

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2816
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
REMOVAL OF COTTON FROM AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently removed cotton from the list of Essential Commodities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any request has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to reinclude cotton in the list of Essential Commodities in view of increase in the price of seeds of Bt. Cotton; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(d): The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 has been amended and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2006 has come into force on 12th February, 2007. Cotton and woolen textiles, along with some other commodities, have been deleted from the list of essential commodities in the wake of introduction of Textile Development Bill, 2005 in Parliament, which seeks to liberalize textile industry.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for renotification of cotton seed as essential commodity. Government has taken note of the State Government's request. Further, the Government has the power to add or remove any commodity as essential commodity under the amended act.