

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:315
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2003
REDUCTION IN THE PRICE OF BT COTTON SEED
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the company which was given permission for sale of Bt. Cotton seeds has reduced its price from Rs.1600 per packet of 450 gm to Rs.1200 per packet in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government propose to discourage the use of Bt. Cotton Seeds in States where Crop failure has been reported; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

(a)&(b): No, Sir.

(c)&(d): The Committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests found the performance of Bt. cotton to be satisfactory. Reports received from the States also indicate that the incidence of boll worm has been less in Bt. cotton in comparison to non Bt. cotton resulting in reduced requirement of pesticide spray. The hybrids have, however shown susceptibility to wilting and sucking pests in some States which has been attributed to stress due to sudden rainfall/irrigation after prolonged dry spell.