INTRODUCTION

Consequent upon the growth in population, the problem of unemployment is embarassing the planners and administrators of the country. In India agriculture occupies a place of pride; It is the source of livelihood for more than 70 per cent of population in the country. But the employment opportunities are limited as the existing agricultural structure is not adequate to provide sufficient employment. Although India has abundant natural resources, she is not in a position of exploit the same due to high cost of conversion. This has resulted in a very large number of people who derive their subsistance from agriculture and remain idle for more than five months in a year. Though the planners in India aimed to increase the employment opportunities and raise the standard of living of the rural masses, the same remained as unaccomplished. It is therefore, the only possibility alternative strategy to increase employment
opportunities is through intensification and diversification of agriculture through improvised technology and inputs. Since the land is a limited resource, only by intensifying the labour to land, the scope of employment in the field of agriculture can be enlarged. Hence, employment planning in agriculture should aim at tapping the potentialities in its allied fields such as animal husbandary, social forestry, inland fisheries, poultry and sericulture. Though animal husbandary, social forestry and others are slowly gaining importance in economy, much progress has been made in the field of sericulture.

Sericulture is not only providing employment to the cultivators but also generates additional employment at different stages of its production. In addition, it provides indirect employment, at each stage, starting from mulberry leaf growing to manufacture of silk fabrics. Generally, mulberry cultivation and silk worm rearing provide sufficient employment to family labour and thus reduces under-employment in agriculture. There are many non-mulberry grower families who have taken to silk work rearing as a full time occupation by purchasing mulberry leaves from mulberry growers. These two activities have created large scale direct employment opportunities. The indirect employment generated in this sector is through seed
production and manufacture of equipment such as bamboo chaakies and nylon nets which are used in silk worm rearing. Most of these activities are being carried in rural areas. Then the next stage of activity is reeling of cocoon which is also undertaken in rural as well as in semi-urban areas which help to reduce the rural under employment in a significant way. Twisting of silk mostly is being done in urban areas and weaving is spread over both in rural and in urban areas. Sericulture, thus not only creates large scale employment but also reduces the prevalence under employment and simultaneously of enhances the income earning capacity in rural and semi-urban areas.

The development of sericulture works as effective tool to reduce the intensity of rural poverty in the district of Tumkur of which Pavagada is a Taluk in Karnataka State.

**Meaning of Sericulture**

The term "Sericulture" generally refers to the processes involved in the production of silk. In Latin language 'Seri' means silk, silk is a natural filament created by silk work, therefore, sericulture refers to the process of rearing of silk worms by feeding them with mulberry leaves for the purpose of producing silk.
Silk, as a fashion fabric, is in increasing demand throughout the world. Silk fabrics have long been appreciated for their beauty and luxurious feel to handle. As it is a status symbol, its demand is bound to increase with increase in income levels of individual families. One of the major developments in recent times is the wide spread use of silk for apparels in pure and blended forms. The developed countries may not be able to divert their labour force from more productive fields to the production of silk. India being one of the fast developing countries with her large labour force, is bound to play a much greater role in meeting the increasing demand for silk fabrics world over.

Sericulture is an agro-based cottage industry which integrates both agricultural and industrial sectors of the economy. In its production process sericulture makes along chain of inter-depending specialised operation which provide employment opportunities to farmer cum rearer, realer, twister, spinner, weaver, and trader, whose skills go unremunerative in the absence of sericulture development.

It offers a tremendous scope to improve the socio economic conditions of especially rural population in India.
An attempt is made in this study to assess the employment potentials in the different stages of the sericulture industry per unit area of mulberry cultivation in Tumkur district of Karnataka, which is one of the drought prone districts in the country.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are as under:

1. To study the status of sericulture in India in general Karnataka in particular;

2. to study the origin and growth of sericulture in Tumkur district;

3. to assess the employment potential in different stages of the sericulture in Tumkur district with a particularly reference to Pavagada Taluk;

4. to discuss the problems faced by sericulturist in Pavagada Taluk of Tumkur District; and

5. to suggest suitable remedial measures to solve the problems of sericulturist in Tumkur district.
METHODOLOGY

Literature and Data Sources

The present study is both descriptive and analytical in its approach and it is based mainly on secondary data.

Secondary Data were collected from the annual reports of the Department of sericulture, Karnataka; office of Deputy Director of Sericulture, Tumkur district; Zilla Parishath Tumkur; District Industrial Centre, Tumkur; Central Silk Board, Bangalore; and Central Sericulture Research and Training Institute, Mysore; Department of Sericulture of Pavagada Taluk, and Secondary data were also drawn from the published literature on the topic of the study.

