

Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was signed on 12th November, 2005. The Indo-US Agricultural Knowledge Initiative was implemented during the period November, 2005 to March, 2010. A representative each from M/s Monsanto, M/s Walmart and M/s Archer Daniels Midland Company were nominated as members from the US side.

Productivity variation of Bt. Cotton

2305. SHRID. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the allegation being made by the Bt. Cotton growers that the productivity has decreased after first three years;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to make an assessment of the productivity variation of the Bt. Cotton which was introduced about seven years ago in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No specific study has been conducted as productivity of Bt. Cotton largely depends on prevailing agro-climatic conditions.

(c) Question does not arise.

Decrease in average landholding

2306. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that about 80 per cent farmers hold not more than two and half acres of agricultural land;

(b) whether Government is also aware that in a generation or two the average landholding of a farmer's family will come down to one acre which will be non-viable and of no use to maintain the family; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government would tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) As per the results of the latest Agriculture Census 2005-06, 64.77 percent operational holdings at All India level (excluding Jharkhand) had operated area below 1.00 hectare (1 hectare = 2.4711 acre).

(b) and (c) As per Agriculture Census 2005-06, the average size of operational holding in the country was 1.23 hectare. The State Governments on their part implement different schemes