

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:574  
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000  
PROBLEMS OF COTTON GROWERS  
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

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

- (a) whether the cotton growers of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other States are facing problems relating to either excess of production of cotton or less production during the last three years;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have failed to provide timely help and assistance to the cotton growers, as a result of which they are committing suicide;
- (c) if so, whether Government are considering to make a concrete policy to help the cotton growers both at the time of over production or at the time of less production; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a): A statement showing the production of cotton in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other States during last three years is Annexed. It may be seen from the Table that for the country as a whole the production of cotton has been ranging between approximately 11 million bales to 12 million bales during the last three years. This position is confirmed state wise also excepting for the state of Maharashtra where the production of cotton increased from 1.7 million bales in 1997-98 to 3.1 million bales in 1999-2000. Thus there has not been any major failure of crop in the country which could result in losses to the cotton growers. An increase in cotton production only benefits the growers as their overall income stands to increase.

(b) to (d): The Government have taken the following steps to assist the cotton growers:-

(i) Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for kapas during each cotton season after taking into consideration various factors which include a reasonable margin of profit to the farmers. The Cotton Corporation of India, the Government Agency for minimum support price operation, makes purchases under support price operation without any quantitative limit as and when the market price of any variety touches the MSP level, to prevent distress sale by cotton growers.

(ii) Government of India releases liberal export quota of cotton each season in favour of different agencies, in phases, to ensure remunerative price.

(iii) To increase production, productivity and quality of cotton in the country and thereby to increase the overall income of cotton growers by reducing the cost of cotton cultivation apart from increasing the yield per hectare by proper transfer of technology etc. the Government has launched the Technology Missions on cotton.

(iv) The Government has introduced National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) from Rabi 1999-2000 to cover both loanee and non-loanee farmers. NAIS which covers cotton crop also is presently being implemented by 14 States and 2 UTs which include the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(v) Provision has also been made for easy availability of credit at reduced rates of interest, particularly to small and marginal farmers, in case of crop failure in specific areas of the States.

(vi) The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), the public sector organisation concerned with cotton, has been rendering suitable assistance to cotton growers through

- (a) sale of good quality seeds at subsidised rates,
- (b) village adoption programme and
- (c) sale of quality inputs like genuine pesticides, etc.

ANNEXURE

ESTIMATES OF PRODUCTION OF COTTON DURING 1997-98, 1998-99 AND 1999-2000.

(In Thousand Bales of 170 kg each)

STATE/U.T. 1997-98 1998-99 1999-2000  
(Advanced Estimates)+

ANDHRA PRADESH	1320.4	1486.6	1595.0
ASSAM	0.8	0.7	
BIHAR	0.2	0.0	
GUJARAT	3180.0	3935.0	2163.0
HARYANA	1129.0	873.0	1309.0
HIMACHAL PRADESH	0.2	0.0	
JAMMU & KASHMIR	0.0	0.0	
KARNATAKA	721.0	855.0	838.0
KERALA	20.0	19.0	23.0
MADHYA PRADESH	508.9	426.3	457.0
MAHARASHTRA	1753.1	2618.9	3126.0
MANIPUR	0.2	0.2	
MEGHALAYA	5.6	5.6	
MIZORAM	2.5	2.9	
NAGALAND	0.3	0.4	
ORISSA	36.0	50.0	61.0
PUNJAB	937.0	595.0	950.0
RAJASTHAN	867.5	872.0	984.0
TAMILNADU	358.0	429.5	459.0
TRIPURA	1.2	0.9	
UTTAR PRADESH	8.3	5.8	10.0
WEST BENGAL	0.5	0.1	
PONDICHERY	0.7	0.6	
OTHERS	0.0	0.0	13.0

ALL INDIA 10851.4 12177.5 11988.0

+ As on 29.06.2000.