

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4283

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014

PRICES OF COTTON

Giri Shri Maheish;Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the textile industry is heading towards sickness due to ups and downs in the prices of cotton in the domestic market and the farmers have been affected due to decline in prices of cotton;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price of cotton for purchase from the farmers;
- (d) if so, whether the Government buys cotton from the middlemen as well apart from buying from farmers;
- (e) if so, the details of cotton procured from the middlemen and the farmers directly during the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the farmers, fix the MSP of cotton and to stabilize the prices of cotton in domestic market?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): The textile industry is not heading towards sickness due to ups and downs in the prices of cotton in the domestic market. The prices of lint cotton during the current season have been 13% to 30% lower than the prices of cotton from corresponding period in last year, thereby affecting the farmers.

(c) to (e): Yes Madam. Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton for the current cotton year 2014-15. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) purchases cotton from the farmers only under the MSP operations. The details of cotton procured by CCI from the farmers during the last three years and the current year are given below:-

Qty. in bales of 170kg each	
Cotton Season Procurement of Cotton	
under MSP By CCI	
2011-12	7696
2012-13	22,86,423
2013-14`	40,813
2014-15	24,93,400

As on 14th December, 2014

(f): The Government has taken various steps to safeguard the interests of farmers and to stabilize the prices of cotton in the market which includes fixation of Minimum Support Price, issued directives to CCI for undertaking necessary action for MSP Operations, giving particular attention to specific areas which include giving wide publicity of MSP of cotton fixed and details of procurement centres opened by CCI for MSP operations, opening of additional purchase centres as per requirement, constant monitoring of the operations in each centre on a daily basis by the CCI. Also, State Agencies, the District Magistrate and other State Government Officials, public representatives of the Panchayati Raj bodies and Honble Members of Parliament have been requested to provide active support for the smooth carrying of the MSP operations.