

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7419
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
TECHNOLOGY MISSION ON COTTON
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to discontinue the technology mission on cotton in the XIth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to encourage intercropping of food crops; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): A proposal has been mooted for discontinuation of Mini Mission-II (MM-II) of Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) as 95% of the cotton area is now under Bt. Cotton resulting in increase in production and productivity of cotton and income of the farmers. Further, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) allows the freedom to the states to take up separate/state specific projects for enhancing yield and production and address problems, if any, concerning cotton.

(c) & (d): Yes, intercropping of food crops (Cereals, Pulses and Oil Seeds) is a common practice for achieving additional income, minimizing risk and better utilization of natural resources. This practice is encouraged by way of organizing Front Line Demonstration, Field Demonstrations and Training of Farmers.