

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3501
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
NATIONAL COTTON MISSION
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has since launched the `National Cotton Mission`;
- (b) if so, the salient features and objectives of the Mission; and
- (c) if not, the time-frame within which the Mission is likely to be operationalised?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): In order to improve production, productivity and quality of cotton in the country, a Technology Mission on Cotton was launched by the Central Government in February, 2000 which is implemented in 13 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The Mission has four Mini Missions. The Mini Mission-I deals with the research and development of improved cotton production and crop protection technologies. This Mini Mission is implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Mini Mission-II deals with the developmental programmes for increasing production and productivity of cotton. Under this Mini Mission, assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds of varieties/hybrids not older than 15 years, transfer of technology through demonstrations, training of farmers and extension workers, insecticide resistance management, plant protection measures including IPM demonstrations, supply of sprayers, pheromone traps, bio-agents as well as water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation system etc. Mini Mission-III is implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India. The Mini Mission-III focuses on the development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like construction of market yards, auction centres, grading facilities, laboratories for testing of cotton quality etc. The upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories to improve quality of cotton is undertaken under Mini Mission-IV. Mini Mission-III & IV are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

(c): Does not arise.