

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3083
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
ASSISTANCE TO COTTON FARMERS
Abdulrahman Shri ;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of farmers and labourers engaged in the cultivation of cotton in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the farmers in the country are resorting to overuse of chemicals in order to produce more cotton and are becoming victims of deadly diseases;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government has extended any assistance to the State Governments in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a): The statement showing total number of farmers engaged in the cultivation of cotton in the country, state-wise is annexed.
- (b) & (c): No, Madam. Due to use of Bt. cotton seeds, farmers have reduced the use of insecticides substantially resulting in reduction of cost of inputs and high returns in cotton cultivation. As per Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur, the cotton farmers in the country are using fewer sprays of chemicals for controlling sucking pests and bollworms than what was used, prior to introduction of Bt. Cotton.
- (d) to (f): In view of low yields and poor lint quality of cotton as compared to many other countries, the Government of India launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The TMC became operational since 2000-2001. The aim of the Mission is to increase production, productivity and improve the quality of cotton. The Technology Mission on Cotton consists of Four Mini-Missions. Mini-Missions-II is for enhancing production and productivity of cotton crops. An amount of Rs.15.00 crores as Central Share has been allocated under Mini Mission-II.