

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1551

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014

AREA UNDER COTTON CULTIVATION

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the area under cultivation of cotton has substantially increased in the country over the years;
- (b) if so, the details of increase in acreage of cotton during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether ban imposed on import of cotton by the China has adversely affected the cotton growers in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the cotton growers and bail them out from committing suicide?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Total area under cotton in the country has increased from 94.07 lakh hectares in 2008-09 to 124.06 lakh hectares in 2014-15 (1st Advance Estimates). State-wise details of area under cotton during the last three years and the current year along with increase/decrease in the area coverage are given in the Annexure.

(c) to (e): The demand for Cotton in international market is sliding, which can be largely linked to China's cotton policy, as China constitutes about 60% share of the India's cotton exports. According to International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), while China imported much of the surplus cotton in the last three seasons, this season China may slash its import quota to help reduce the large Government held cotton stocks.

In order to ensure remunerative price to cotton growers in the country, Government of India has fixed higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton for 2014-15.

Government has also designated Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) and National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation (NAFED) for procurement of cotton under MSP operations. The CCI and NAFED undertake price support operations, whenever the market prices of kapas touch the Minimum Support Prices announced by the Government, without any quantitative limit. Thus, the cotton farmers in the country are assured of better remuneration for their produce. To avoid distress sale by farmers, the CCI has opened sufficient number of centers all over the country to cover maximum cotton arrivals in the market till the end of cotton season and disseminated information on procurement arrangements through advertisement, banners etc.