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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

CLASS-VII

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▸ **Fibres & Fabrics**

Occupational Hazard

The wool industry is an important source of livelihood for many people in our country. The people who do the job of sorting (separating) the fleece of sheep into fibres of different qualities are called sorters. The sorter's job is very risky because sometimes, they get infected by the bacteria called anthrax which cause a deadly blood disease called sorter's disease. The risks faced by people working in any industry due to the nature of their work are called occupational hazard. Sorter's disease is an occupational disease.

Silk

Silk is a natural fibre which is obtained from an insect (called silk moth). So, silk fibres are also animal fibres. Silkworms spin the silk fibres. The silk fibre is made up of a protein. Silk is the strongest natural fibre.

Sericulture

Sericulture means 'silk farming'. The rearing of silkworms for obtaining silk is called sericulture. Sericulture is a very old occupation in India. India produces a lot of silk on a commercial scale.

Life History of Silk Moth Formation of Silkworm

The female silk moth lays eggs on mulberry leaves. The eggs are hatched into very small larvae within a week. The larvae of silk moth are called caterpillar or silkworm. The silkworms feed on the leaves of mulberry tree and grow bigger in size.

Development of Cocoon

When the silkworm (or caterpillar) is ready to enter the next stage of its development called pupa, it first weaves a net to hold itself. Then, it swings its head from side to side. During these movement of head, the silkworm secretes fibre made of protein which hardens on exposure to air and becomes silk fibre (or silk thread). Soon the silkworm (or caterpillar) covers itself by silk fibres and turns into pupa. This covering is known as cocoon. The silkworm continues to develop in the form of pupa inside the cocoon to form the silk moth.