

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Puducherry	16	40	25
28.	Punjab	119	88	70
29.	Rajasthan	331	317	59
30.	Sikkim	NR	NR	NR
31.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Tripura	Nil	NR	NR
33.	Uttarakhand	Nil	Nil	Nil
34.	Uttar Pradesh	190	934	24
35.	West Bengal	01	01	Nil
Total		2341	2989	693

*The poisoning may be suicidal/homicidal/accidental/occupational.

NR – Not Reported.

Decline in price of cotton

2284. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has observed that the agriculture market speculators have gained so much in India from boom-and-bust price cycle of global financial markets;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cotton price in 2009 is actually lower than it had been in January, 2007; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No such instance has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Cotton prices in January, 2009 were higher by around 19% to 37% than what it had been in January, 2007. The details of average cotton prices for major varieties of cotton in January, 2007 *vis-a-vis* month-wise average cotton prices in January, 2009 and onward are as under:—

Prices in Rs. Per candy				
	J-34	H-4	S-6	Bunny
1	2	3	4	5
January, 2007	15364	16950	17741	18150
January, 2009	21052	21005	21524	21643
February, 2009	20124	20124	20586	20910

1	2	3	4	5
March, 2009	20645	20045	20740	21095
April, 2009	22432	21142	22421	22679
May, 2009	23057	21809	23609	23117
June, 2009	22861	21796	23170	22987

One candy=355.62 kilograms.

Source: Ministry of Textiles.

Production of rice

2285. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of Rabi rice was less during 2008-09 compared to 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken/propose to take steps for higher production of Rabi rice during the current season; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the 4th advance estimates, the production of Rabi rice at all India level during 2008-09 is estimated at 14.57 million tones which is 0.54 million tones higher than the production of 14.03 million tones during Rabi 2007-08.

(c) and (d) In order to increase the production of rice in the country, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is being implemented since 2007-08. The NFSM-Rice is being implemented in 136 districts of 14 States with an objective to increase the production of rice by 10 million tones by the terminal year of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.*, by 2011-12. Besides NFSM, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme [Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture is also under implementation.

Survey on agricultural land productivity

2286. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey on agricultural lands in the country keeping in view their fluctuating index of farm productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas of land where the percentage of productivity has registered an increase or decrease;