

tonnes, it declined to 235.4 million tonnes in 2004-05 (first advance estimates).

(c) and (d) The per hectare production of sugarcane has declined since 2000-01. The details are given below:

(In Tonnes per hectare)

Crop	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04\$	2004-05*
Sugarcane	68.58	67.37	64.56	59.12	60.17

* As per the first advance estimates for the year 2004-05.

\$ As per the fourth advance estimates for the year 2003-04.

(e) The following factors are responsible for low level of production of sugarcane:

1. Low and uneven distribution of rainfall in time and space (drought conditions) adversely affecting tillering and growth of sugarcane.
2. Due to unprecedented drought conditions, the quantum of millable cane and individual cane weight has drastically reduced which adversely affected overall cane productivity.
3. The area under sugarcane declined from 4.36 million hectares in 2002-03 to 4.00 million hectares in 2003-04 which has further contributed to overall low production.
4. Damage of sugarcane in North Bihar due to droughts in initial stages and flood during subsequent growth phase.
5. Severe infestation of wholly aphid particularly in tropical area (in many districts of Maharashtra and Karnataka).

Study report of suicide by farmers

†842. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the study report published by Dr. V. Ratna and Dr. S. Glao of "Centre for Economic

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and Social Study" under the title "Farmers' Suicides: Looking Beyond the Debt Trap";

(b) if so, whether this report reveals the detailed information about the causes forcing farmers to commit suicide; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assessment on yield of Bt. Cotton

843. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any assessment on the yield of Bt. Cotton in India, as there has been a lot of controversy over the reports of the independent surveys on the performance of the Bt. Cotton; and

(b) if so, the details of assessment made by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) On the directions of Government of India, the Monitoring Committees have been set up in all cotton growing States to evaluate the performance of Bt. Cotton. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also done systematic studies to evaluate Bt. Cotton materials for various features important from the angle of requirement of cotton farmers of India.

(b) From the reports received from the State Governments it was observed that performance of Bt. Cotton was satisfactory during Kharif, 2003 and farmers have derived economic benefits. There was lesser attack of Bollworm in Bt. Cotton as compared to non Bt. Cotton.