

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1850
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010
DECREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF BT. COTTON
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether productivity of Bt. Cotton has decreased after the first three years of its introduction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to make an assessment in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): No, Madam. The area under Bt. Cotton has increased from 29,000 hectares in 2002-03 to 80,00,000 hectares (anticipated) in 2009-10. The average yield of Bt Cotton has also increased from 300 kg per hectare in 2001-02 to 560 kg per hectare in 2007-08. Cultivation of Bt Cotton has resulted in 31% increase in yield, 39% reduction in pesticide usage and more than 80% increase in profitability of farmers (ISAAA 2009).

(b): Question does not arise.

(c) & (d): The Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has been conducting detailed studies at the State level in collaboration with the State Agricultural Universities of the 9 major cotton growing States. Information so far collected indicates that yields have increased in these cotton growing states with the introduction of Bt. Cotton. Bollworms menace in cotton has significantly reduced all over the country and there is a reduction in market share of insecticides used in Cotton.