

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:292
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013
PRICES OF COTTON SEEDS
Sardinha Shri Francisco

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on one hand, the Government has brought cotton seeds under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA) and at the same time, it wants to deregulate the cotton seeds prices;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is considering to make rules to regulate the prices of cotton seeds under the provisions of ECA;
- (c) if so, whether reintroduction of cotton seeds under the Essential Commodities Act is against the policies of reforms in the liberalised market led economy and World Trade Organisation obligations; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

- (a): Cotton seed has been brought under the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to protect the interest of cotton producing farmers by regulating the production, supply, distribution and quality of cotton seeds and not for regulating cotton seed price.
- (b): There is no such proposal with the Government at present.
- (c) & (d): Re-introduction of cotton seeds under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is only to regulate production, supply, distribution and quality of cotton seeds and not to regulate the prices of cotton seeds. Free and competitive market is expected to spur up production of quality cotton seeds in the market to enhance yield and production and therefore return to the farmers.