

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2461
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD DECEMBER, 2019

BENEFITS OF BT COTTON

2461. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Bt cotton failed to live up to the promised ten years of high yield, pest resistance and reduction in insecticide use;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that with the high cost of Bt seeds, the farmers are unable to withstand crop losses;
- (c) whether the farmers have also been asked to revert to traditional style of cultivation; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that the Genetic Engineering has failed and has also been unable to provide livelihood security to farmers and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): No Sir, the Bt. Technology is still good and provides resistance to cotton crop against American Boll Worm and Spotted Boll Worm for the past 17 years. Even now around 87.5% area of cotton is under Bt. Cotton. Consumption of pesticides is also reduced due to Bt. Technology. The production data of last year's is as under:

| Year | Production (in Lakh bales) |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 2015-16 | 300.05 |
| 2016-17 | 325.77 |
| 2017-18 | 328.05 |

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare fixes Bt. Cotton seed price every year under Cotton Seed Price (Control) Order, 2015. The price fixed by MoA&FW for last four years for BG-I and BG-II version of Bt. Cotton seed is as under:

| Year | BG-I (Rs.) | BG-II (Rs.) |
|---------|------------|-------------|
| 2016-17 | 635 | 800 |
| 2017-18 | 635 | 800 |
| 2018-19 | 635 | 740 |
| 2019-20 | 635 | 730 |

(c) & (d): No Sir, however, National Agriculture Research System (ICAR and State Agriculture Universities) are developing non-GM cotton varieties and hybrids suitable for specific agro-ecological zone. No such evidences that Genetic Engineering has failed to provide livelihood of security to farmers have been reported by any state.