

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3634

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006

COTTON BALES IN MARKET

Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

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

- (a) Whether the number of cotton bales arriving in market expected to increase during the current year as compared to the previous year ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise ;
- (c) Whether the cotton crop has been affected in some States ;
- (d) If so, whether the Union Government is contemplating to provide financial assistance to the affected farmers; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. According to information available from the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), the number of cotton bales arriving in the market is expected to increase during the current year as compared to the previous year. Increase in arrival is due to increase in production as a result of Technology Mission on Cotton, release of modern seeds and farmers' response. Till 19th December 2006 nearly 73.80 lakh bales which is nearly 19% higher than same period last year, have already arrived in various markets. State wise arrivals are as under :-

State wise Arrivals	
(In lakh bales)	
State	2006-07
Punjab	13.30
Haryana	6.30
Rajasthan	3.40
Gujarat	22.50
Maharashtra	12.50
Madhya Pradesh	4.80
Andhra Pradesh	7.00
Karnataka	1.40
Tamil Nadu	0.25
Others	0.35
Plus loose lint	2.00
Total	73.80

(c) : Yes Sir. Due to unprecedented heavy rainfall followed by floods during the months of July and August 2006 the cotton crop got affected in some districts of Karnataka, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

(d) & (e): Financial assistance in the wake of natural calamities is provided to the affected States under two schemes viz. Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). Based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission, each State is required to open a CRF Account and is allocated certain amounts as per the award of the Finance Commission. The corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 75:25. The Central contribution is released to the States in two equal installments; first in June and the second in December. The State Level Committee headed by Chief Secretary of the concerned State is fully empowered to operate the CRF, in accordance with terms and norms approved by the Government of India. The extant norms, inter-alia, provide assistance to the affected farmers in the form of agriculture input subsidy for damage of crops due to natural calamities. Additional financial assistance is provided in the wake of a calamity of a severe nature from NCCF. Besides, the farmers are also compensated for the loss in production through National Agriculture Insurance Scheme.