

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:12  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007  
SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR COTTON PRODUCTION  
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to provide a special package to farmers to boost the production of cotton in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the extent to which the cotton-producing farmers are likely to be benefited by this special package; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to assist the cotton farmers in suicide-prone areas?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 12 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26TH FEBRUARY, 2007.

(a) to (c): In order to improve production and productivity of cotton in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton is under implementation in 13 states viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Mini Mission-II of the Technology Mission on Cotton relates to enhancement of production of cotton. Under the Mini Mission-II, 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, plant protection measures including integrated pest management (IPM) demonstrations, supply of sprayers, pheromone traps, bio-agents as well as water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation system etc. The production and productivity of cotton has been continuously increasing since 2003-04 and a record production is expected during 2006-07 resulting in benefit to cotton growers.

(d): A special rehabilitation package has been approved for 31 suicide prone districts in the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala to mitigate the hardships of farmers including cotton farmers. The package includes ex-gratia assistance, debt relief, credit flow, interest waiver, assured irrigation facilities, enhancement of seed replacement rate, watershed development, horticulture development, extension services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc.