

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5848
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD APRIL, 2018

AREA UNDER CULTIVATION OF BT COTTON

5848. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bt cotton crop area has declined this year for the first time since the year 2006 in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Monsanto's refusal to bring in new varieties of Bt cotton seeds is considered as a reason for decline in cotton crop area;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) or other research institutes are working on any variety of domestic Bt cotton seed and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the likely impact of the decline in cotton crop area on domestic requirement and export?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): No, Madam. The area estimated under Bt. Cotton was 34.61 lakh ha in 2006-07 which increased to 110.75 lakh ha in 2017-18. The total area under cotton has increased from 108.26 lakh ha in 2016-17 to 124.34 lakh ha in 2017-18 (2nd advance estimates)

(e): In 2016-17, Bt cotton cultures were tested at 18 locations. Based on the results of this multi-location trial conducted at the centers of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Cotton, 8 Bt-cotton varieties viz, CICR Bt-6 (RS 2013), ICAR-CICR Bt 9, ICAR-CICR Bt 14 (CPT 2), ICAR-CICR GJHV 374 Bt, ICAR-CICR PKV 081 Bt, ICAR-CICR Rajat Bt, ICAR-CICR Suraj Bt, PAU-1 were approved for commercial cultivation in 2017. Seeds of these varieties are being multiplied to make them available to farmers at reduced cost.

During 2017-18, 17 Bt cultures developed by various State Agriculture Universities (SAU's)/ ICAR institutes are being evaluated under multi-location trials under the AICRP on Cotton.

(f): As per the second advance estimate for 2017-18, the production of cotton is 339.15 lakh bales. Hence, no decline in cotton supply to domestic market / export is foreseen.
