

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.387
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST DECEMBER, 2015

DAMAGE TO COTTON CROPS

387. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

- (a) whether the farmers have suffered huge loss due to damage caused to cotton crop by the white fly pest in various parts of the country during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of the losses and the incidents of suicide committed by cotton farmers in country, State-wise;
- (c) the details of financial package/compensation announced by the Government and given to the affected farmers;
- (d) whether there are reports of adverse impact on production and productivity of Bt cotton due to use of unlicensed Bt cotton seeds in certain parts of the country, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interest of Bt. cotton growers and to prevent the pest attack on cotton crop?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): During Kharif, 2015 whitefly infestation was reported in cotton crop especially from the eight cotton growing districts of Fazilka, Bathinda, Mansa, Shri Muktsar Sahib, Sangrur, Barnala, Faridkot and Moga in Punjab. As per the figures provided by the Punjab State, 3.32 lakh hectare area of cotton was infested. In Haryana, special gridwari has been ordered to assess the losses due to whitefly infestation. No major losses on this account was reported from any other cotton growing State in the country from white fly attack.

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No report of suicide committed by cotton grower has been reported by any State Government so far.

(c): As per the information given by the State Govt. of Punjab a sum of Rs. 643.58 crores have been released as compensation.

(d): As regard sale of spurious Bt cotton seed, few cases of supply of spurious Bt cotton seeds were reported by the States like Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Details of complaints of supply of spurious Bt cotton seeds received from the State Governments for the last three years and action taken is at Annexure-I.

(e): Timely advisories were issued to the various State Governments including Punjab to manage the whitefly problem in Bt cotton. In addition, a list of pesticides recommended by CIB & RC (Central Insecticide Board & Registration Committee) to manage whitefly in the cotton was also provided to the State Government. A special survey was conducted by the Central Team in association with State Department Officers in the affected areas in Punjab & Haryana States. Senior officers of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers welfare visited the affected areas in Punjab and Haryana to provide all necessary assistance in taking effective corrective steps.

Annexure –I

**DETAILS OF COMPLAINTS OF SUPPLY OF SPURIOUS BT. COTTON SEED RECEIVED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS AND ACTION TAKEN**

Sl. No.	Name of State	Details of complaints	Action Taken
2014-15			
Nil			
2013-14			
Nil			
2012-2013			
1.	Maharashtra	Complaint received from 8 Farmers of Dhule, Nagpur and Wardha District regarding non-performance of Bt. cotton hybrid Turbo ABCH256; BG II produced and sold by M/s Monsanto Holding Pvt Ltd due to attack of pest and disease.	Director of Agriculture (Input and Quality Control) order the company to pay Rs. 4.21 lakh to the affected farmers.
2.	Maharashtra	Complaint received from 91 Farmers of Yavatmal District regarding non-performance of Bt. cotton hybrid Turbo ABCH256; BG II produced and sold by M/s Vergine Seeds Pvt Ltd due to attack of pest and disease.	Director of Agriculture (Input and Quality Control) order the company to pay Rs. 13,89,582 to the affected farmers.
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Complaints were received from the farmers from Bayyavaram(V) of Krosur mandal regarding poor performance of seeds due to genetic purity and susceptible to pest and disease of Bt. cotton hybrid Mallika BG-II produced and sold by M/s Nuziveedu Seeds Pvt Ltd.	The District Level Compensation Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Director of Agriculture conducted an investigation and awarded Rs. 6,31,800 as compensation as per the provision of AP Cotton Seeds Act, 2007 to the affected farmers.
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Complaints were received from the farmers from Kanchikacheria mandal regarding poor performance of seeds due to genetic purity and susceptible to pest and disease of Bt. cotton hybrid Mahajhansi BG-II produced and sold by M/s Asian Agri Genetics Pvt Ltd.	The District Level Compensation Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Director of Agriculture conducted an investigation and awarded Rs. 4,73,760 as compensation as per the provision of AP Cotton Seeds Act, 2007 to the affected farmers
