

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1600  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014  
REGULATION OF COTTON SEEDS PRICES ACT  
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that on one hand Government has brought Cotton Seeds under Essential Commodities Act and at the same time it proposes to deregulate the cotton seeds prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this move of the Government will only help private seeds companies to take undue advantage;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is considering to make rules to regulate the prices of cotton seeds under the provisions of ECA;
- (e) if so, whether reintroduction of cotton seeds under the Essential Commodities Act is not against the policies of reforms, liberalization, market led economy and WTO obligations;
- (f) if so, whether the Union Government is considering to empower States to regulate the supply, distribution, sale and price of Bt. cotton seeds to safeguard the interest of farmers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

- (a) & (b): Cotton seed was brought under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA, 1955) vide notification issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs on 22.12.2009, 18.06.2010 and 22.12.2010 to protect the interest of cotton producing farmers by regulating the production, supply, distribution and quality of cotton seeds to strengthen the cotton seed quality regulation and acts as a deterrent against sale of spurious cotton seeds. This inclusion under ECA 1955 does not provide for any price regulation of cotton seeds.
- (c): No, Madam.
- (d): At present, there is no such proposal with the Government.
- (e): The reintroduction of cotton seeds under the ECA, 1955 does not regulate the prices of cotton seeds and is not against the policies of reforms, liberalization, market led economy and WTO obligations.
- (f) & (g): No, Madam.