

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:979
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
FALL IN THE PRICES OF COTTON, CHILLY AND ONION
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers have suffered a heavy loss due to steep decline in the prices of cotton, chilly and onion recently;
- (b) if so, whether most of the farmers who had taken loans from money-landers are finding it difficult to get back the principal amount invested by them;
- (c) whether the kharif crop has also been damaged due to rains and cyclone; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for providing assistance to cotton, chilly and onion growers?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b) There has been decline in prices of cotton, chilly and onion this year as compared to last year. However, there are no reports of heavy losses to the farmers.
- (c) There have been some reports of damage to kharif crops of cotton, chilly and onion in certain areas due to adverse agro-climatic factors.
- (d) In order to protect the interests of the cotton growers, the Cotton corporation of India, the central nodal agency, is undertaking procurement of cotton both commercial and under Price Support Operations. Besides, Technology Mission on Cotton has been launched to give support to the farmers. To help the onion growers, the Government has permitted export of 2 lakh MTs of onion. As regards chillies, the Government is implementing various programmes to assist the chilly growers. These include production of nucleus seeds, distribution of minikits, assistance towards Area expansion programme, supply of polythene sheets for drying chilly under hygienic condition and assisting growers in constructing cemented drying yards in farmers' fields for drying chillies, etc.