

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:851

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006

COTTON PRODUCTION .

Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the new hybrid variety cotton production in the country has touched an all time high during the year 2005-06;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the target fixed for the next three years;
- (c) Whether the Agriculture University, Tamil Nadu has identified new hybrid variety of cotton;
- (d) If so, the salient features of the new variety; and
- (e) The steps taken by the Government to further promote the production of cotton in the country?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. As per the 4th Advance Estimates released on 15th July 2006 the cotton production in the country, which includes production from new hybrid variety, during the year 2005-06 stands at an all time high level of 195.72 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) against the target of 165.00 lakh bales. Targets are fixed annually and it is 185.00 lakh bales for the year 2006-07.

(c)&(d): Two cotton varieties viz., MCU 13 and KC 3 have been released recently by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. MCU13 variety has average seed cotton yield of 1700 kg/ha and fibre length of 30.3 mm. It is suitable for winter irrigated tracts of Coimbatore, Erode, Dindugul, Theni, Dharmapuri, Salem, Namakkal, Cuddalore and Villupuram. KC3 has seed cotton yield potential of 1100 kg/ha and fibre length of 27 mm. It is suitable for rainfed tracts of Madurai, Dindugal, Theni Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Sivaganagai.

(e):For increasing production and productivity and improving the quality of cotton, Government of India launched technology mission on cotton in February. Some new components have been added/restructured to make the scheme more effective during 2005-06 and 2006-07. Under the revised scheme, the subsidy on the component like distribution of certified seeds and sprayers has been increased besides the rationalization of subsidy on other components. The emphasis has been given on involvement of farmers for learning by doing under FAO model of Farmers Field school approach to reduce the cost of production.