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Title: Need to increase the Minimum Support Price of cotton in Maharashtra.

DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE (BEED): Cotton is one of the most important fibers and a cash crop of India. It plays a dominant role in the industrial and agricultural economy. Six million farmers and about 40 to 50 million people are engaged in the cotton trade. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu are the major cotton producing States.

Maharashtra has witnessed a large number of suicides by cotton farmers over the past few years including a significant number of cotton growers especially from Maharashtra region due to heavy loss and fall in prices.

Due to higher cost of inputs like labour, pesticides, transportation, shortage of electricity and water scarcity, the cost of production of one quintal cotton is between Rs.5000 and 5050, but the Government pays Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs.3750.

To prevent suicides of cotton growers in Maharashtra the Government should, therefore, stop buying cotton from outsiders and also increase the MSP of cotton.