

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3703
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH AUGUST, 2025

SUPPORT TO COTTON FARMERS OF MAHARASHTRA

3703. PROF. VARSHA EKNATH GAIKWAD:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL DHAIRYASHEEL RAJSINH:
SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
SMT. SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state;

- (a) the estimated volume of cotton production in Maharashtra during the last three years;
- (b) the details of specific support provided by the Government to farmers in the key districts contributing to cotton production in Maharashtra, such as Jalgaon and Yavatmal;
- (c) whether cotton farmers in Maharashtra face issues such as pest attacks, low market prices and rising input costs, if so, the steps taken to address these challenges;
- (d) whether the Government has introduced or supported technological solutions like satellite-based monitoring or precision agriculture to enhance cotton productivity and reduce risks particularly in Maharashtra;
- (e) the details of any compensation, insurance or relief provided to cotton farmers in Maharashtra under various schemes during the above period for crop failure or price crashes; and
- (f) whether there is any plan to strengthen cotton procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through Cotton Corporation of India in Maharashtra and the quantity procured during the last three years, district-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

- (a): The details of cotton production in Maharashtra during the last three years is as under:

(Production in lakh bales, each bale of 170 Kg.)

Crop	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
Cotton	83.16	80.45	92.32

*Data for the year 2024-25 is of 3rd Advance Estimates

Source: DA&FW

- (b) to (d): The Government supports farmers of the cotton producing States, including Maharashtra, to address the issues such as pest attacks, low market prices, rising input costs

etc. and provide technological solutions such as satellite-based monitoring or precision agriculture to enhance cotton productivity and reduce risks through various schemes/programmes.

To enhance cotton productivity and quality, promote innovation and strengthen the entire textile value chain in line with the Vision 2030, a five-year 'Mission for Cotton Productivity' was announced by Hon'ble Finance Minister in her budget speech 2025-26. The Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) is the nodal department for implementing the Mission, with the Ministry of Textiles as a partner. This Mission aims to boost cotton production through strategic interventions, including research and extension activities across all cotton-growing states. 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.

In order to enhance the production and productivity of cotton, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Cotton Development Programme under the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) (erstwhile NFSM) in 15 major cotton growing States, including Maharashtra, since 2014-15.

Further, a Special Project on Cotton titled 'Targeting technologies to agro-ecological zones-large scale demonstration of best practices to enhance cotton productivity' of ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has been implemented in Maharashtra and in seven other major cotton growing States under NFSNM during 2023-24 and 2024-25 to enhance the productivity of cotton.

Every year, Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) to provide remunerative prices to cotton farmers, protecting them from distress sales when market prices fall below the MSP. The MSP is fixed at least 50 percent margin over the cost of production. The rise in inputs cost is accounted in the cost of production calculations.

The Cotton Corporation of India, under the Ministry of Textiles, safeguards the interests of cotton farmers by opening adequate procurement centres, where its officials remain present throughout the cotton season to ensure the implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP). There are no fixed targets or quantity restrictions for cotton procurement under MSP operations. However, the farmers have the liberty to sell their produce either to CCI or private parties.

In order to support cotton farmers in key cotton-producing districts of Maharashtra, such as Jalgaon and Yavatmal, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) under its two Branches viz., Aurangabad & Akola, has opened 128 procurement centres across 19 districts, including 11 centres in Jalgaon and 15 centres in Yavatmal. Thus, CCI has procured 144.55 lakh quintals of kapas (cotton), valuing ₹10,714 crores, through 6.27 lakh transactions by cotton farmers across the state. This includes procurement of about 21.39 lakh quintals of kapas (cotton) from Yavatmal district and 4.79 lakh quintals from Jalgaon district.

The Government has been assisting APMCs in developing infrastructure and value chain through various schemes like National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Agriculture Market Infrastructure (AMI), and Agri. Infrastructure Fund (AIF) etc. Under e-NAM, 133 APMC markets of Maharashtra have been integrated with National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform till 30.6.2025.

Apart from input subsidies provided by the State Governments, the Central Government implements schemes such as Per Drop More Crop, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) etc., also support farmers. Government also ensures availability of subsidized fertilizer to the farmers. Under Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015, prices of Bt cotton is fixed every year to make availability of seeds at reasonable price to the cotton farmers.

The Government is using space technology for the various activities, which include FASAL project (Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based observations), Drought Monitoring and providing technological support to Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). Under FASAL project, area and yield forecasting for major crops including cotton is being carried out.

For the Drought Monitoring, Department has developed a Geoportal in collaboration with SAC (ISRO), Ahmedabad. The portal hosts data of multiple drought indicators related to rainfall, soil moisture, remote sensing-based crop condition, water storages, etc.

