest weaving and designing techniques to weavers. The following activities are also part of HRD & Promotional Activities: organizing fairs and Woollen Expos, seminar and workshops, Market Intelligence and Publicity, Publication of quarterly news magazine 'Wool Ways', R&D, Training under Weaving and Designing Training Centre, running Wool Testing Centres.

II. Quality Processing of Wool Scheme

The Board is implementing this scheme to create wool processing facilities for improving quality of raw wool, finishing of woollens and value addition to wool and woollens products. The project beneficiaries are State Wool Board/ Corporation/ Non-Governmental Organization/ Registered Societies/Private Entrepreneurs etc. engaged in processing of wool and woollens. The CWDB provides grant for procurement of machinery only upto limit of Rs. 50 lakh under each Common Facility Centre for processing of wool and woollen.

III. Social Security Scheme for Sheep Breeders

The Board is implementing this scheme to benefit the sheep breeders by providing life insurance to them and their sheep flock by two plans (A) Sheep Breeders Insurance Scheme and (B) Sheep Insurance Scheme. The basic objective of these insurance plans is to provide enhanced insurance coverage to sheep breeders in the case of natural death/accidental death, total/partial disability and for their sheep flock, including fire, storm, flood and diseases contracted or occurred during the period of the policy.

4. 12th PLAN HIGHLIGHTS :

Pashmina Promotion Programme (P-3) for Ladakh region

India produces best quality Pashmina wool in the world. Presently, Pashmina wool is being produced in Ladakh region of India in small quantities. There are 2.45 lakhs Pashmina Goats in Ladakh region, which produces approximately 40 to 50 Ton of raw Pashmina every year. The Pashmina produced has excellent properties and products made from it are of very high value and also have export potential. Many nomad families in the region are dependent on rearing of Pashmina goats.

Under Wool Sector Scheme, the MOT has approved a 'Pashmina Wool Development Scheme' (PWDS) for implementation in Ladakh region and allocated financial outlay of Rs. 41.21 crore for 12th Plan period to improve quality and quantity of pashmina wool. This programme is being implemented by the Central Wool Development Board (Nodal agency of MOT) with the help of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh and Kargil districts (Implementing Agencies).

In the Budget Speech of 2014-15, Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced additional fund of total Rs.30 Cr. for Pashmina Promotion Programme (P-3) in Ladakh region as per demand of Pashmina Wool growers and LAHDC, Leh. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has also announced this programme for development of pashmina wool on 12th August, 2014 during his visit to Leh.

As per Finance Minister's Budget 2014-15 and Hon'ble PM announcement, the Central Wool Development Board has drafted the SFC proposal in consultation with the LAHDC and Wool Research Association (MOT). The Ministry of Textiles has approved the SFC proposal in its meeting

held on 28th August,2014 with initial approved additional financial outlay of Rs. 19.12 crore.

Under Pashmina Promotion Programme (P-3) provision of supplementary components made for creation of Common Pashmina Facilitation Centre for Wool testing, Disease Surveillance Centre, GIS Lab, Shelter for Nomads, Portable Electric Units for Spinning, Handloom, Solarised Community Centre, Open Fodder enclosures, Pashmina Dehairing Plant, Distribution for Foundation Stock and Shelter for Housing of Pashmina Stock.

The Ministry of Textiles is releasing funds directly to Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh & Kargil to implement P-3 programme.

Scheme-wise distribution of 12th Five Year Plan outlay and physical targets under Wool & Woollen Sector

(Rs. in Crore)

SN	Name of Scheme	Physical target of 12 th Plan	Financial
I	Integrated Wool Improvement & Development Programme (IWIDP)		
A	Sheep & Wool Improvement Scheme (SWIS)	To cover 28 lakh sheep, 10 Breeding Farms, Feed Supplement to 75,000 sheep	31.00
B	Pashmina Wool Development Scheme	To cover 2 lakh Pashmina goats, 3 MPEC, 3 Pasture Farms, Feed to 40,000 goats, 1 Dehairing Plant	41.21
C	Angora Wool Development Scheme	To cover 2200 Angora rabbits, benefit 100 families & 2 Germplasm & Processing Centres	2.49
D	Human Resource Development & Promotional Activities	To train 1200 persons, to run WDTC, WTC & setting up CFCs for training, 36 Woollen Expos, R&D, Seminars, publishing news magazine	16.30
II	Quality Processing of Wool Scheme – CFC for Integrated Wool Processing Facilities	To set up 6 Common Facility Centres (CFC) for pre-loom wool processing facilities @ Rs. 50 lakh per CFC (Maximum assistance)	3.00
III	Social Security Scheme – Insurance of Sheep and Sheep Breeders	To benefit 75,000 shepherds & 4 lakh sheep under insurance of (i) Sheep Breeders Insurance scheme and (ii) Sheep Insurance Scheme	2.00
TOTAL outlay for 12th Plan			96.00

