

Production of cotton

†2021. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that production of cotton has increased between 2005-06 and 2010-11;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and the quantum of production in both the respective periods;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that rate of per hectare production has gone down in the above period;
- (d) if so, the fact thereof; and
- (e) whether due to decline in productivity, farmers have ceased to benefit, if so, the reactions of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of cotton has increased between 2005-06 and 2010-11. It increased from 184.99 lakhs bales in 2005-06 to 334.25 lakhs bales in 2010-11.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The productivity of cotton has increased during the above period. It has increased from 362 kg/ha in 2005-06 to 510 kg/ha in 2010-11.

Impact of ban on Endosulfan

2022. SHRI N.K. SINGH :

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has agreed to ban Endosulfan in a phase of ten years;
- (b) if so, whether there is any plan to accommodate the domestic pesticide industry worth Rs. 1,000 crores which will be adversely affected;
- (c) the details of how the shortfall of the pesticide would affect productivity in the domestic farm sector; and
- (d) how Government proposes to deal with the same?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) In the 5th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP) of Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants held on April 25-29, 2011 it was decided by consensus to list Endosulfan in Annex A of the Convention with specific exemptions. Listing of a chemical in Annex A casts obligation on Parties to take measures to eliminate its production and use. Specific exemptions under Article 4 of the Convention have been made available for use of Endosulfan for certain crops and pests which would allow countries opting for such exemptions to phase out Endosulfan in a period of five years, which can be extended for a further period upto five years by COP.

(b) to (d) In writ petition (civil) No. 213 of 2011 "Democratic Youth Federation of India vs Union of India & Ors", Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an ad-interim order on 13.05.2011 banning production, sale and use of Endosulfan in the country till further orders and appointed a Joint Committee headed by the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Agriculture Commissioner to conduct a scientific study on the question whether the use of Endosulfan would cause any serious health hazard to human beings and would cause environmental pollution. The Committee was also directed by the Court to suggest alternatives to Endosulfan. Accordingly, the Central Government issued instructions on 14.05.2011 to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement interim order of the Court *in toto*, which are binding on all manufacturers.

Sale of sub-standard and spurious seeds

2023. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that in recent period use of sub-standard and spurious seeds has increased manifold causing poor and marginal farmers to bear the brunt of ill effects of those seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has set up any mechanism to find out the sub-standard and spurious seeds marketers to stop the use of those seeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and