

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3734

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014

PROBLEMS OF COTTON GROWERS

Chauhan Shri Devusinh Jesingbhai;Innocent Shri ;Mukherjee Shri Abhijit;Patel Smt. Jayshreeben ;Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna;Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai;Tadas Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cotton growers in the country including Gujarat and West Bengal are facing difficulties due to high production cost and low Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the impact of MSP on demand of cotton in the country;
- (c) whether targets set to increase the productivity of cotton and to meet the demand of cotton have been achieved in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of funds/incentives/ assistance provided to the cotton growers for the promotion of cotton cultivation in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (e) whether the funds allocated for the promotion of cotton cultivation under the Integrated Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is insufficient and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the remedial measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to address the problem of cotton growers and improve the production and productivity of cotton in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): The Government of India fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for certain agricultural commodities including Raw Cotton on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. The CACP, while recommending MSP considers all the relevant factors including the overall demand-supply situation, cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, inter-crop price parity, effect on general price level, etc.

Accordingly, for 2014-15 season, weighted average cost of production of cotton at all-India level was estimated at Rs. 3479.84 per quintal. Against this cost, Government has fixed the MSP for 2014-15 season at Rs. 3750 per quintal for medium staple length and Rs. 4050 per quintal for long staple length. This provides growers adequate margin over and above the cost of production.

(c): The production of Cotton has been estimated at 365 lakh bales for the year 2013-14, which is more than the target of 350 lakh bales set for the year.

(d) to (f): The objective of increasing the production of cotton in the country has been achieved by implementation of Mini Mission –II of Technology on cotton. Under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton, assistance is given for production and distribution of seeds, field demonstrations, farmers trainings, through Farmers Field School, use of water saving devices and integrated pest management etc.

To encourage the farmers to use improved technology for cultivation of cotton, Cotton Development Programme is being implemented under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in major Cotton growing States including Gujarat and West Bengal from 2014-15. Under National Food Security Mission , assistance is provided for Front Line Demonstration on High Density Planting System (HDPS), Intercropping, Extra long Staple (ELS) / Desi Cotton besides programme on Insecticides Resistance Management (IRM) and Online Pest Monitoring and Advisory Services (OPMAS). To extend technical assistance and the benefits to the farmers, the programme is implemented through the State Department of Agriculture, ICAR, SAUs, KVKs etc.,

The details of state-wise financial incentives/assistance given to cotton growers for last three years and current year is given in Annexure-I and II.