

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:153

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

CULTIVATION OF BT. COTTON

Ponnam Shri Prabhakar; Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently conducted a study to assess the benefits of cultivation of Bt. Cotton over traditional cotton in the country;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) the production and the area under cultivation of Bt. Cotton and traditional cotton in the cotton growing States/UTs during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the road map of the Government for promotion of Bt. Cotton cultivation in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 153 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04/12/2012 REGARDING "CULTIVATION OF Bt. COTTON"

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. Recent studies conducted by Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) revealed that Bt cotton effectively controlled bollworms, thus preventing cotton yield losses from an estimated damage of 30-60% each year in India prior to introduction of Bt cotton. The biggest gain was in the form of reduced insecticide usage from 46% of the total application in the country in 2001 to less than 26% after 2006 and 21% during the last two years. The intensity of bollworms reduced significantly on cotton and also on other host crops, thus eliminating the fear of impending bollworm infestations and subsequent stress of using insecticide cocktails. The quality of Indian cotton improved with international acceptance because of negligible boll damage and fibre damage after introduction of Bt cotton.

(c) The details are furnished in Annexure-I.

(d) Insect Resistance Management strategies are being advocated for sustaining the efficacy and benefits of Bt cotton for longest possible time. Besides, dissemination of integrated nutrient management techniques including secondary and micronutrients, water management strategies including drip irrigation system, optimization of crop geometry and plant population of Bt cotton hybrids, technological backstopping for Bt detection kits to maintain trait purity of Bt seeds are other important aspects that are given importance for sustaining Bt cotton technology.