

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1841
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
PACKAGE FOR COTTON PRODUCTION
Athithan Shri Dhanuskodi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to provide special package to cotton producers with a view to boost the production of cotton in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to dissuade cotton producing farmers from taking the extreme step of suicide?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a)&(b): In order to improve production, productivity and quality of cotton in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton is under implementation in 13 States viz; Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Under the scheme, assistance is provided to above mentioned States/other implementing agencies for the production and supply of certified seeds of varieties/hybrids not older than 15 years, transfer to technology through frontline demonstrations, training of farmers through Farmers Field School (FFS) and extension workers, insecticide resistance management, maintenance of nucleus and breeder seeds, plant protection measures including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations, supply of sprayers, pheromone traps, bio-agents as well as water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation system.

(c): Government have taken several steps to provide relief to the farmers. The banks have been advised to rescheduled/restructure the debt of farmers in distress, grant one time settlement facility for setting overdue loans of small and marginal farmers and to advance loans to the farmers for repaying the loans taken from non-institutional sources. The farmers are also protected against natural calamities through National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. Further, to protect the interest of the cotton growers, Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton every year and whenever the market prices of Kapas touch the Minimum Support Price level, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) in the Ministry of Textiles undertakes support price operation and purchases Kapas without any quantitative limit. In addition, Government of India have also authorized the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) in 2004-05 to procure cotton at Minimum Support Price.