

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:297
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
COTTON PROJECT FINANCED BY NETHERLAND
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have started any Central Cotton Project with the technological and financial assistance provided by the Government of Netherland;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to allow subsidy in export of cotton so as to percolate the benefit of the above project to the cotton growing farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of cotton growing farmers of the above States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 297 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th AUGUST, 2004.

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However, a project titled ` Popularisation of bio-agent production and use as a part of Integrated Pest Development (IPM) in cluster villages of Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar districts ` is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh with the financial assistance of Netherland Government since 2001-02. The major crops covered under the project are Groundnut, Castor, Redgram and Cotton. The total outlay of the project is Rs. 62.53 lakhs. The main objective of the scheme is to create awareness among farmers and rural youths on the use of bio-agents to control pests and diseases and to reduce pesticide consumption and thereby improve quality of crop through sustainable agriculture and to reduce the cost of cultivation.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Question does not arise.

(e): To safeguard the interest of the cotton growing farmers in the country, a number of steps are being taken by the Government which include implementation of Technology Mission on Cotton for increasing production, productivity and improving quality of cotton; announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to ensure remunerative price of cotton to the farmers; procurement of cotton under Price Support Scheme, if market price of cotton fall below MSP; ensuring availability of credit and other inputs required for cotton cultivation; providing crop insurance to cotton against natural calamities under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme and removal of restrictions on the export of cotton.