

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3350**  
ANSWERED ON- 28/03/2025

**'COTTON MISSION' TO BOOST COTTON PRODUCTIVITY IN TAMIL NADU**

3350. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the strategies, under the ₹500 crore 'Cotton Mission', to boost cotton productivity in Tamil Nadu, addressing its lower yield of 450 kg/hectare compared to the global average of 800 kg/hectare;
- (b) the steps to reduce Tamil Nadu's reliance on imported extra-long staple (ELS) cotton by promoting its domestic cultivation; and
- (c) the measures to strengthen the domestic supply chain for Tamil Nadu's apparel industry, in light of the recent Union Budget, and their expected impact on demand for textiles?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES  
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

**(a) to (c):** To enhance cotton quality and yield by providing cutting-edge science and technology support to farmers, a “Mission for Cotton Productivity” has been announced as part of Budget 2025-26. The Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) is the Nodal Department for implementing the Mission, which aims to boost cotton production through strategic interventions, including research and extension activities across all cotton-growing states, including Tamil Nadu. The Mission also proposes to focus on developing climate-smart, pest-resistant, and high-yielding cotton varieties, including Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton, using advanced breeding and biotechnology tools.

A Special Project on Cotton titled ‘Targeting technologies to agro-ecological zones-large scale demonstration of best practices to enhance cotton productivity’ has been implemented by ICAR- Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur in 8 major cotton growing states including Tamil Nadu under National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) during 2023-24 and is ongoing in 2024-25 to enhance productivity of cotton and production of ELS cotton.

Further, to promote production of MMF Apparel, the Government has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles, on pan India basis including in Tamil Nadu, with an approved outlay of Rs 10,683 crore over a five year period.

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