

Chapter – 3

Fibre to Fabric

- **Fibres:** Long, fine, continuous threads or filaments are obtained from plants and animals.
Two types of fibers: (i) **Animal fibres** (ii) **Plant fibres**
- Animal fibres are obtained from two sources: **Silk** and **Wool**
- **Silk** comes from silkworms and wool is obtained from sheep, goat and yak. Hence silk and wool are animal fibres.
- The hairs of camel, llama and alpaca are also processed to yield wool.
- In India, mostly sheep are reared for getting wool.
- Sheep hair is sheared off from the body, scoured, sorted, dried, dyed, spun and woven to yield wool.
- Silkworms are caterpillars of silk moth.
- During their life cycle, the worms spin cocoons of silk fibres.
- Silk fibres are made of a protein.
- Silk fibres from cocoons are separated out and reeled into silk threads.
- Weavers weave silk threads into silk cloth.
- **Wool: Sources of Wool:** Wool is obtained from sheep, yak (Tibet and Ladakh), Angora goat, goat, camels, llama and Alpaca (South America)
- **Obtaining wool fibre:** Shearing: Fleece of the sheep along with a thin layer of skin is removed from its body.
- **Processing of Wool Fibre:**
 - (i) **Scouring:** Sheared hair is cleaned and washed in tanks to remove grease, dust and dirt.
 - (ii) **Sorting:** Cleaned hair is sent to a factory where hair of different textures are separated.
 - (iii) Hair is sent into a 'Carding' machine where the loose wool fibres are combed into a sheet and then twisted into a rope or silver.
 - (iv) This silver is twisted and stretched into a yarn.
 - (v) The yarn is wound to form balls of wool.