5. BUDGETORY SUPPORT :

i) Annual Plan 2013-14 :

The SFC meeting under Wool Sector schemes has approved 12th Plan schemes with total financial outlay of Rs. 96 Crore. Out of it, the MOT has allocated Rs. 16 Crore to the Central Wool Development Board (CWDB) for Annual Plan 2013-14 to implement its various Plan schemes and against this allocation the Board has fully utilized the allocated funds and following achievements were made during FY 2013-14:

- Benefited 6 lakh new sheep of Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra States under Sheep & Wool Improvement Scheme (SWIS) to improve quality and quantity of indigenous wool.
- Provided Feed Supplement to 1.15 lakh eligible sheep & Pashmina goats of Ladakh region (Leh & Kargil districts) during severe/adverse period of cold.
- Strengthened two Sheep Breeding Farms in U.P. State. for improving good quality breedable rams.
- Provided support for marketing of raw wool in Andhra Pradesh and Leh district of Ladakh region to ensure remunerative returns to wool growers for their produce (wool).
- Covered 800 families under Pashmina Wool Development Scheme of Ladakh.
- Sanctioned 3 projects under Angora Wool Development Scheme to cover 1000 angora rabbits of H.P. State.
- Sanctioned total Rs. 6 crore to Wool Research Association, Thane to upgrade three Wool Testing Laboratories of CWDB & WRA at Bikaner, Kullu and Thane.
- Provided training to 90 women under weaving of woollen handloom products at Weaving & Designing Training Centre, Kullu.
- Organized 11 Woollen Expos (Exhibition-cum-sale of woollen products) at different cities for providing support for marketing of woollen products to woollen artisans/weavers engaged in manufacturing of woollen products.
- Covered 37,834 shepherds under Sheep Breeders Insurance Scheme and 59,819 sheep under Sheep Insurance Scheme.
- Established one Common Facility Centre under Quality Processing of Wool scheme.

ii) Annual Plan 2014-15 :

During financial year 2014-15, Rs. 20 crore has allocated to the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur (CWDB) to implement different Wool Sector

schemes for development of Wool Sector and scheme-wise following achievements were made by utilized Rs. 18.98 Crore as under :

- Launched Pashmina Promotion Programme (P-3) in Ladakh region through SFC approval as supplementary programme for Pashmins wool development with total financial outlay of Rs. 19.12 crore and laying of foundation stone of Pashmina Dehairing Plant building at Leh by Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles (Independent Charge). Rs. one crore has been released by Ministry of Textiles directory to Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh & Kargil to initiate implementation of programme in 2014-15.
- Benefited 18 lakh sheep under different ongoing projects and covered 21 lakh new sheep under 'Sheep & Wool Improvement Scheme' (SWIS) from all major wool producing States against target of total 28 lakh sheep.
- Under Pashmina Wool Development Scheme (PWDS), benefited 800 families and 2 lakh pashmina goats under its different components in Leh and Kargil districts.
- Provided Feed Supplement to 75,000 sheep under SWIS and 40,000 pashmina goats under PWDS in Ladakh region of J. & K. State.
- Covered 1,200 angora rabbits under ongoing projects of Angora Wool Development scheme in Himachal Pradesh and Manipur States.
- Benefited 41,392 sheep breeders under Sheep Breeders Insurance Scheme during Annual Plan 2014-15 with the help of Life Insurance Co.
- Sanctioned the projects to different wool producing States to procure 46 Sheep Shearing machines under Quality Processing of Wool scheme for establishing Common Facility Centres for machine sheep shearing to get better staple length fibre and to reduce sheep shearing cost.
- Imparted training to 204 resource persons/farmers against target of 200 persons during AP 2014-15.
- Under HRD & Promotional Activities, organized 4 short term training programme in Artificial Insemination in sheep to train 40 persons, organized a Sheep & Wool Mela to help the wool growers in awareness of different sheep husbandry management technology and different Govt. Schemes

