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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE CLASS-VII

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► **Fibres & Fabrics**

Some Indian breeds of sheep which provide wool

Name of a breed of sheep	Quality of wool	Name of the state where found
Lohi	Good quality wool	Rajasthan, Punjab
Rampur bushier	Brown fleece	Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh
Nali	Carpet wool	Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab
Bakharwal	For woollen shawls	Jammu and Kashmir
Marwari	Coarse Wool	Gujarat
Patanwadi	For hosiery	Gujarat

From Fibres to Wool

The wool comes mainly from sheep. For obtaining wool, sheep are reared and bred, their hair is cut and processed into wool. We will first discuss the rearing and breeding of sheep.

Rearing and Breeding of Sheep

Rearing of sheep means to look after the sheep by providing them feed (food), shelter and health care. The persons who look after the sheep (or rearers) are called shepherds. Sheep are herbivores and prefer to eat grass and leaves. So, shepherds take their herds of sheep to the countryside for grazing. Apart from grazing, sheep rearers also feed them a mixture of pulses, corn, jowar, oil cakes (material left after taking out oil from seeds) and minerals. In winter, sheep are kept indoors and fed on leaves, grain and dry fodder.

So, the breeding of sheep is done to obtain such breeds of sheep which yield good quality of wool in large quantities. These breeds of sheep have a thick coat of hair on their body and are called sheep of good breeds. This raises the quality and quantity of wool produced.

Once, the reared sheep have developed a thick coat of hair, the hair is shaved off for getting wool. The cut off 'wool coat' of a sheep (along with a thin layer of skin) is called fleece. The fleece consists of soft woollen fibres. The fleece of sheep is usually kept in one piece.