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the feed rolls mesh with each other and with the wire covering of the main cylinder, to impart a shredding action to the sliver as it passes from the feed rolls to the main cylinder.

9. The sliver feeding means of claim 6, further including sliver feeding control means for controlling the rotation of the feed rolls, each said sliver feeding control means including

- a. a clutch for the feed rolls and
- b. pattern means for controlling the clutch to impart rotation selectively to the feed rolls.

10. The invention of claim 9, wherein the clutch is an electric clutch and the pattern means includes

- a. a rotatable drum disposed adjacent the needle cylinder and having a complement of jacks and
- b. a microswitch disposed adjacent the drum and controlled by the jacks, and connected electrically to the clutch to impart electrical impulses thereto, to cause the clutch to engage with the sliver feed rolls.

11. Sliver feeding means for a high pile fabric knitting machine having a circle of needles, said sliver feeding means including a pair of rotatable sliver feed rolls and

12

rotatable means for transferring sliver fibers from the feed rolls to the needles, the combination comprising:

- a. sliver shredding means including,
 - i. a wire covering for each feed roll, each said wire covering including a plurality of circumferentially extending wires, and
 - ii. a wire covering for the sliver transfer means comprising a plurality of circumferentially extending wires,
 - iii. each of said wire coverings intermeshing with each of the other wire coverings,
- b. drive means for rotating the feed rolls and
- c. pattern means for controlling selectively the rotation of the feed rolls comprising
 - i. a first control means operative to impart rotation to the feed rolls to deliver sliver selectively to the transfer means according to a predetermined pattern and
 - ii. a second control means to vary selectively the rate of rotational speed of the feed rolls, to vary selectively the rate of delivery of sliver fibers to the transfer means.

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