

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1788
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04/08/2023

DECLINE IN PRODUCTION OF COTTON

1788# SHRI BRIJLAL

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

- (a) whether exports and production of cotton in the country has registered a sharp decline during the current financial year due to shifting of farmers towards cash crops and lower international demand;
- (b) if so, the percentage decline as compared to the previous financial year; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government to encourage cotton farmers to return to cultivation of cotton and to generate demand for cotton in the domestic market?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The production of cotton is estimated as per agricultural year (July-June). During the agricultural year 2022-23 (3rd Advance Estimates) production of cotton is estimated at 343.47 lakh bales (170 kgs. each) as compared to 311.18 lakh bales during the year 2021-22 which is higher by 10.38%. The export of Cotton for financial year 2022-23 is 318.49 Thousand MT which is lower by 74.70% as compared to the export of 1258.63 Thousand MT during 2021-22.

(c) Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Cotton development programme under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in 15 major cotton growing states viz., Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal from 2014-15 with an aim to enhance production and productivity.

Besides, states can support cotton development programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana – Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sectors Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) chaired by Chief Secretary of the State.

Further, the Government has been increasing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of cotton over the years to encourage farmers for cultivation of cotton and ensure remunerative prices. During the year 2023-24, MSP for medium staple cotton has been increased to 6620 Rs./Quintal which is 8.9% higher than the previous year MSP and for long staple cotton the MSP has been increased to 7020 Rs./Quintal which is 10% higher than previous year MSP.
