

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1640**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026

**COTTON PRODUCTION MISSION**

1640. SHRI AMAR SHARADRAO KALE :

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

- (a) whether cotton production is declining due to repeated increase in pesticide application and adverse climatic conditions and whether the Ministry proposes to take the appropriate policy measures to address this issue, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to implement a Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the seed industry, including a research-based incentive scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the specific schemes to be implemented under the proposed five-year Cotton Production Mission;
- (d) whether the districts in the State of Maharashtra with low cotton productivity have been selected for cotton productivity-related trials, if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (e) the State-wise list of districts with high cotton productivity?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): During last five years, area under production, total production and yield of cotton is as under :

| Year     | 2020-21 |        |       | 2021-22 |        |       | 2022-23 |        |       | 2023-24 |        |       | 2024-25 |        |       |
|----------|---------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-------|
| State    | Area    | Prod   | Yield |
| GR TOTAL | 132.85  | 352.48 | 451   | 123.71  | 311.17 | 428   | 129.27  | 336.60 | 443   | 126.88  | 325.22 | 436   | 114.84  | 297.24 | 440   |

No specific information is available regarding decline in cotton production due to repeated increase in pesticide application however, as per the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), some of the reasons for decline in cotton production are: -

- i. Pesticide induced breakdown of resistance to pink bollworm (PBW) and widespread resurgence of PBW in major cotton-growing states.

ii. Whitefly outbreak and incidence of cotton leaf curl virus in the Northern zone (Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan) and boll-rot and Tobacco Streak Virus (TSV) in the Central and Southern zone.

Some policies have been introduced to minimize crop losses such as -Refuge-in-bag (RIB) to lower down Bt resistance in pink bollworm, Cultivation of short to medium duration Bt hybrids, mandatory evaluation of new Bt hybrids under All India Coordinated Research Program.

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.

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 eight other major cotton growing States including Maharashtra under NFSNM during 2023-24 and 2024-25 to enhance the productivity of cotton.

Further, ICAR is also implementing a project titled "Insecticide Resistance Monitoring (IRM): Dissemination of Pink Bollworm Management Strategies", to monitor and provide timely advisory to minimize pesticide application in cotton.

(b): Presently, there is no such proposal under consideration.

(c): The "Mission for Cotton productivity" has been announced by the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister in the Budget Speech of 2025. The Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) is the nodal department for implementing the Mission, with the Ministry of Textiles as a partner. This five-year mission has been envisaged to facilitate significant improvements in productivity and sustainability of cotton farming, and promote extra-long staple cotton varieties. The mission targets to -

i. Enhance cotton productivity by addressing the gap between demand, production, and expected requirement of cotton through strategic interventions, including research, extension and human resource development.

ii. Increase ELS and Kasturi Cotton by developing varieties matching India's premium cotton grade Kasturi which has 33 to 35 mm fibre length and strength respectively.

iii. Extension/upscale best management practices targeting improved high yielding varieties /hybrids. high-density planting system (HDPS), closer planting, mulching cum drip irrigation technologies suitable in different cotton growing regions.

(d) & (e): Information regarding selection of the low cotton productivity districts in the State of Maharashtra for cotton productivity-related trials is not available, however State-wise details of area under production, total production & yield of cotton is at Annexure I.

**ANNEXURE-I****AREA, PRODUCTION AND YIELD OF COTTON DURING THE LAST 5 COTTON SEASONS:****(Area in lakh hectares, Production in lakh bales and Yield in Kgs/ hectare lint)**

| <b>Year</b>    | <b>2020-21</b> |        |       | <b>2021-22</b> |       |       | <b>2022-23</b> |       |       | <b>2023-24</b> |       |       | <b>2024-25</b> |       |       |
|----------------|----------------|--------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|
| <b>State</b>   | Area           | Prod   | Yield | Area           | Prod  | Yield | Area           | Prod  | Yield | Area           | Prod  | Yield | Area           | Prod  | Yield |
| Punjab         | 2.52           | 10.23  | 690   | 2.51           | 6.46  | 438   | 2.49           | 4.44  | 303   | 2.14           | 6.29  | 500   | 1.60           | 4.14  | 440   |
| Haryana        | 7.40           | 18.23  | 419   | 6.36           | 13.16 | 352   | 5.75           | 10.01 | 296   | 5.78           | 15.09 | 444   | 3.98           | 11.77 | 503   |
| Rajasthan      | 8.07           | 32.07  | 676   | 7.56           | 24.81 | 558   | 8.15           | 27.74 | 579   | 10.04          | 26.22 | 444   | 6.27           | 17.86 | 484   |
| Gujarat        | 22.70          | 72.18  | 541   | 22.84          | 75.09 | 559   | 24.84          | 87.95 | 602   | 26.83          | 90.57 | 574   | 23.72          | 71.57 | 513   |
| Maharashtra    | 45.44          | 101.05 | 378   | 44.10          | 82.49 | 318   | 41.82          | 83.16 | 338   | 42.34          | 80.45 | 323   | 41.23          | 73.73 | 304   |
| Madhya Pradesh | 5.88           | 13.38  | 387   | 5.60           | 14.20 | 431   | 5.95           | 14.33 | 409   | 6.30           | 18.01 | 486   | 5.37           | 15.35 | 486   |
| Telangana      | 23.58          | 57.97  | 418   | 18.89          | 48.78 | 439   | 19.73          | 57.45 | 495   | 18.18          | 50.80 | 475   | 18.12          | 57.89 | 543   |
| Andhra Pradesh | 6.06           | 16.00  | 449   | 5.54           | 17.08 | 524   | 7.04           | 15.41 | 372   | 4.22           | 7.37  | 297   | 4.04           | 11.31 | 476   |
| Karnataka      | 8.20           | 23.20  | 481   | 6.74           | 19.55 | 493   | 9.49           | 25.68 | 460   | 7.43           | 20.59 | 471   | 6.78           | 22.73 | 570   |
| Tamil Nadu     | 1.12           | 2.43   | 369   | 1.48           | 3.02  | 347   | 1.73           | 3.19  | 313   | 1.30           | 2.52  | 330   | 1.02           | 2.11  | 352   |
| Orissa         | 1.71           | 5.51   | 548   | 1.93           | 6.26  | 551   | 2.16           | 7.05  | 555   | 2.16           | 7.05  | 555   | 2.39           | 8.23  | 585   |
| Others         | 0.17           | 0.23   | 230   | 0.16           | 0.27  | 287   | 0.12           | 0.19  | 269   | 0.16           | 0.26  | 276   | 0.32           | 0.55  | 292   |

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