

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6433  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013  
STUDY ON BT. COTTON  
Karunakaran Shri P.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the impact of Bt. Cotton cultivation;
- (b) if so, the details of the findings thereof;
- (c) whether these findings are helpful in shedding new light on the issue; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Studies conducted by Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) showed that Bt cotton effectively controlled the dreaded insect pests viz., bollworms. Bt cotton cultivation prevented cotton yields losses that were noticed to an extent of 30-60% due to bollworms each year, prior to introduction of Bt cotton in 2002. 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 to 21% during the last three 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.

Cotton production in India has increased from 100 lakh bales in 2001-02 to 352 lakh bales in 2011-12 with significant improvement in crop productivity from 186 kg per hectare to 491 kg per hectare.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Introduction of Bt gene into the cotton hybrids has the added advantage of protection of early fruiting parts and a relatively determinate habit. The fibre quality of Indian cotton improved with international acceptance because of negligible boll and fibre damage, besides significant reduction in trash content after introduction of Bt cotton in the country. The country has achieved the distinction of net exporter of cotton with a record 129 lakh bales in 2012 due to record production.