

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TEXTILES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:353  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2005  
LONG STAPLE COTTON PRODUCTION  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the country's cotton textile industry is looking up to research institutes and cotton seed producers for developing new varieties of extra long staple cotton to improve availability of fine quality cotton;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the cotton production has declined sharply;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is importing cotton from the US and Egypt; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost extra long staple cotton production in country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TEXTILES ( SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 353 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2005

(a): Yes Sir.

(b) & (e): With a view to improve the production, productivity and yield of cotton, the Government of India had set up Technology Mission on Cotton. Under Mini Mission - I and II of the TMC, for which the ICAR and the Ministry of Agriculture are the Implementing agencies, efforts have been made for development of new high yielding varieties, including extra long staple cotton. Efforts have also been made to enhance availability of quality seeds, training and demonstration of FFS mode and popularization of Integrated Pest Management which would help the cotton farmers of extra long staple varieties to increase the production and productivity of ELS varieties.

(c) & (d): The overall cotton production in the country has increased during the previous years. The level of production during the cotton season 2004-05 was a record bumper crop. The figures of cotton production of last three years are given below:-

Cotton season (Oct.-Sept.) Quantity in lakh bales

2002-03	136
2003-04	177
2005-06	243

Since, last two years, the domestic mills are resorting to imports of cotton mainly due to short supply of ELS cotton. These imports are from the countries like CIS, Egypt, Sudan and USA.