

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2420

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008

IMPORT OF COTTON

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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated requirement of cotton in Textile Industry particularly in the handloom sector at present sector-wise;
- (b) whether cotton is being imported every year in large quantities due to low yields and inferior quality of the cotton grown in the country;
- (c) if so, the whether the quantum of import has increased over the year;
- (d) if so, whether efforts have been made for cutting the costs of cotton by increasing its yield and enhancing the quality to bring it to the international standards; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a): The estimated requirement of cotton in textile industry is enclosed at Annexure-I. As far as Handloom sector is concerned, requirement is approximately, 24.5 lakh bales per annum.

(b) & (c): No Sir. Cotton to the extent of 5 to 6 lakh bales is imported in the country mainly in Extra Long Staple (ELS) varieties of cotton which are already in short supply in the country. This is not a large quantity in view of the domestic production at around 280 lakh bales. Import figures of cotton is as under:-

Cotton Year (Oct-Sept)	Import Quantity (in lakh bales of 170 kg each)
2002-2003	17.67
2003-2004	07.21
2004-2005	12.17
2005-2006	05.00
2006-2007	05.53
2007-08 (P)	06.50

As per CAB estimated in its last meeting held on 11/01/2008.

(P) - Provisional

(d) & (e): The Government of India launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) in February, 2000 during 9th Five Year Plan, with the objective of improvement in the production, productivity and quality of cotton and reduction in cost of cultivation, in order to provide abundant supply of good quality cotton at competitive prices to the textile industry and to provide a remunerative return to the farmers. The Mission comprises four Mini Missions, which are jointly being implemented by the Ministries of Agriculture and Textiles. Research and Development on cotton and dissemination of technology to farmers are being undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture through Mini Missions I and II respectively. Improvement in Marketing Infrastructure and the Modernization of Ginning & Pressing factories are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles (Cotton Corporation of India) through Mini Mission III & IV respectively. TMC has improved production and productivity of cotton in various states in the country as given in Annexure-II.