

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:7
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
BT COTTON CROP
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have sought report from the six cotton producing States regarding the result of the BT cotton crop;
- (b) if so, the details of the report thus received;
- (c) whether this crop requires less pesticide as compared to the indigenous variety;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details regarding the extent of loss to BT cotton crop in the six States as a result of boll worm; and
- (f) the decision arrived at by the Government as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 7 FOR REPLY ON 21ST JULY, 2003.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Details of reports received from these States are enclosed in Annexure-I.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The requirement of pesticides for Bt cotton hybrids registered reduction by 2 to 6 sprays.

(e): The details are enclosed in Annexure-II.

(f): The Committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests found the performance of Bt. Cotton to be satisfactory.

ANNEXURE-I

The details of the performance of Bt cotton crops in six States as reported by the State Governments

Andhra Pradesh:

- Incidence of bollworm was less during the year, hence advantage of Bt. Cotton could not be assessed correctly.

Karnataka:

- Incidence of Bollworm in Bt cotton is less compared to other hybrids. Trials of Bt cotton should be continued for at least two more years to assess its performance.

Tamil Nadu:

- Sucking pests incidence in Bt cotton was below economic thresh hold.

- Less incidence of bollworms.
- Pesticide spray for bollworms has been reduced.
- Number of bolls, boll weight and lint weight is more in Bt cotton.

The performance of Bt cotton should be observed for two more years before a judgement is pronounced.

Madhya Pradesh:

- Better for heavy and black soil.
- Not suitable for light soils.
- Resistance to bollworm.
- Heavy soil with good drainage is required for Bt cotton.

Maharashtra:

- Percentage yield increase of Bt over non Bt counter part ranges between 16-60%.
- Performance of Bt over its non Bt counter parts is better but its performance as compared with other popular non Bt hybrids is not better.
- The staple length of Bt cotton hybrids is short compared with other popular hybrids.
- The Bt cotton hybrid shows more susceptibility to wilting under heavy rains compared to other popular varieties.

Gujarat:

- farmers who cultivated the Hybrid cotton Bt. Mech-184 complained of wilt in the cotton crop during Kharif, 2002.
- Bt. Mech-162 was also found to be vulnerable to boll worm menace.
- Bt. Mech-12 was found to susceptible to sucking pest.

ANNEXURE-II

Details regarding extent of loss to Bt cotton crop as a result of bollworm as reported by the State Governments.

Andhra Pradesh:

- incidence of bollworm was less during the year, hence advantage of Bt cotton could not be assessed correctly.

Karnataka:

- the incidence of Bollworm in Bt cotton is less compared to other hybrids.

Tamil Nadu:

- less incidence of Bollworm.

Madhya Pradesh:

- Less incidence of bollworm.

Maharashtra:

- Bollworm infestation between 5-7% in Bt cotton and 7-12% in non Bt cotton.

Gujarat:

- Bt. Mech-162 found to be vulnerable to boll worm menace.