

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3735

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000

PRODUCTION OF COTTON

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cotton produced in the country is not competing in international market due to poor quality and higher price;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to take effective steps to reduce the cost of cotton production and also improve the quality;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b) Indian cotton is discounted in international market due to poor quality of ginning, imperfect packing, contamination and higher trash contents.

(c) & (d) In order to improve the yield and the quality of cotton, the Government of India has approved the implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton in January, 2000. The Mission consists of four Mini-Missions. The Mini-Mission-I on research is to be dealt by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for evolving newer and better varieties/technologies suited to different agro-climatic conditions of the country for improving the yield and quality of cotton.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is responsible for the implementation of Mini-Mission-II for enhancing production through the modification of on-going Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Program. The Intensive Cotton Development Program envisages to enhance production and productivity through various extension/developmental activities such as transfer of technologies by field demonstration/farmers training, supply of certified seeds of varieties released during last fifteen years, use of water saving devices like sprinkler and drip system, establishment of seed delinting machines and various activities of pest control including setting up of bio-agent unit, surveillance, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), demonstration-cum-training, supply of sprayers/pheromone trap/bio-agents.

The Ministry of Textiles is nodal Ministry for implementation of Mini-Mission-III & Mini-Mission-IV. The Mini-Mission-III is meant for the development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like construction of marketing yards, auction centres, grading facilities, laboratories for testing quality of cotton. The Mini-Mission-IV aims at up-gradation and Modernization of ginning and pressing factories for the production of better quality cotton.

(e) Does not arise.