Space technology is also being used for various operational applications under PMFBY, such as Smart Sampling for Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs), yield estimation & dispute resolution (area and yield).

Further, the Government has developed a Krishi Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS) which is a cloud-based Geo-spatial platform that leverages space technology to empower various stakeholders in the agriculture sector. Krishi-DSS platform hosts a variety of datasets, including weather data, Satellite images, Soil layers, Water related data and field information. Krishi-DSS offers variety of modules/algorithms to support agricultural management and decision-making.

(e): The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme provides for comprehensive risk insurance against crop damage from pre-sowing to post-harvest for crops and area notified by the concerned State Government. Under this scheme, claims are provided only to the insured farmers who suffer crop loss due to any unforeseen natural climatic disasters and weather perils. Government of Maharashtra is implementing this scheme since 2016 and details of claims paid to cotton farmers under this scheme during last five years are as under:

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Claims Paid (in Cr.)	55.26	441.10	456.84	1941.09	758.95

Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) provides short-term agricultural loans at concessional interest rates through Kisan Credit Cards (KCC). Under this scheme, farmers including tenant farmers receive KCC loans at a subsidized interest rate of 7%. To facilitate this, an upfront interest subvention (IS) of 1.5% is provided to financial institutions. Additionally, farmers who repay their loans promptly receive a 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI), effectively reducing the interest rate to 4% per annum.

(f): To ensure remunerative prices, the Government has been increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton over the years. For the ensuing Cotton Season 2025-26 (commencing from 1st October, 2025), Government of India has increased the MSP of cotton by upto 8.27 % i.e. MSP for Medium Staple has been increased to Rs. 7,710/Qntl. and for

Long Staple to Rs. 8,110/Qntl, as compared to Rs. 7,121/Qntl and Rs. 7,521/Qntl respectively during cotton season 2024-25.

To strengthen cotton procurement at MSP, following measures have been taken by CCI:

- i. On spot Aadhar authentication (through OTP/biometric device) based farmer's registration made mandatory.
- ii. SMS alerts launched to notify farmers about bill generation and payment status under MSP operations.
- iii. 100% payment directly in Aadhar linked Bank Accounts of cotton farmers through National Automated Clearing House (NACH), to ensure that the benefits of the MSP reaches directly to genuine cotton farmers.
- iv. Launched "Cott-Ally" mobile app in nine regional languages to enhance awareness among cotton farmers about MSP rates, nearest procurement centers, payment tracking, live chat support etc.

The details of district-wise procurement by Cotton Corporation of India in Maharashtra during the last three years is given at **Annexure**.

Annexure

Statement showing the district-wise quantity procured under MSP operation in Maharashtra during the last three years:

Sl. No	Branch	District	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24		2024-25	
			Quantity	Quantity	Quantity		Quantity	
					Kapas (Lakh Qtls)	Lint (Lakh Bales)	Kapas (Lakh Qtls)	Lint (Lakh Bales)
1	Akola	Akola	-	-	3.10	0.62	22.00	4.54
2	Akola	Amravati	-	-	0.52	0.11	13.00	2.70
3	Akola	Buldhana	-	-	1.00	0.21	9.00	1.82
4	Akola	Chandrapur	-	-	1.10	0.22	12.00	2.42
5	Akola	Nagpur	-	-	0.32	0.07	1.50	0.31
6	Akola	Wardha	-	-	0.38	0.08	8.40	1.69
7	Akola	Washim	-	-	0.39	0.08	1.50	0.30
8	Akola	Yavatmal	-	-	1.00	0.21	21.39	4.28
9	Akola	Gadchiroli	-	-	-	-	0.25	0.05
10	Aurangabad	Ahemadnagar	-	-	0.01	0.00	2.98	0.60
11	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	-	-	0.07	0.01	7.29	1.46
12	Aurangabad	Beed	-	-	0.05	0.01	6.00	1.39
13	Aurangabad	Dhule	-	-	0.25	0.05	3.82	0.76
14	Aurangabad	Hingoli	-	-	0.05	0.01	1.83	0.37
15	Aurangabad	Jalgaon	-	-	0.83	0.17	4.70	0.96
16	Aurangabad	Jalna	-	-	1.48	0.30	8.89	1.78
17	Aurangabad	Nanded	-	-	0.74	0.15	2.95	0.59
18	Aurangabad	Nandurbar	-	-	0.04	0.01	3.05	0.61
19	Aurangabad	Parbhani	-	-	0.72	0.14	14.00	2.80
Total			-	-	12.05	2.44	144.55	29.41
Note: During Cotton Season 2021-22 & 2022-23, cotton prices were ruling above MSP. Hence, no MSP support required by farmers.								

Source: Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.
