

**Cotton Crops**

\*219. SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the cotton crop has been damaged due to supply of inferior quality pesticides in the Northern Region;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the cotton crop;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to provide compensation to the farmers;

(d) whether the Crop Insurance Scheme cover is proposed to be extended for the damage caused to the cotton crop; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Sir, no cotton growing State in the Northern Region has reported any damage to cotton crop due to supply of inferior quality pesticides during 1998-99.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) It is proposed to cover commercial crops like cotton under the Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme. However, the proposed new scheme will cover only identifiable and non-preventable risks and not the damage caused due to use of inferior quality pesticides which is considered as preventable.

**Agricultural Growth Rate**

\*220. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural growth rate in India is still much lesser in comparison to other countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to raise the rate of growth to the level of other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):  
(a) and (b) The rate of agricultural growth in India during

1987-97 in comparison to certain other major countries, as worked out on the basis of the indices of agricultural production published in FAO's Production Year Book, 1997 is as under:

Country	Agricultural Growth— Annual compound (%)
<i>World</i>	2.18
India	3.45
Australia	2.23
Canada	2.55
China	6.42
Japan	-0.69
Pakistan	4.09
U.K.	0.20
U.S.A.	2.40

The agricultural growth rate in India is above the world average and also higher when compare to many countries but lower than a few others.

(c) In order to increase production and productivity, the Government is implementing various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Crop Specific Schemes relating to rice, wheat, coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute, sugarcane, fruits & vegetable, etc. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has set priorities for doubling food production in next 10 years, adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

**Production of Cotton**

2156. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring more areas under cotton cultivation in non-traditional cotton growing States such as Orissa, U.P., Bihar and West Bengal;