

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:286
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
TECHNOLOGY MISSION FOR COTTON PRODUCTION
NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Technology Mission launched for increasing cotton production and also to safeguard the interests of cotton growers;
- (b) the measures taken by the Government for encouraging farmers to take up cotton cultivation and the total hectares of land brought under cotton cultivation during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that spurious cotton seeds are being supplied to farmers, due to which farmers are incurring huge losses in terms of low yield and pesticide attack; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to curb supply of spurious cotton seeds and make quality seeds available to farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LC SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 286 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2003.

(a)&(b): The Government of India had launched a Technology Mission on Cotton in February, 2000 to increase the production, productivity and improve quality of cotton. It consists of four mini missions, Mini-Mission-I is implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for research and generation of technology. ICAR through State Agriculture Universities and its Institutions are generating new location specific technologies for cotton production. Mini Mission-II is implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation through State Departments of Agriculture in thirteen cotton growing States for increasing production and productivity through transfer of technology and supply of critical inputs, Mini Mission-III and IV are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles. Mini Mission-III is meant for the development of market infrastructure like construction of market yards, auction centres, grading facilities, laboratories for testing of cotton quality etc. and Mini Mission-IV is devoted to modernisation of ginning and pressing factories.

To encourage the farmers to take up cotton cultivation, assistance is provided under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton for the supply of critical inputs like quality seeds, sprayers, sprinkler and drip irrigation system, bio-agents, pheromone traps etc. In order to disseminate production and plant protection technologies, field demonstrations and training of farmers/extension workers/dealers by the State Governments and front line demonstrations by Indian Council of Agricultural Research are organised. Besides, assistance is also provided for the establishment of bio-agent production units and setting up of seed de-linting plants. To safeguard the interests of farmers from exploitation by input supply agencies, certified seed of released cotton cultivars, promotion of Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Nutrient Management and training are done through Department of Agriculture of cotton growing States. Efforts are, thus, continuously being made to enhance productivity (per unit production) of quality cotton. Technology Mission on Cotton is aimed at vertical growth of cotton.

During the last three years, the total area covered under cotton in the country is given below:-

Year	Area (in 000 ha)
2000-01	8534.60
2001-02	9097.20
2002-03	7476.00 (Provisional)

(c)&(d): The State Governments have been advised from time to time to take stringent action against the erring seed dealers involved in spurious seed supplies. The States have also been advised to gear up their enforcement machineries and take penal action as per the provision of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the Seed Act 1966 and Seed (Control) Order 1983. A number of Seed Testing Laboratories have been set up to create seed testing facilities in the States. Assistance is provided under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton for the production of breeder, foundation as well as production and distribution of certified seeds.