

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3790
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
BT. COTTON CULTIVATION
Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the estimated cotton production for the year 2013-14, State wise;
- (b) whether the Government has received any reports that the cultivation of Bt. cotton has affected the traditional cotton crops in various parts of the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to protect the interests of the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

- (a): State-wise details of estimated production of cotton during 2013-14 are given in the Annexure
- (b) & (c): The area under traditional cotton has declined due to extensive cultivation of Bt. Cotton in more than 93% of the cotton area of the country. However, as the yield in Bt. Cotton is almost stagnant for the last 3-4 years, efforts are being made to convince farmers to go for cultivation of traditional cotton by using latest technology i.e. High Density Plant System (HDPS).
- (d): Under Mini Mission – II of Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC), Government is encouraging farmers to boost up cotton production and reduce the cost of its cultivation by way of transfer of technology through Front Line Demonstrations, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and training activities, etc. Further, to ensure remunerative price to cotton growers in the country, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton has also been increased.