

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:105  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006  
BT. COTTON SEEDS  
Meghwal Shri Kailash

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

- (a) whether the production of cotton by using of Bt. Cotton seeds has not increased up to the expected level and the farmers in many States of Southern India have suffered heavy losses;
- (b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to know the reasons of decreasing production of cotton by using improved seeds of Bt. Cotton; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken to compensate the farmers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): As per the information provided by different States, the production of Bt. cotton is higher by 15% to 30% as compared to non-Bt. cotton. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that farmers had suffered losses on account of Bt. cotton hybrid seeds supplied by M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco) Ltd., in certain districts of the State.

(b)&(c): The surveys conducted by some States reveal that Bt. Cotton hybrids are more susceptible to physiological disorder (New Wilt), specially when sown in the summer season. Further, Bt. Cotton crop does not seem to be suitable for growing in light and shallow soils. The other reasons for the low productivity of Bt. Cotton are non-compliance with instructions regarding cultural practices, and lack of training and awareness. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought compensation from the company and the matter is pending in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Committee of the State Government.