

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 65
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/12/2023

IMPACT OF PBW ON COTTON PRODUCTION

*65. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

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

- (a) in what manner Government looks at dwindling cotton production from 566 kgs/hectare in 2013-14 to 445 kgs/hectare in 2022-23;
- (b) to what extent Pink Boll-Worm (PBW) is impacting cotton production in the country, including Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether it is a fact that PBW was earlier seen only in Southern States but has now spread across the country and impacting production; and
- (d) if so, efforts made by the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC) of Government to address this menace and see that cotton production goes up again?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 65 DUE FOR REPLY ON 08/12/2023 REGARDING “IMPACT OF PBW ON COTTON PRODUCTION”.

(a): The production of cotton has been fluctuating over the years depending upon weather conditions, irrigation facilities, soil conditions, pest & diseases, etc. However, the country is self-sufficient in cotton production & surplus cotton is exported after meeting the domestic requirement. During 2022-23, the production of cotton was 336.60 lakh bales against consumption of 311 lakh bales. Further, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing cotton development programme under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in 15 major cotton growing states to increase production and productivity from 2014-15.

A special project on cotton entitled ‘Targeting technologies to agro-ecological zones- large scale demonstrations of best practices to enhance cotton productivity’ has been approved under NFSM during 2023-24.

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 and long staple cotton has increased to Rs. 6620/ quintal & Rs. 7020/quintal respectively, which is 8.9% & 10% higher than previous year.

Total 247 varieties/hybrids have been released and notified in India during 2014 till now which include both from public & private sector. Among these 247 varieties/hybrids, 125 are non-Bt cotton & 122 are Bt cotton. Further, cotton crop is also being notified by the various States against comprehensive risks including pests/diseases under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

(b) & (c): Pink Bollworm infestation is seen in all the cotton growing areas of North, Central & South Zone across the country. However, as per survey conducted by ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur, the infestation of pink bollworm has reduced from 30.62% during 2017-18 to 10.80% during 2022-23. Further, the infestation of pink bollworm in Andhra Pradesh has reduced from 39% during 2017-18 to 8.81% during 2022-23.

(d): Central Insecticide Board & Registration Committee (CIB&RC) is a regulatory body for processing of application for grant of registration of insecticides. CIB&RC has granted the registration of 50 insecticide formulations for the control of pink bollworm & bollworm complex. Further, CIB&RC has also granted the registration of pheromone [PB Rope L (Gossyplure) pheromone dispenser] to monitor & trap the pink bollworm population.

Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S) regularly issues advisories for management of pink bollworm. Further, Farmer Field School (FFS) on cotton crop are being conducted on adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches for management of pink bollworm.

A project titled 'Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM): Dissemination of Pink Bollworm Management Strategies' has been approved by Government of India since 2018-19 under NFSM with an objective to disseminate Pink Bollworm Management Strategies integrating several multiple strategies during different growth stages of cotton crop to combat it.
