

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 92
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

INSECTICIDE USAGE AND 2 GENE BT COTTON

*92. **SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:**

Will the Minister of **Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether within six years of introduction of 2 gene Bt Cotton in the year 2006, Pink Bollworm has emerged like a monster with high level resistance resulting in increased levels of infestation;
- (b) whether Bt Cotton was supposed to reduce chemical/insecticide usage and increase yields;
- (c) whether increase in cultivated area of Bt Cotton has also coincided with significant quantitative increase in usage of pesticides;
- (d) whether Bt Cotton yields have stagnated despite doubling fertilizer use; and
- (e) if not, the quantity of usage of pesticides/fertilizers, details thereof, year-wise and State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the house.

**STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. 92 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING
“INSECTICIDE USAGE AND 2 GENE BT COTTON”**

(a) and (b): Two-gene *Bt* cotton (Bollgard II) was released for commercial cultivation in 2006. It was introduced in the country primarily as a crop protection technology to manage bollworms and reduce usage of insecticides. However, over a period of time pink bollworm has been emerged as a major pest of *Bt* 2 gene cotton in all the cotton growing areas in the country due to development of resistance affecting the overall production in cotton. However, effective implementation of strategies for pink bollworm management in cotton has seen increase in production of cotton from 226.3 lakh bales in 2006-07 to 343.5 lakh bales in 2022-23 and in productivity, from 421 kg lint /ha in 2006-07 to 452 kg lint /ha in 2022-23.

(c) to (e): The data relating to quantum of pesticides/fertilizers used exclusively for production of *Bt* cotton is not maintained separately.
