

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:94
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
PRICES OF COTTON SEEDS
Pathak Shri Harin;Patil Shri C. R.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether re-introduction of cotton seeds in the list of Essential Commodities has been beneficial to the cotton producing farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to deregulate the prices of cotton seeds;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of cotton growers especially those cultivating Bt. cotton in the country?

Answer

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. 94 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH MARCH, 2012.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Cotton seed has been re-introduced in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by Notifications issued by Department of Consumer Affairs on 22.12.2009, 18.06.2010 and 22.12.2010 to protect the interest of cotton producing farmers by regulating the production, supply, distribution and quality of cotton seeds. This inclusion also acts as a deterrent for seed dealers against selling spurious cotton seeds to farmers and useful in strengthening the cotton seed quality regulation.

(c) & (d): There is no provision for regulating price of seeds including cotton seeds under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. Although seed is an essential commodity in terms of the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, the same is for the purpose of quality regulation and not for the purpose of regulating the price of seeds.

(e): The Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968, the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms / Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989 have adequate provisions to safeguard the interest of cotton growers including Bt. Cotton growers. Some of the important steps take to safeguard the interest of Bt. Cotton growers are as under:

(i) Complete safety assessment is undertaken by Ministry of Environment and Forests through Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) before considering release of Bt. Cotton varieties.

(ii) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has prescribed minimum limits of purity in respect of Bt. Cotton seed under Section 6 of the Seeds Act, 1966 and notified the laboratory of Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur as referral laboratory for testing the Bt. Cotton seeds.

(iii) The Ministry of Environment & Forests empowered the Seed Inspectors notified under Section 13 of the Seeds Act, 1966 and clause 12 of the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 to draw the seed samples of Bt. cotton seeds under Section 10 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to test in the notified seed testing laboratories for checking the quality of Bt. Cotton seed.