

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5244

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012

BT. COTTON CULTIVATION

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cotton farmers are facing crisis since shifting to Bt. cotton cultivation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the production of Bt. cotton has reduced during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor indicating the impact of pest attacks;
- (e) whether the cost of cotton production has gone up due to rising cost of pesticides; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to address the above issue?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. In fact, due to farmers' preference to cultivating Bt. cotton, the area under Bt. cotton has increased from 0.29 lakh Ha. in 2002-03 to 111.23 lakh Ha. in 2011-12. The total production has also increased from 86.24 lakh bales # in 2002-03 to 352 lakh bales (estimated) in 2011-12 (Source-DOCD).

(# Lakh bales of 170 kgs.each)

(Source – Third Advance Estimates Directorate of Economics & Statistics)

(c) & (d): No, Madam. On the contrary, the cotton production in the country has increased during the last three years as is evident from the following table, giving year wise production.

| Year | Production (in lakh bales) |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 2009-10 | 240.22 |
| 2010-11 | 330.00 |
| 2011-12 | 352.00# |

(#Source - Third Advance Estimates Directorate of Economics & Statistics)

(e) & (f): The cost of production of cotton in India has shown an increase over a period of time and the figures for the last 3 years are as under:-

| Year | Cost of Production (Rs./ha) |
|------|--------------------------------|
|------|--------------------------------|

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 2008-09 | 24777# |
| 2009-10 | 26906## |
| 2010-11 | 30530## |

(Source #CACP, MoA,)

(##Compiled by CICR as collected under different projects.)

The cost of production includes cost of seed, fertilizer, human/animal/machine labour, irrigation, manure etc. including pesticides. The increase in the cost of production over a period of time cannot be attributable to pesticides alone. Further, as per CICR Nagpur, the biggest gain from the Bt. technology has been in the form of reduced insecticide usage in India from 46% in 2001 to less than 26%

after 2006 and 21% during the last two years.