

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:77
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
IMPORT OF COTTON
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cotton is being imported every year in large quantities due to low yields and inferior quality of the cotton grown in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the quantum of import has increased over the years;
- (c) if so, whether efforts have been made for cutting the costs of cotton by increasing its yield and enhancing the quality to bring it to the international standards; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 77 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 2005.

(a) to (d): There has been no clear trend in the imports of cotton into the country over the last few years as is evident from the data given below:

| Year | Quantity (thousand tonnes) | Value (Rs. in crores) |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2000-01 | 212.36 | 1184.73 |
| 2001-02 | 387.04 | 2053.62 |
| 2002-03 | 233.85 | 1237.61 |
| 2003-04 | 252.98 | 1570.01 |
| 2004-05 (P) | 183.06 | 1099.60 |

Source - DGCIS

P - Provisional

The imports of cotton reached a high at 387.04 thousand tonnes in the year 2001-02. Subsequently, there was a decline to 233.85 thousand tonnes in 2002-03, and 183.06 thousand tonnes during 2004-05.

Since February 2000, Government is implementing a Technology Mission on Cotton in order to increase production, productivity and improve the quality of cotton in the country.

The mission integrates various aspects of cotton development i.e. research, extension, crop protection technologies, developmental programmes for increasing production and productivity, development of marketing infrastructure and upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories.

Under the mission, assistance is provided for critical inputs, pest management, dissemination of crop production and protection technologies, popularization of micro-irrigation, training of farmers, construction of marketing facilities, setting up of quality testing laboratories and upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories to enhance production, productivity and quality of cotton.