

Title: Need to look into the problems being faced by cotton growers in the country-Laid.

DR. KIRIT PREMJI BHAI SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD WEST): The Centre's move to curb the export of cotton in the name of promoting India's cotton textile sector is anti-farmer and against the interest of Gujarat State's cotton growers and farmers. The price of raw cotton in market has already gone down, much to the detriment of farmers of Gujarat. Gujarat produces almost one third of production of cotton in India, it was 40 lakh bales in 2008 and 98 lakh bales in 2009.

After Ahmedabad lost its status of being Manchester of East with collapse of composite textile mills, most of cotton produced here has the tendency to go out of the State and abroad. Gujarat's cotton currently goes to China, Thailand, Indonesia, Turkey and other foreign countries. Farmers are getting an excellent price for their produce. However, on 9 April an export duty of Rs. 2500 per ton has been imposed and thereafter on 29 April cotton exports has been stopped.

Already because of export curb, the price of cotton has gone down from Rs. 710 per 20 Kg to Rs. 675 per 20 Kg and there are no buyers. The estimated loss is about Rs. 1500 crore to Gujarat's farmers. This would lead to desperation among the farmers and it would force them to commit suicide. I appeal to lift the ban on cotton export immediately.