Statistical Tools

Simple statistical tools such as ratios; percentages and averages alongwith bar-diagram, multiplebar diagram, pie-diagrams and maps are used in the study.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

While studying the growth of sericulture in terms of average, employment and production of mulberry cocoons a considerable focus in shed to study growth and development of
sericulture in Pavagada taluk of Tumkur district. Pavagada is one of the most backward taluks in the state of Karnataka. It accounts for the lowest rainfall of 550 mm in the State. As such the condition prevailing in the taluk offers limited scope of irrigational facilities; it is only the well which are facilitating the irrigational operations in the taluk, since mulberry can be raised by watering once in a week farmers in increasing number here are taking up mulberry cultivation. It is, therefore, the sericulture is a fast picking up Agro-based industry in the taluk. It is with this reason an attempt is made here to study the growth of sericulture in the taluk as well as in the district as a whole. The problems faced by the sericulturists and remedial measures to overcome the identified problems in Pavagada taluk are discussing in the study.

The scope of the study is confined to the growth in sericultural activities, such as, mulberry cultivation, mulberry cocoons and employment generation through sericulture during the decade, starting from 1984-85 to 1993-94 in the taluk of Pavagada of Tumkur district of Karnataka State.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

The need for the present study arise mainly on account of necessity to assess the employment and income generation
Through sericulture in Pavagada Taluk, one of the most Backward Taluk in Tumkur district. It enquires into the causes and conditions under which the former were forced to take up mulberry cultivation. It tries to explore the further, possible improvements in the sericultural sector as it help in the reduction of unemployment and under employment prevailing in the rural areas of the country. The investigators attempt through this study, to provide guidance for the growth and development of sericulture in the Tumkur district.

Above all, there are no specific studies on the backward taluk of Pavagada and it is hoped that the study would fill the void in the field of knowledge besides serve as a useful purpose by enabling statesmen and administrators in evolving a suitable policy prescriptions for the growth and development of sericulture in the taluk as well as the district as a whole.

LIMITATIONS

1. The study is limited to Pavagada Taluk, consisting of four Hobli Head quarters with 34 Grama Panchayats and 144 Villages, of Tumkur district.
2. The study is based on secondary data and existing limitation on the data is as in other cases does also exist in this study.

3. Sericulture is one among several allied sectors in agriculture. The labour may employed in more than one allied services, under such circumstances, it becomes difficult to ascertain exact quantum of employment generated through sericulture sector and it is for this reason some overlapping of agriculture over sericulture is expected in its assessment. However, all possible care has been exercised to arrive at the near plausible quantum of employment generated in the sericulture sector.

DEFINITIONS OF THE CONCEPTS USED IN THE STUDY

(a) Labour force in general

At the outset, it is apparent that the 'labour force' must be defined in such a way that unpaid family labour can be taken into account. For this purpose, the national sample survey in India have formulated a concept, it separates those family members who perform "services in a family trade or
occupation, but who may have boarding or lodging with the household in lieu of their services from those families members who engaged in domestic work only." The former are included in the labour force while the latter are excluded. In practice a dividing line between these two categories may be difficult to draw, in addition to those unpaid family workers who perform economic functions, the labour is taken to include all those who are gainfully employed, plus all those who are without a gainful pursuit but are seeking one. The later constitute the unemployed.

(b) Agricultural Labour

It is very difficult to devise a realistic definition of agricultural labour because of the confusion presented by the multiplicity of functions performed by the rural population. However, the first Agricultural Labour Enquiry Commission defines agricultural labour as "Any person who worked as an agricultural worker for more than one-half of the total number of days on which he actually performed work during the year."

(c) Unemployment

It is also very difficult to define the concept of unemployment.
According to U.P.S., "a person is considered unemployed if he/she was available for work but without work for a major part of year."

According weekly status "A person is considered unemployed is he/she though being available for work did not have work even for one hour during reference week."

According to daily status "It is a measure of unemployment in terms of person days of unemployment of all the persons in the labour force during the reference week."

(d) Under-employment

According to 16th round of N.S.S. those among gainfully employed, who work for less than an arbitrarily fixed norms and are available for additional work" termed as under-employment.

(e) Disguised Unemployment

U.N. (United Nation) report, measures for the economic development of under developed countries, defines disguised unemployed as "Those persons who work on their own account and who are so numerous, relatively to the resource with which they work that if a number of them were withdrawn for work
in other sectors of the economy, the output of the sector from which they were withdrawn would not be diminished even though no significant reorganisation occurred in this sector and no significant substitution of Capital."

(f) Effective Utilisation of Labour.

It is defined as providing gainful employment to the labour at least for 273 days in a year (NSS).

(g) Potential Employment

The potential employment may be defined as "The labour absorption capacity of an activity or an industry over a period of time."

CHAPTER SCHEME

The study is presented in SIX chapters: the first chapter along with the introduction of the topic discusses the methodology followed in completion of the study; origin and growth of sericulture in India and Karnataka has been discussed in the second chapter; Growth and development of sericulture is examined in Tumkur district over a period of a decade, from 1984-85 to 1994-95 in .third chapter; Growth of sericulture in terms of acrage, employment and production of mulberry cocoons...
in Pavagada taluk have been analysed in the fourth chapter; the fifth chapter is devoted to highlight the problems of sericulturists in Pavagada taluk; and the sixth chapter and concluding chapter records the important findings and suggestions a few remedial measure for the fast growth and development of sericulture in the taluk of PAVAGADA.