

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2576**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11/08/2023

**DECLINE IN AREA UNDER COTTON CULTIVATION**

2576. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH:  
SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:  
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:  
SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of reports that area under cotton cultivation has shrunk in the Kharif season, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) steps taken by Government to support farmers and enhance the production of cotton for next season;
- (c) the reasons for not accepting South Indian Mills Association (SIMA) request to exempt 11 per cent duty on cotton; and
- (d) the details of Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed for different types of cotton in the last five years, along with the factors responsible for fixing it?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a): For an agriculture year (July-June), the First Advance Estimates (covering major Kharif crops) is released in the month of October. Further, the sowing of Kharif crops is still under progress. Hence, it is too early to indicate the total sown area under various kharif crops including cotton sown across the country.
- (b): 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.

(c): India is a net cotton exporter country wherein production is more than consumption. Therefore, looking at the wider interest of the entire cotton value chain including cotton farmers and to refrain the outflow of foreign exchanges, Government of India has kept export of cotton under Open General License (OGL) and import duty of 11% (including 5% Custom Duty, 5% AIDC and 1% Cess) on import of cotton in India.

(d): While recommending, the Minimum Support Prices (MSP), Government considers important factors like cost of production, overall demand-supply situation, price trends in domestic and global prices, inter- crop price parity, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, likely impact of the price policy on the rest of the economy, rational utilization of land, water and other production resources and a minimum of 50 percent as the margin over the weighted average cost of production (A2 +FL). The details of MSP fixed for different types of cotton during last five years are given as under:

(Rs. Per Quintal)

Commodity	Variety	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Cotton	Medium Staple ^	5150	5255	5515	5726	6080
	Long Staple ^^	5450	5550	5825	6025	6380

Note:

^: Staple length (mm) of 24.5-25.5 and micronaire value of 4.3-5.1

^^: Staple length (mm) of 29.5-30.5 and micronaire value of 3.5-4.3

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