

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:305  
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010  
BT. COTTON  
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether farmers and agricultural workers working in the Bt. Cotton fields are experiencing certain kind of skin problems in some parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether successive cultivation of the Bt. Cotton on the same fields decreases yields of cotton and other crops in these regions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether Bt. Cotton farming in water scare areas like Vidharbha has failed because of requirement of more quantity of urea in comparison to non-Bt. Cotton plantation;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether the farmers who wanted to grow non-Bt. Cotton in these areas could not do so as sale of non-Bt. Cotton seeds have been wiped out from the market; and
- (h) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**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) & (b): No, Madam. This Ministry is not aware about any kind of skin problem to the farmers and agricultural workers in Bt. cotton fields.
- (c) & (d): Successive cultivation of the Bt cotton on the same field may decrease yield of cotton due to insufficient nutrient supply. Bt. cotton farmers are being advised to adopt proper nutrient management including micronutrients, inter-cropping with pulses, adopting crop rotation, maintaining soil health etc. through Front Line Demonstrations, Farmer's training and Farmer's Field School. These activities are implemented through Mini Mission II of Technology Mission on Cotton (MM II of TMC).
- (e) & (f): Vidharbha region of Maharastra being a drought prone area Bt. cotton varieties are not performing well as compared to irrigated conditions. There is less scope to apply nutrients under rainfed conditions. But recently, Government is giving importance to create farm and community ponds for providing protective irrigation, installation of drip system, soil moisture conservation practices through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for increasing production and productivity in Vidharbha region.
- (g) & (h): Based on available information there is no shortage of seeds in the country in the current Kharif season.