

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:367
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011
PRODUCTION OF COTTON
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been launched to increase production, productivity and improve the quality of cotton;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the cotton growing farmers are facing difficulties in various States including Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh due to the higher production cost of cotton, low minimum support price and import of cotton;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is considering to increase the minimum support price of cotton and also to enhance import duty on cotton; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.367 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.08.2011.

(a): Yes Madam, in order to improve the production, productivity and quality of Cotton in the country, Government on February 19, 2000 launched a centrally sponsored scheme called the Technology Mission on Cotton which has four Mini Missions (MMs). Mini Mission I on Generation of Cotton Research and Technology is implemented by Department of Agricultural Research; Mini Mission II on Transfer of Technology and Development is implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation; Mini Mission III on Development of Market Yards and Mini Mission IV on Modernization and Upgradation of Ginning and Pressing Factories are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles with Cotton Corporation of India as the implementation agency.

(b): The objectives of Mini Mission I are development of short duration, disease and pest resistant varieties, improved water and nutrient practices and development of integrated pest management technology. The objectives of Mini Mission II are technology transfer through crop demonstrations, training of extension workers, supply of certified seeds and accelerated pest management practices. The objectives of Mini Mission III are improvement of marketing infrastructure through setting up of new market yards and improvement/ activation of existing market yards. The objectives of Mini Mission IV are modernization and technological upgradation of existing ginning and pressing factories to improve processing of cotton.

The vision of the Technology Mission on Cotton was to increase cotton production by about 50 percent from an area of 90 lac hectares by producing globally competitive clean high quality cotton for domestic consumption and value added export. During the period of implementation of the Technology Mission on Cotton, cotton production increased from 95.24 lac bales in 2000-01 to 325 lac bales in 2010-11 and area under cultivation in 2011-12 is expected to reach 120 lac hectares with India's cotton exports increasing from 0.84 lac bales in 2000-01 to 80 lac bales in 2010-11. 250 market yards were taken up under Mini Mission III and 1011 Ginning and Pressing Factories were taken up for technological upgradation under Mini Mission IV.

(c): No Madam. Government has not received any representation from farmers associations/State Governments including Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh of the cotton growing States regarding any difficulties being faced by the farmers due to high production costs of cotton, low MSP and import of cotton. During the cotton season 2010-11 the prices of seed kapas were significantly above the MSP fixed for various classes of seed kapas. India imports only 5 lac bales of cotton which has no impact on domestic cotton prices.

(d) & (e): For cotton season 2011-12, Government has announced the MSP prices for medium staple cotton as Rs. 3000/ quintal and for Long Staple cotton as Rs.3300/ quintal. A duty on cotton import is not under consideration of Government.