

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2598  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003  
IMPORT OF COTTON  
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

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

- (a) whether the import of cotton from various countries particularly from USA have been on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years indicating the foreign exchange involved and price paid per unit as against the price paid to the Indian farmers for equivalent quality;
- (c) whether the area under cotton has been on the decrease for the last few years and the production has remained stagnant;
- (d) whether the farmers are shying away from cotton because of poor returns due to heavy imports; and
- (e) if so, the corrective steps taken/ proposed to be taken to protect the interest of farmers?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL))

(a) & (b) In recent time the textile mills have imported cotton of desired quality parameters to meet their requirements. Import of cotton during the last three years and the foreign exchange involved are as under:

(Quantity: in Ton Value: in Crore Rupees)

YEAR (April-March)	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	Quantity Value	Quantity Value	Quantity Value
Total Import	2,12,361 1,185	3,87,039 2,054	2,01,315 1,041
From USA	14,080 91	1,41,613 646	66,798 331

(Source: Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: DGCI&S, Kolkata.)

Price of cotton differs from variety to variety and also depends upon various quality parameters. The landed price (weighted average) of imported cotton was higher than the weighted average price of domestic cotton.

(c) Area under cotton cultivation and production during the last few years are as under:

Area : In lakh hectares  
Production : In lakh bales of 170 kg each

1999-2000 2000-01 2001-02 2002-03 (Provisional)

Area	87.31	85.76	87.30	75.72
Production	156	140	158	136

Source: Cotton Advisory Board

(d) There is no long-term perceptible shift from cultivation of cotton in favour of other crops. Seasonal and short-term indicators in this regard need to be analysed against the secular trend over the long run. However, it is pertinent to mention that the cotton growers are

assured of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) through support price operations as and when the market price touches the MSP level.

(e) Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to improve the productivity and quality of cotton. Bt. Cotton has been permitted for commercial cultivation to reduce cost of cultivation on account of its pest resistance quality. With a view to reduce the uncertainty in income of cotton growers and to provide organic linkages between the growers and the industry, Government is facilitating popularization of integrated cotton cultivation.