

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:221

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014

CULTIVATION OF COTTON

Patil Shri Chandrakant Raghunath;Rajoria Dr. Manoj

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production of Bt. cotton/traditional cotton during the last three years and the current year and the technological, financial and institutional assistance provided to the farmers for the cultivation of cotton in the country;
- (b) whether there are reports of distress sale of cotton by the farmers in various parts of the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the distress sale of cotton in the country;
- (d) the details of Centres for Cotton Excellence (CCE) set up in the country including Gujarat for improving the quality of cotton seeds and to boost the production of cotton across the country; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken any special steps to bring more area under the Bt. cotton and traditional cotton crops in the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 221 DUE FOR REPLY ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2014.

(a): It is estimated that more than 90% of the area under cotton cultivation in the country is under Bt. Cotton. Data on production of Bt. Cotton and traditional cotton are not maintained separately. Details of overall cotton production in the country during the last three years and current year i.e. 2011-12 to 2014-15 are as under:

| Year | Production of Cotton (Lakh bales of 170 kg. each) |
|----------|---|
| 2011-12 | 352.00 |
| 2012-13 | 342.20 |
| 2013-14 | 366.70 |
| 2014-15# | 346.23 |

#Fourth Advance Estimates # First Advance Estimates

Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) was introduced in the country in February, 2000 with the objective of increasing production & productivity and improving the quality of cotton. Mini Mission-I, implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), dealt with research and technology. Mini Mission-II for enhancing production and productivity of cotton was implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Mini Mission-III on development of market infrastructure and Mini Mission-IV on modernization of ginning/pressing factories were implemented by Ministry of Textiles.

Under Mini Mission-II, assistance was made available for production and distribution of seeds, field demonstrations, farmers' training, use of water saving devices, integrated pest management, etc. In 2014-15, Mini Mission-II of TMC has been subsumed under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Commercial Crops Programme and is being implemented by adopting cropping system approach. Under the above Sub-scheme, assistance is provided for trials on High Density Planting System (HDPS), Frontline demonstrations on Inter-cropping, Extra Long Staple (ELS)/Desi Cotton, besides programme on Insecticides Resistance Management (IRM) and Online Pest Monitoring & Advisory Services (OPMAS). To extend technical assistance and benefits to farmers, these interventions are implemented through State Departments of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), etc.

(b) & (c): Prices of cotton in most cotton producing states have declined during the current season i.e. 2014-15, mainly on account of worldwide cotton glut resulting in lower exports. However, to ensure remunerative price to cotton growers and avoid distress sale by farmers, Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is undertaking price support operations through more than 340 centres located in 92

districts of 11 cotton growing States of the country. CCI is procuring entire quantity of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) grade kapas offered by farmers in notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) yards without any quantitative limit.

(d): The Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) and Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are dedicated institutes for research and technology development on cotton. Besides, the ICAR has 22 Research Centres established in 17 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) under All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on cotton. These Centres are engaged in development of technologies for enhancing cotton production.

(e): Government is providing support to cotton growers including growers of Bt. Cotton under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Commercial Crops Programme.