

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1829
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06th MARCH, 2020

EXPORT OF COTTON TO PAKISTAN

1829. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is 35 per cent fall in cotton production in Pakistan and it is importing cotton from US, Brazil and Spain;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is a potential market in Pakistan to the tune of US \$ 2 billion and there is a potential to export nearly 20 lakh bales this year;
- (c) whether any negotiations have been held with Pakistan for export of cotton and cotton yarn as it will be of immense help to our cotton farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) and (b): As per data of Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC), raw cotton production in Pakistan was 9.86 million bales in 2018-19 (data of period July to May) as against 11.94 million bales in 2017-18 (July to June), which indicates a slight decline in cotton production in Pakistan, on an annualised basis. Further, data cited by PCCC estimates the expected volume of cotton crop in 2019-20 (July to June) to be around 9.45 million bales.

PCCC data also indicates that Pakistan imported 2.18 million (i.e.21.8 lakh) bales in 2018-19 (data of period July to May) from various countries, including USA, India, Afghanistan, Brazil and others. As per ITC Trade Map database, the value of raw cotton imported by Pakistan in 2018 (January to December) amounted to US \$1.05 billion.

(c) and (d): In August,2019, Pakistan announced suspension of bilateral trade with India and all imports from India and exports from Pakistan to India were prohibited. Partial relaxation was provided subsequently, in September 2019, for trade in certain pharmaceutical products with India. No bilateral trade related meetings have been held with Pakistan since then.
