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Title: Need to establish a centre for Cotton Mills in Gujarat.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Sir, Gujarat is the largest producer of cotton and also largest producer of cotton seed in the country. There is a strong need to establish a centre for Cotton Excellence in Gujarat which will work especially for improving quality seed production and adaptation of good practice among the cotton farmers. We can improve the capacity production on the same available land for cotton farming, and improve the employment level by 20-25 per cent of the rural area. This centre will provide employment by promoting other related industries like transportation, ginning, cotton cake and fibre.

The State Government had sent a proposal to the Central Government. This comes under the jurisdiction of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

The existing research network in the State which comprises of two all India coordinated cotton improvement projects funded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are presently operating at Surat and Junagarh. These are not adequate to cope with the challenges. So, there is a strong need for establishment of another Centre for Cotton Excellence in Gujarat.