

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *160
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2026

COTTON IMPORTS

*160. SHRI G KUMAR NAIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES वस्त्र मंत्री
be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of cotton imported by the country and details of top ten importing countries during each of the last five years;
- (b) whether the Government has exempted import duties on cotton for the current financial year and, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any assessment or survey has been conducted by the Government regarding the impact of cotton import duty exemption on domestic cotton farmers and if so, the findings thereof, especially for the State of Karnataka; and
- (d) the measures being proposed by the Government to protect the interest of cotton farmers while simultaneously addressing the requirements of the textile industry; and the details of the impact of cotton duty exemption on Government revenue?

उत्तर
ANSWER
वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री गिरिराज सिंह)
MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*160 FOR 10.02.2026 REGARDING COTTON IMPORTS ASKED BY SHRI G KUMAR NAIK, Hon'ble MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

(a): Statement showing details of cotton import in India, country-wise during the last 5 years, is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(b): In the current financial year 2025-26, the 11% import duty on cotton (5% BCD, 5% AIDC, 1% SWC) was exempted vide Department of Revenue notification dated 18.08.2025, effective from 19.08.2025 to 30.09.2025. Subsequently, vide Department of Revenue Notification dated 28.08.2025, the exemption of import duty on cotton was further extended up to 31.12.2025. Thereafter, the standard 11 % import duty on cotton was reinstated from 1 January 2026.

(c) & (d): The Government of India protects cotton farmers by announcing Minimum Support Prices (MSP) annually, based on Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP) recommendations, State and Central inputs, and production costs, ensuring that farmers receive a minimum of 1.5 times the cost of production (A2+FL) for their produce. For the 2025–26 cotton season, MSP for Fair Average Quality cotton has been fixed at ₹7,710 per quintal for Medium Staple and ₹8,110 per quintal for Long Staple, an increase of ₹589 per quintal over the previous year. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), as the central nodal agency, undertakes procurement under MSP whenever market prices fall below MSP. For the 2025–26 cotton season, CCI opened 571 procurement centers across 149 districts in 11 cotton-growing states, and has procured over 90.54 lakh bales so far.

In Karnataka, MSP operations have shown significant growth from the 2024-25 to the 2025-26 cotton season. In 2024-25, CCI procured 25.61 lakh quintals of seed cotton (5.22 lakh bales), valued at ₹1,892 crore, across 26 centres. In 2025-26, so far, procurement increased to 34.10 lakh quintals (6.82 lakh bales), valued at ₹2,725 crore, across 37 centres, indicating a notable increase in both procurement and farmer outreach.

Procured cotton is sold through an independent online e-auction portal, providing transparency and competitive access for the textile industry. This system ensures a balanced approach, protecting farmers' incomes while meeting the raw material requirements of domestic textile units.

Duty exemptions on cotton imports ensure sufficient availability of quality raw material, supporting value addition, boosting employment, and enhancing exports, thereby generating higher indirect revenue.

Annexure-I**Statement showing details of cotton import and from importing countries in India during
the last 5 years:**(Qty. in bales, value in Crores)
CY- 1st October to 30th September

Sr. No.	Country	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	USA	4,30,718	1,501	7,73,164	4,069	4,57,027	2,174	2,68,728	1,361	8,56,298	2,908
2	Brazil	52,228	109	1,10,065	506	75,722	227	67,805	152	8,54,622	2,131
3	Australia	1,14,847	300	3,94,518	1,746	4,45,672	1,709	3,58,726	1,131	8,49,268	2,367
4	Mali	3,221	8	27,660	103	5,725	20	57,180	156	2,91,969	770
5	Egypt	3,42,818	1161	1,06,337	719	2,18,141	853	2,07,729	1,028	1,41,917	687
6	Cote D'Ivoire	7,584	17	84,255	378	16,326	72	61,751	176	1,02,278	267
7	Tanzania	2,894	9	50,844	192	37,855	115	1,07,121	288	72,030	189
8	Israel	26,425	80	13,972	90	8,760	61	10,115	62	24,132	120
9	Greece	27,705	67	27,316	111	16,888	61	11,214	40	9,567	35
10	Sudan	632	2	11,214	43	3,834	12	-	-	5,273	10
11	Other Countries	93,566	227	5,13,929	2,399	1,73,445	727	3,69,307	1,089	9,32,588	2,504
Total		11,02,637	3,481	21,13,274	10,354	14,59,396	6,029	15,19,675	5,483	41,39,941	11,989

C.Y.(Crop Year)

Source: DGCIS, Kolkata