- Continue operation of Weaving & Designing Training Centre at Kullu and Wool Testing Laboratory at Bikaner successfully with their expansion and upgradation work.

iii) **Annual Plan 2015-16 :**

For financial year 2015-16, Rs. 17.66 crore has allocated under Plan Fund to the CWDB. Out of which Rs. 11.13 Cr has been allocated for PWDS. The physical and financial targets are as under :

Scheme : Pashmina Promotion Programme (P-3):

- This new programme in Ladakh region will help to increase pashmina wool production as well as socio economic conditions of poor pashmina wool growers/farmers (Nomads) and Ministry of Textiles would give priority to Ladakh region as Nomads are living in China border area.
- Establishment of latest technology Pashmina Dehairing Plant at Leh including other machineries like Scouring, Drying and boiler along with construction of building for installation of these machineries at Leh.
- Establishment of Common Pashmina Facilitation Centre for Wool testing, Disease Surveillance Centre, Geographic Information System (GIS) Lab, Shelter for Nomads, distribution of portable Electric Units for Handloom Spinning/Weaving, Solarised Community Centres, development of Fodder grounds for grazing of Pashmina goats.
- Distribution for Foundation Stock (male & female goats) to farmers and construction of Shelter for Housing of Pashmina animals.
- Ministry of Textiles is releasing funds directly to Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh & Kargil to implement the programme.
- Pashmina Wool Development Scheme: Under this scheme, 2 lakh pashmina goats and 800 nomad families of Ladakh region would be benefited under different components of scheme.
- Total financial allocation under the scheme for FY 2015-16 is Rs. 11.13 crore for CWDB.

Scheme : Sheep & Wool Improvement Scheme (SWIS)

- 42.15 lakh sheep under ongoing projects from different States would be benefited under the scheme with financial allocation of Rs. 3.80 crore.

Scheme : Angora Wool Development Scheme

- 400 angora rabbits under ongoing projects would be benefited with financial allocation of Rs. 0.31 crore.

Scheme : Human Resource Development & Promotional Activities

- Training would be provided to 90 persons under handloom weaving at Weaving & Designing Training Centre,
- Operating Wool Testing Centre for providing wool testing facilities
- Organizing Woollen Expos for providing marketing facilities for woollen products
- Total financial allocation under the scheme for FY 2015-16 is Rs. 2 crore.

Scheme : Quality Processing of Wool Scheme

- For on going projects to procure 46 sheep shearing machines in different States.
- Financial allocation under the scheme for FY 2015-16 is Rs. 0.17 crore.

Scheme : Social Security Scheme

- To provide funds to LIC for insurance of Shepherds.
- Financial allocation under the scheme for FY 2015-16 is Rs 0.25 crore.

The Central Wool Development Board is regularly monitoring the projects by deputing its staff for field visits with the help of concerned State Govt. implementing agencies..

6. FUTURE PLANS :

The Government, for the holistic growth and development of Wool Sector, is making serious efforts to :

- To improve quality and quantity of wool (carpet grade, specialty wool fibres such as Angora & Pashmina, apparel grade and deccani grade wool). Improve fineness of wool by 2 μ (micron) and increase wool yield per animal by 10%.
- Reduce mortality rate of sheep and Pashmina goats by 10% to bring down mortality rate from current rate of 12-15% to 5-7%.
- Setting up Common Facility Centres (CFCs) for creating processing facilities for wool and woollens.
- To increase employment in wool and allied industry and fulfill requirement of skilled manpower and also trained to wool growers with new techniques.
- To provide quality stud rams, pashmina bucks and angora rabbits as foundation stock to improve breed of good quality wool producing animals.
- Widen the uses of the coarse and colored Deccani wool (Southern region) by product development and product diversification.

- Improve wool production in rain fed areas by providing feed supplement to eligible (weak & pregnant) sheep and pashmina goats.
- To induce generic promotion of quality speciality fibres like Pashmina goats and angora rabbits.
- To benefit wool growers under Social Security Scheme of Govt. of India.
- To strengthen State Wool Marketing Organizations for marketing facility for raw wool and to ensure remunerative returns to wool growers.
- Increase the demand for Indian wool in domestic and international market.

Data Source: Wool Section

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