

Indigenous variety of Bt. Cotton seed

3682. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute for Cotton Research has developed an indigenous variety of Bt. Cotton;

(b) if so, the results relating to the quantum and quality of cotton produced with this indigenous variety; and

(c) the steps taken to promote the use of this new variety of Bt. Cotton seeds this season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) Yes, Sir. The 'BN Bt' variety was developed by the University of Agricultural Sciences (US), Dharwad, the Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur and the National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology (NRCPB), New Delhi.

(b) In the multilocation trials on BN Bt. Cotton variety conducted by State Agricultural Universities and CICR, Nagpur showed that the variety can yield up to 4-6 quintals per acre seed cotton under rainfed conditions. This variety has fibre quality of medium staple length and good ginning out-turn.

(c) A total of 11,000 packets of 2kg each of BN Bt. seed have been made available to farmers through the state seed corporations in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat for sowing in 2009-2010 crop season.

Soil testing laboratories in the country

†3683. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any plan to provide information to each farmer of the country regarding the quality of soil of his farming land;

(b) if so, the plan thereof;

(c) whether laboratories for testing the soil of farmers' land are established in each district of the country; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and daily testing capacity of each laboratory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (d) The soil samples of farmer's fields are tested by 686 soil testing laboratories (STLs)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.